



Pictus Safaris Trip Report – Cameroon & Central African Republic – April 2023

Abstract

If Chad has emerged as the premier savanna wildlife-watching destination in Africa, then the Central African Republic remains unchallenged as the best area for forest species on the continent. As with anywhere that requires a charter flight to access, the long-heralded forests of Dzanga-Sangha remains an unavoidably expensive area to access, and our 2023 itinerary aimed to mitigate this by accessing the reserve overland from Cameroon. It is certainly not the first time that such a route has been attempted, and indeed several reports have been posted on Mammalwatching.com and elsewhere detailing this journey, but hopefully this report serves as a refreshed review of what is a challenging route and itinerary.

The tour started in Yaounde, where the new United Hotel International is a welcome addition to a city with very few quality hotels. From here, it is a long two-day drive to the small town of Mambele, at the gateway to Lobeke National Park. Regrettably, and as some frequent travellers to the region will know, the excellent Buma Peter Linonge of Ecotour Guides Cameroon and his fiancée Josephine Lifanje, who were our local partners in southern Cameroon, were tragically killed in a traffic accident in January, two months or so before our departure. This is a huge loss to the nascent ecotourism industry in Cameroon. The replacement vehicles we sourced, despite assurances otherwise, were inadequate for the roads at this time of year. As a result, the journey took longer than it should have, and this was compounded by an increasingly over-zealous police presence in eastern Cameroon – overlanders should be aware that vehicles are commonly being impounded for several hours at a time, and bribes being demanded. Whilst this has always been a problem in Cameroon, it is getting worse, and fast. There are very few hotels between Yaounde and Mambele – in the past, tours have visited Hotel Elephant in Yokadouma, which is no longer safe after reports of violence associated with local miners. Hotel Koumanda in Batouri is safe, but that is perhaps the only positive thing that can be said about it.

Once in Mambele, the compounds outside the park are basic but usable. As with everything in Cameroon, getting the team organised to access the park takes time, and one should expect to have fewer porters than agreed due to the effects of alcohol. Once in the park, the game-viewing in Lobeke continues to exceed (reasonable) expectations, but visitors should be aware that the campsites are extremely basic and the walking fairly strenuous.

The main road from Mambele to the border crossing at Libongo is now in working order again, after several years without a functioning bridge. The border crossing itself is almost entirely painless, and the excellent team at Sangha Lodge are well-versed in ensuring this process runs smoothly.

Indeed, and as one expects, the Sangha portion of this itinerary ran seamlessly, and continues to offer world-class game-viewing, as well as opportunities to learn more about the local Ba'aka communities and the wider conservation landscape in this corner of the CAR. For those wanting to visit without the pain of overlanding through Cameroon, fly-in itineraries are an option, and indeed this is how we will be visiting in March 2024. Prospective visitors should note that the long-standing direct flights from Nairobi to Bangui are being demised before the 2024 season opens, making access even more tricky and expensive.



At a Glance

Dates	April 8 th – April 23 rd , 2023
Number of Clients	5
Countries Visited	Cameroon, Central African Republic
Key Target(s)	Bongo, Forest Elephant, Black-Bellied Pangolin
Total Mammal Species Recorded	38
Total Bird Species Recorded	191

Itinerary

Day	Destination	Accommodation
April 8 th , 2023	Yaounde, Cameroon	United Hotel International
April 9 th , 2023	Batouri, Cameroon	Koumanda Hotel
April 10 th , 2023	Mambele, Cameroon	WWF Compound
April 11 th – April 13 th , 2023	Lobeke NP, Cameroon	Camping
April 14 th , 2023	Mambele, Cameroon	WWF Compound
April 15 th – April 21 st , 2023	Dzanga-Sangha, CAR	Sangha Lodge
April 22 nd , 2023	Batouri, Cameroon	Koumanda Hotel
April 23 rd , 2023	Yaounde, Cameroon	United Hotel International

Highlights

Lobeke NP, Cameroon & Dzanga-Sangha, Central African Republic

- Excellent views of both black-bellied and white-bellied pangolin
- Great sightings of bongo, sitatunga and forest elephant at Dzanga Bai
- Enjoyable and protracted views of western lowland gorilla
- Iconic sight of green pigeons being successfully hunted by black sparrowhawk in Lobeke
- 13 primate species recorded, including Oustalet's red colobus
- Birding highlights included spot-breasted ibis and Egyptian plover



Report

The long drive from Yaounde to Mambele should be expected to be fairly mammal-less, although it is easy to spot **straw-coloured fruit bat** from the hotel in Yaounde. On arrival at the WWF compound in Mambele, though, good views were gained of **moustached monkey, crowned guenon** and **putty-nosed monkey**. One of the mammal highlights of Lobeke was actually enjoyed before the walk into the first campsite at 'Petite Savane' had even begun – on the short drive to the drop-off point from the WWF compound, the group had great views of a lone male **bongo**.

The walk to the Petite Savane generally takes around three hours and, despite its relative proximity to human habitation, swampy clearings like this continue to attract impressive densities of wildlife. In addition to more views of moustached monkey, putty-nosed monkey and crowned guenon, the first views of **black-and-white colobus** and **grey-cheeked mangabey** were enjoyed. The campsite at Petite Savane was busy with researchers, but there was plenty of sign around, including of giant pangolin, leopard, bongo and western gorilla. Walks to the nearby clearing produced **green bush squirrel, red-legged sun squirrel, African giant squirrel, sitatunga** and black-and-white colobus. Guides spotted two blue duiker, but they disappeared before the group could catch up – visitors to both Lobeke and Dzanga-Sangha should expect the incidence of duiker sightings to be far lower than in similar ecosystems in West Africa.

A further three to four walk into the forest brings you to the 'Grand Savane', a larger clearing which is as far as almost all visitors to the park get into the forest. The spectacle of the Grand Savane is incomparable to the Petite Savane, even if the diversity of mammal species is, if anything, slightly lower. The key highlight here is the sight of thousands of green pigeons descending on the clearing each evening, often hunted by accipiters and, occasionally, mongoose and even (very rarely) golden cat. During our visit, it was black sparrowhawks that were doing most of the hunting. Also seen here were **African buffalo**. At night, western tree hyrax were heard.

The drive to Mambele to Libongo produced **western palm squirrel**, as well as putty-nosed monkey and moustached monkey. The boat connection between Libongo and Sangha Lodge produced **common hippopotamus**.

As most readers of this report will know, Dzanga-Sangha (and Sangha Lodge specifically) is a mammal-watching nirvana. Days at the lodge reliably produced **De Brazza's monkey**, putty-nosed monkey, crowned guenon, moustached monkey, African giant squirrel, red-legged sun squirrel, **Lady Burton's rope squirrel, Thomas's rope squirrel, cyclops roundleaf bat** and, on one occasion, a **forest elephant** sauntering through. Night walks on the network of trails around the lodge produced abundant **Beecroft's anomalure** and **Lord Derby's anomalure**. Less common, but still well seen, were **southern needle-clawed galago, Milne-Edwards's potto, African palm civet, western tree hyrax, Gabon squirrel galago, Demidoff's dwarf galago, Franquet's epauletted fruit**



bat, white-bellied pangolin and Emin's pouched rat. Audio of Demidoff's dwarf galago, western tree hyrax, African palm civet and hammerhead bat was recorded from the lodge.

On drives to key activities in the park, putty-nosed monkey, moustached monkey, **agile mangabey**, grey-cheeked mangabey, **marsh mongoose** and forest elephant were seen. A highlight of the entire trip was a prolonged sighting of **black-bellied pangolin** next to the road en route to Bai Hokou. Over twenty minutes were spent with this incredible animal before the sweat bees got the best of us!

Dzanga Bai was remarkable, as ever. Over 100 forest elephant were seen on each visit, which was fantastic, and one visit produced a herd of 35 bongo. We were also fortunate to get great views of some very young **giant forest hog**, as well as mixed troops of black-and-white colobus and **Oustalet's red colobus**. Forest buffalo were present in good numbers.

The Bai Hokou walk was hugely enjoyable, producing forest buffalo, forest elephant and sitatunga. Signs of Congo golden mole were abundant. Gorilla tracking was another real highlight, with excellent views of **western gorilla** on two separate occasions. **Noack's roundleaf bat** were recorded at a nearby bat cave.

The drive back to Yaounde was, again, painful, with plenty of bureaucracy and mechanical issues. The only mammals of note were putty-nosed monkey and straw-coloured fruit bat.

Mammal List – 38 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Carnivora – 2 species		
Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	DS
African Palm Civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	DS
Cetartiodactyla – 5 species		
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	DS
Giant Forest Hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	DS
African (Forest) Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	LNP, DS
Bongo	<i>Tragelaphus eurycerus</i>	LNP, DS
Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekii</i>	LNP, DS
Chiroptera – 5 species		
Cyclops Roundleaf Bat	<i>Doryrhina cyclops</i>	DS
Straw-Coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	Y
Franquet's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomops franqueti</i>	DS
Noack's Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros ruber</i>	DS
Pel's Pouched Bat	<i>Saccolaimus peli</i>	DS
Hyracoidea – 1 species		
Western Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax dorsalis</i>	DS
Primates – 13 species		



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Agile Mangabey	<i>Cercocebus agilis</i>	DS
Moustached Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus cephus</i>	LNP, DS
De Brazza's Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>	DS
Putty-Nosed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	LNP, DS
Crowned Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pogonias</i>	LNP, DS
Mantled Guereza	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	LNP, DS
Southern Needle-Clawed Galago	<i>Euoticus elegantulus</i>	DS
Demidoff's Galago	<i>Galagoides demidovii</i>	DS
Western Gorilla	<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>	DS
Grey-Cheeked Mangabey	<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	LNP, DS
Milne-Edwards's Potto	<i>Perodicticus edwardsi</i>	DS
Oustalet's Red Colobus	<i>Ptilocolobus oustaleti</i>	DS
Gabon Squirrel Galago	<i>Sciurocheirus gabonensis</i>	DS
Pholidota – 2 species		
Black-Bellied Pangolin	<i>Phataginus tetradactyla</i>	DS
White-Bellied Pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	DS
Proboscidea – 1 species		
African Forest Elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	DS
Rodentia – 9 species		
Beecroft's Anomalure	<i>Anomalurus beecrofti</i>	DS
Lord Derby's Anomalure	<i>Anomalurus derbianus</i>	DS
Emin's Pouched Rat	<i>Cricetomys emini</i>	DS
Western Palm Squirrel	<i>Epixerus ebii</i>	LNP
Thomas's Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus anerythrus</i>	DS
Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus isabella</i>	DS
Red-Legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>	LNP, DS
Green Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus poensis</i>	LNP, DS
Forest Giant Squirrel	<i>Protoxerus stangeri</i>	LNP, DS

*Y – Yaounde, LNP – Lobeke National Park, DS – Dzanga-Sangha

Bird List – 191 species

Species	Scientific Name	Location(s)*
Accipitriformes – 16 species		
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	LNP
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	LNP
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila africana</i>	DS
Congo Serpent Eagle	<i>Dryotriorchis spectabilis</i>	LNP
Palm-Nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	DS
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>	LNP
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	LNP
Long-Crested Eagle	<i>Lophaelix occipitalis</i>	LNP
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	LNP, DS
Yellow-Billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	LNP
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	DS
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	LNP
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	LNP
European Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	DS
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	LNP, DS



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Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	DS
Anseriformes – 1 species		
Hartlaub's Duck	<i>Pteronetta hartlaubii</i>	LNP, DS
Apodiformes – 6 species		
Bates's Swift	<i>Apus batesi</i>	LNP
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	LNP, DS
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	LNP, DS
Cassin's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus cassini</i>	DS
Sabine's Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura sabini</i>	DS
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telacanthura ussheri</i>	DS
Bucerotiformes – 7 species		
White-Thighed Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes albotibialis</i>	DS
Piping Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes fistulator</i>	LNP, DS
Black-and-White Casqued Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes subcylindricus</i>	LNP
Black-Casqued Hornbill	<i>Certaogymna atrata</i>	DS
White-Crested Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus albocristatus</i>	LNP
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Horizocerus hartlaubi</i>	LNP
Congo Pied Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros fasicatus</i>	DS
Caprimulgiformes – 1 species		
Bates's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus batesi</i>	LNP
Charadriiformes – 10 species		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	DS
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	DS
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	DS
White-Fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	DS
Grey Pratincole	<i>Glareola cinerea</i>	DS
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>	LNP, DS
Egyptian Plover	<i>Pluvianus aegyptius</i>	DS
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	DS
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	DS
White-Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	DS
Ciconiiformes – 2 species		
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	DS
African Woolly-Necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>	LNP, DS
Coliiformes – 1 species		
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	LNP
Columbiformes – 7 species		
Western Bronze-Naped Pigeon	<i>Columba iriditorques</i>	LNP
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Y
Afep Pigeon	<i>Columba uncinata</i>	DS
Red-Eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Y
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	LNP, DS
Blue-Spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>	LNP, DS
Blue-Headed Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur brehmeri</i>	DS
Coraciiformes – 10 species		
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	LNP
Blue-Throated Roller	<i>Eurystomus gularis</i>	LNP
Chocolate-Backed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon badia</i>	DS
Blue-Breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon malimbica</i>	DS
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	DS
African Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina lecontei</i>	DS
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	DS



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White-Throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	LNP, DS
Black Bee-Eater	<i>Merops gularis</i>	DS
Blue-Breasted Bee-Eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>	LNP, DS
Cuculiformes – 7 species		
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	LNP, DS
Olive Long-Tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cercococcyx olivinus</i>	DS
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	DS
Yellow-Throated Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx flavigularis</i>	DS
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	DS
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	DS
Red-Chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	DS
Falconiformes – 2 species		
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	LNP
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LNP
Galliformes – 1 species		
Plumed Guineafowl	<i>Guttera plumifera</i>	DS
Gruiformes – 2 species		
White-Spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura pulchra</i>	DS
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>	LNP
Musophagiformes – 2 species		
Great Blue Turaco	<i>Corythaeola cristata</i>	LNP, DS
Guinea Turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	DS
Passeriformes – 89 species		
Gosling's Apalis	<i>Apalis goslingi</i>	DS
Buff-Throated Apalis	<i>Apalis rufogularis</i>	DS
Honeyguide Greenbul	<i>Baeopogon indicator</i>	DS
West African Batis	<i>Batis occulta</i>	LNP, DS
Yellow-Lored Bristlebill	<i>Bleda notatus</i>	DS
Red-Tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda syndactylus</i>	DS
Yellow-Billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	LNP
Green-Backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	LNP, DS
Yellow-Browed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera superciliaris</i>	LNP, DS
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>	DS
Red-Breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>	LNP, DS
Olive-Bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chloropygius</i>	LNP, DS
Tiny Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris minullus</i>	DS
Superb Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris superbus</i>	LNP, DS
Chattering Cisticola	<i>Cisticola anonymus</i>	DS
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Y, DS
Eastern Bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger chloronotus</i>	DS
Yellow-Fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	LNP
Blue Cuckooshrike	<i>Cyanograucalus azureus</i>	DS
Blue-Throated Brown Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra cyanolaema</i>	DS
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	LNP, DS
Shining Drongo	<i>Dicrurus atripennis</i>	LNP, DS
Velvet-Mantled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus modestus</i>	LNP, DS
Sabine's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus sabinii</i>	DS
Red-Eyed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus senegalensis</i>	DS
African Blue Flycatcher	<i>Elminia longicauda</i>	LNP
Rufous-Crowned Eremomela	<i>Eremomela badiceps</i>	LNP, DS
Chestnut-Capped Flycatcher	<i>Erythrocercus mccallii</i>	DS
Black-Headed Waxbill	<i>Estrilda atricapilla</i>	DS



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Black-Crowned Waxbill	<i>Estrilda nonnula</i>	LNP
Little Grey Greenbul	<i>Eurillas gracilis</i>	DS
Yellow-Whiskered Greenbul	<i>Eurillas latirostris</i>	LNP, DS
Little Greenbul	<i>Eurillas virens</i>	LNP, DS
White-Browed Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria cinerascens</i>	DS
Fraser's Forest Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria ocreata</i>	DS
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	DS
White-Bibbed Swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrita</i>	LNP, DS
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	LNP, DS
Green Hylia	<i>Hylia prasina</i>	DS
Purple-Headed Starling	<i>Hylopsar purpureiceps</i>	DS
Blackcap Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis cleaveri</i>	LNP, DS
Brown Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis fulvescens</i>	DS
Spotted Greenbul	<i>Ixonotus guttatus</i>	DS
Splendid Starling	<i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>	DS
Lowland Sooty Boubou	<i>Laniarius leucorhynchus</i>	DS
Luehder's Bushshrike	<i>Laniarius luehderi</i>	LNP
Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>	LNP
Grey Longbill	<i>Macrosphenus concolor</i>	DS
Cassin's Malimbe	<i>Malimbus cassini</i>	DS
Crested Malimbe	<i>Malimbus malimbicus</i>	DS
Blue-Billed Malimbe	<i>Malimbus nitens</i>	LNP
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	DS
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	DS
Dusky-Blue Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa omitata</i>	LNP
Little Grey Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa epulata</i>	DS
Sooty Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa infuscata</i>	DS
Yellow-Footed Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sethsmithi</i>	DS
White-Tailed Ant-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus poensis</i>	LNP, DS
Red-Tailed Ant-Thrush	<i>Neocossyphus rufus</i>	DS
Western Nicator	<i>Nicator chloris</i>	LNP, DS
Yellow-Throated Nicator	<i>Nicator vireo</i>	DS
Chestnut-Breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita bicolor</i>	DS
Grey-Headed Nigrita	<i>Nigrita canicapillus</i>	DS
White-Breasted Nigrita	<i>Nigrita fusconotus</i>	DS
Western Oriole	<i>Oriolus brachyrhynchus</i>	DS
Northern Grey-Headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	Y
White-Throated Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus albigularis</i>	DS
Xavier's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus xavieri</i>	DS
Chestnut Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira castanea</i>	DS
Brown-Throated Wattle-Eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	LNP
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	LNP, DS
Vieillot's Black Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigerrimus</i>	DS
Black-Necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>	LNP
Banded Prinia	<i>Prinia bairdii</i>	DS
Square-Tailed Saw-Wing	<i>Psaldoprocne nitens</i>	DS
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	DS
Black-Bellied Seedcracker	<i>Pyrenestes ostrinus</i>	LNP
Black-and-White Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	LNP, DS
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	LNP, DS
Western Bluebill	<i>Spermophaga haematina</i>	DS
Forest Robin	<i>Stiphornis erythrorhax</i>	DS



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Fraser's Rufous Thrush	<i>Stizorhina fraseri</i>	DS
Green Crombec	<i>Sylvietta virens</i>	DS
Brown-Crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	DS
Red-Bellied Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone rufiventer</i>	DS
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	LNP, DS
Swamp Palm Bulbul	<i>Thescelocichla leucopleura</i>	DS
Blue-Headed Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus nitens</i>	DS
African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	LNP, DS
<i>Pelecaniiformes – 11 species</i>		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	DS
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	DS
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	DS
Black-Headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	DS
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	DS
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	LNP, DS
Spot-Breasted Ibis	<i>Bostrychia rara</i>	LNP, DS
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	DS
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LNP, DS
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbrette</i>	LNP, DS
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	LNP
<i>Piciformes – 11 species</i>		
Eastern Yellow-Spotted Barbet	<i>Buccanodon duchaillui</i>	DS
Little Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Campethera cailliautii</i>	LNP
Grey-Throated Barbet	<i>Gymnobucco bonapartei</i>	LNP
Least Honeyguide	<i>Indicator exilis</i>	DS
Spotted Honeyguide	<i>Indicator maculatus</i>	DS
Red-Rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus atroflavus</i>	DS
Yellow-Rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	DS
Speckled Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus scolopaceus</i>	DS
Yellow-Throated Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus subsulphureus</i>	DS
Yellow-Billed Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus purpuratus</i>	DS
Hairy-Breasted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema hirsuta</i>	DS
<i>Psittaciiformes – 3 species</i>		
Black-Collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis swindernianus</i>	DS
Red-Fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus gulielmi</i>	LNP
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	DS
<i>Strigiformes – 1 species</i>		
Vermiculated Fishing-Owl	<i>Scotopelia bouvieri</i>	DS
<i>Suliformes – 1 species</i>		
Reed Comorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	LNP, DS

*Y – Yaounde, LNP – Lobeke National Park, DS – Dzanga-Sangha



Misses

Sign of **giant pangolin**, **red river hog**, **leopard**, **Congo golden mole** and **chimpanzee** was recorded, but sadly these species evaded us on this particular visit. Forest duiker populations are exceptionally low in these forests when compared with other forest areas, and we narrowly missed **blue duiker**. There were no signs of any other duiker species during our visits. Plenty of the rarer in-range primate species should not be expected on a typical visit, but we were pleased with our primate haul in particular.

Contact Details

Pictus Safaris can be contacted by email at contact@pictus-safaris.com or via our website at www.pictus-safaris.com. We are a tour operator specialising in small-group and private departures across Africa, and will be offering a small-group departure to Dzanga-Sangha in February/March 2024.