



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## ETHIOPIA

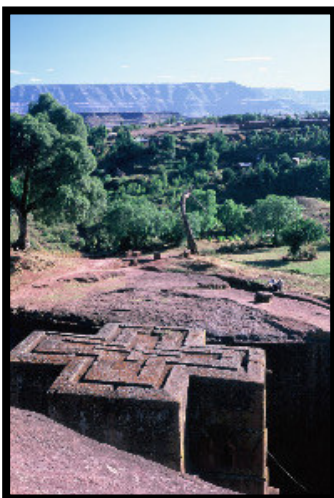
*28<sup>th</sup> November – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005*



Our group enjoying Ankober Serin and Gelada Baboon

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leaders Erik Forsyth & Richard White**

### Trip Summary



Our Ethiopian adventure began with a wonderful extension to the historically rich area around Lallibela. The ancient rock-hewn churches (pictured left) were the focal point of our trip and a certain highlight was riding on mules to visit the magical mountain-top church of Asheton Miriam. We took the time to search for a few birds and found this area a great introduction to Ethiopian birding finding endemics like Wattled Ibis, the spectacular Thick-billed Raven, White-collared Pigeon and Yellow-rumped Serin fairly easily.

On our first day of the main tour we made for Debre Libanos monastery with a stop on the Sululta Plains. On the plains we found several Palearctic ducks, the localized Red-chested Swallow, Ortolan Bunting and Abyssinian Longclaw, but best of all was a pair of majestic Black-crowned Cranes (this was Hugh Buck's

last crane species – a great feat indeed – well done Hugh!). At the Debre Libanos we found, to our great surprise, a pair of Yellow-throated Serins, which had obviously failed to check their range map, and a small troop of the very impressive Gelada Baboon.

As we made our way south we left the bustling and vibrant city of Addis Ababa behind us stopping at some wonderful lakes in the Great Rift Valley. Highlights were many but the flocks of Common Crane in the farmlands en route were outstanding. After lunch we visited Lake Ziway adding African Pygmy Goose and Pallas's Gull to the checklist. By late afternoon we were settled in comfortably on the shore of Lake Awassa. The habitat in the hotel gardens and at the nearby fishmarket allowed for great birding and we found a huge Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Spotted Redshank, Banded and Double-toothed Barbets, Marabou Storks, Peregrine Falcon and Silvery-cheeked Hornbills.

The next destination was the moist forested habitat at Wondo Genet where we hoped to connect with some of Ethiopia's exciting forest species. Our walks in the forest produced wonderful birds including the stunning White-cheeked Turaco, Abyssinian Woodpecker and the stunning Abyssinian Ground-Thrush. A late afternoon adventure saw us tracking our way along one of the steamy bubbling springs to a site for Yellow-fronted Parrot. After some tense moments with Abyssinian Crimson-wing, a couple of these endemic parrots flew in, much to our delight.

The long journey east towards the Bale Mountains (scenery en route pictured below) was spectacular and occasionally punctuated with stops for birds. Botta's Wheatear, Lanner Falcon, Blue-winged Geese and Spot-breasted Lapwings and the awesome Rouget's Rail were welcome additions to our growing list. A final stop at the Bale Mountains park headquarters proved worthwhile; we found Abyssinian Catbird easily and the endemic and rather striking White-backed Black-Tit. The highlight mammal here was undoubtedly Mountain Nyala, now entirely restricted to the Bale Mountain massif.



A day trip to the *Acacia* rich area of Sof Omar was memorable not only for finding the rare Salvadori's Serin but Rosy-patched Bushshrike, the impressive Bristle-crowned Starling and Von der Decken's Hornbills.

Our full day excursion to the Bale Mountains was heavy with memorable sightings and breathtaking scenery. For many this was the highlight day of the trip, Rick who spent most of the day on top of the bus grinning perpetually, was certainly of this opinion. We drove on Africa's highest road, passing close to the summit of Ethiopia's second highest mountain. On the plateau we enjoyed views of Long-legged Buzzard, Red-billed Chough (an Africa tick for the leader) and Golden Eagle. In addition we encountered Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolins, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Rouget's Rail and the newly described Bale Parisoma. By way of mammals we were particularly pleased to find several of the rare Simien Wolf (pictured right), one of the most sought after predators on the continent and mammal of the trip for many. Leaving the Bale Mountains behind we headed to Langanu for an overnight stay.



After further early morning birding around Lake Langanu, we continued our journey towards the Awash National Park where we had a full two days to explore. Here we enjoyed sightings of the large Red-winged Lark, a close view of Hartlaub's Bustard, Beisa Oryx, Soemmering's Gazelle and Gunter's Dik-dik. We spent time at the Fantalle Crater the highlight here was a troop of the silvery-colored Hamadryas or Sacred Baboon and the near endemic Sombre Rock-Chat and Yellow-throated Serin. On our second day we visited the Bilen area where we found Gerenuk, Lesser Kudu, the sought-after Arabian Bustard as well as Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Nile Valley Sunbird and Heuglin's Courser.

After departing Awash National Park we drove back to Addis Ababa and northwards to Debre Birhan, along the edge of the Blue Nile catchment scarp. After lunch we continued along the high altitude (averaging 2,500m above sea level) plateau grasslands that provided good birding despite intensive cultivation. Resident birds we saw here included Wattled Ibis, the spectacular Lammergeier, Blanford's and Thekla Lark, Cape Crow,



Groundscraper Thrush and a stunning male Pallid Harrier. In the late afternoon, we arrived at the Tarmaber Pass. Here we were treated to good views of the rare and recently described Ankober Serin. While watching the Serins we were treated to wonderful views of the endemic Gelada Baboon (pictured right), what an amazing creature! Richard was heard exclaiming *ad nauseum* in awe of this beast.

The following day, we drove westwards to the Jemmu Valley. On the escarpment we found Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and Erckel's Francolins and had great views of the Jemmu River, one of the main tributaries of the Blue Nile. Thereafter, we embarked on the dramatic drive down the side of the scarp to the hot valley floor. The *Acacia* woodland and the escarpment's steep sides provide habitat for some sought-after endemic birds. We had great views of the very elusive Harwood's Francolin, Somali Starling, Mourning Wheatear (the form occurring here is often split as Abyssinian Black Wheatear), the endemic and localized Rüppell's Chat, the endemic White-winged Cliff-Chat (pictured left), and flocks of the endemic White-billed Starling. A flat tyre in the bus on the way back made gave Zerihon yet another chance to show his metal – needless to say the tyre was replaced and we were on our way in no time.



On our Southern extension we drove to the rarely visited Bogol Manyo area. First stop was to overnight at Kebre Mengist. Notable species on that long drive were Mountain Buzzard and Banded Snake-Eagle. Leaving Kebre Mengist early we stopped at Wadera Forest and were fortunate in finding a pair of the enigmatic Prince Ruspoli's Turacos. A species only re-discovered in 1978. We were treated to reasonable views, but not everybody was happy with this sighting and our best encounter with this species was to be had a later. Further down the road we again located a single bird and were treated to flight views. Later in the morning we found a male Golden Pipit and few Foxy Larks near Negele.



This afternoon, the main focus of our search around the Negele area was to look for Sidamo Lark and we were not disappointed seeing at least six birds, well done to the group for all your effort here! There were also hundreds of the range restricted Somali Short-toed Larks feeding in the grasslands. Other good finds were a Kori Bustard with a small chick and a number of the very striking White-crowned Starling. By way of raptors we had a few elegant Pallid and Montagu's Harriers as well as a juvenile Short-toed Eagle.

After an early start, we headed for Bogol Manyo near the Somali border. En route the vegetation became more arid but the birding was excellent, producing Somali Crombec, Pringle's Puffback and the striking Red-naped Bushshrike. In the late afternoon we arrived at our basic camp at Bogol Manyo and proceeded straight to the Genale River. Our targets were the scarce and range restricted White-winged Turtle Dove and Juba (Salvadori's) Weaver, both difficult to find near-endemics. We had no trouble in securing several sightings of the former but only a few members of the group managed views of the weaver.

It was then time for us to head west through the remote regions of southern Ethiopia to the Yabello region. We made a number of birding stops *en route* with highlights including flocks of the spectacular Vulturine Guinea fowl, Buff-crested Bustard and two of Ethiopia's scarce and range restricted endemics, the stunning Stresseman's Bush-Crow (pictured above) and White-tailed Swallow.

We spent the next morning around Yabello seeing Tiny Cisticola, Banded Parisoma, Boran Cisticola, a pair of the scarce Bare-eyed Thrush and two more White-tailed Swallows.

From here we moved on to Lake Langano where we arrived with enough time for an evening excursion that produced the stunning Masked Shrike and the very tough Black-cheeked Waxbill. Early the next morning brought us our last target bird, the Northern White-faced Owl. What a fine bird to end off the trip! We then drove back to the city and finished off with a superb meal at a traditional restaurant and folklore house where we



were treated to fantastic Ethiopian dancing.

## Annotated Checklists of Birds and Mammals

**Birds:** nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2004) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to July 2005. Any deviations from Clements are indicated by square brackets and explained in taxonomic notes. Extensive research has been conducted into potential splits.

**Mammals:** nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. Kingdon *The Kingdon Fieldguide to African Mammals* (1997) Academic Press.

*Key to abbreviations:*

**ENDEMISM**

*E* : an endemic species *NE* : a near-endemic species *I* : an introduced species

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

*En*: endangered *V*: vulnerable *T*: Threatened *NT*: near-threatened *DD*: data-deficient

## BIRDS (493 species)



Thick-billed Raven

### Ostrich *Struthionidae*

#### [Somali] Ostrich

*Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes*

Single birds were seen on two different dates while driving passed the Abiata-Shala NP near Langano Lake.

*NOTE: The subspecies recorded was S. c. molybdophanes which some authorities regard as a distinct species; Somali Ostrich. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

#### Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Commonly recorded at Lakes Chelecheka, Awassa, Ziway and Koka.

#### Eared (Black-necked) Grebe

*Polyceps nigricollis*

One bird was seen amongst many Little Grebes *T. ruficollis* at the Debre Zeit Crater Lake.

### Pelicans

#### Great White Pelican

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with highest number being over thirty recorded at Awassa.



**Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with highest number being over fifteen recorded at Awassa.

**Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*****Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with highest number being over 30 recorded at Awassa.

*NOTE: The resident white-breasted African subspecies P. c. lucidus is regarded by some authorities to be a distinct species; White-breasted Cormorant.***Long-tailed Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

**Anhinga & Darter *Anhingidae*****Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

Uncommonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with highest number being five recorded at Awassa.

*NOTE: The resident African subspecies P. c. rufa is regarded by most authorities to be a distinct species; African Darter.***Herons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae*****Gray Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Regularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

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

Small numbers seen throughout the tour with a high count of four on our drive from Addis to Kebre Mengist.

**Goliath Heron***Ardea goliath*

Irregularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with two at Langano and one at the Genale River, Bogol Manyo.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

Uncommonly recorded with two seen at Awassa and two at Langano.

*NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron***Great Egret***Ardea alba*

Two at Langano and one at Langano were our only records.

*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.***Intermediate Egret***Egretta intermedia*

Irregularly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes. We had two separate sightings both of two birds.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret E. brachyrhyncha (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia), Plumed Egret E. plumifera and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.***Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Regularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

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

Irregularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies with highest number being ten at Langano.

**Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers with highest number being over fifty en route from Goba to Sof Omar.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.***Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

One bird was seen at Lake Ziway.



## Hamerkop *Scopidae*

### **Hamerkop**

*Scopus umbretta*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers with highest number being over thirty seen at Lake Awassa.

## Storks *Ciconidae*

### **Yellow-billed Stork**

*Mycteria ibis*

Irregularly recorded throughout Ethiopia one was seen on our drive from Langanano to Addis.

### **Black Stork**

*Ciconia nigra*

Four seen flying over the Sululta plains, two en route to Lake Awassa and one near Debre Birhan.

### **Abdim's Stork**

*Ciconia abdimii*

Eighteen birds were seen in cultivated lands near Addis.

### **White Stork**

*Ciconia ciconia*

Sixty birds were seen in cultivated lands near Addis.

### **Saddle-billed Stork**

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Irregularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies with highest number being three seen at Langanano on our drive to Kebre Mengist.

### **Marabou Stork**

*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being over one hundred at the Awassa fish market. Superb photographic opportunities were afforded as they snacked on discarded fish entrails and displaying little fear.

## Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

### **Sacred Ibis**

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being over one hundred seen on the Sululta plains en route to Addis.

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

### **Hadada Ibis**

*Bostrychia hagedash*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being twenty + near the Bale Mountains.

### **E Wattled Ibis**

*Bostrychia carunculata*

Regularly recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia with highest number being over one hundred and fifty seen around the Bale Mountains en route to Goba.

### **Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

Irregularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

### **African Spoonbill**

*Platalea alba*

Uncommonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with highest number being ten at Awassa.

## Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

### **Greater Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus ruber*

Our only sighting was of three birds at Lake Beseka.

*NOTE: Clements now splits the Old World Greater Flamingo P. ruber from the New World Caribbean Flamingo P. roseus.*

## Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae*



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- Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*  
Ten were seen at Lake Ziway.
- White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*  
Twenty seen at Lake Awassa and twenty at Ziway.
- White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus*  
Two adults and seven chicks were found at Lake Chelecheke.
- NE & NT Blue-winged Goose** *Cyanochen cyanopterus*  
Regularly recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia with highest number being over fifteen seen en route to Goba. This unusual bird's closest relative is the Andean Goose.
- Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*  
Commonly recorded on most waterbodies with largest number recorded being over forty individuals at Chelekecheke with further sightings at Debre Zeyit Crater Lake, Koka and Ziway.
- Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*  
Approximately eight at Ziway and three at Langano.
- Comb Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
Three at Lake Koka and eight at the Genale River, Bogol Manyo.  
*NOTE: The Old World nominate S. m. melanotos (African Comb Duck) is sometimes considered separate from the New World S. m. sylvicola (American Comb Duck). Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*
- African Pygmy-goose** *Nettapus auritus*  
Ten of these stunning geese were seen at Ziway and four at Awassa.
- Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas Penelope*  
One bird was found at a small water-body on the Sululta Plains on our day trip to Debre Libanos.
- Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*  
Thirty birds were seen at a small water-body on the Sululta Plains on our day trip to Debre Libanos.
- Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*  
A small flock recorded twice at the same small pan near the Bale Mountains.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
Forty birds were found at a small water-body on the Sululta Plains on our day trip to Debre Libanos.
- Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*  
Five birds were seen at Lake Awassa.
- Garganey** *Anas querquedula*  
One bird was seen at Lake Koka.
- Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*  
Twelve at Koka and thirty-five at Lake Beseka.
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*  
Sixty birds were found at a small water-body on the Sululta Plains on our day trip to Debre Libanos with a further sighting of four on the Bale Mountains.
- Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*  
Two birds were seen at Debre Zeit Crater Lake.

### Osprey Pandionidae

- Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
One seen at Lake Beseka en route to the Awash NP.

### Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

- Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*  
Small numbers regularly recorded in grasslands near the Bale Mts, Goba and in the Rift Valley area.



NOTE: Some authorities lump the African and Asian Black-shouldered Kite *E. caeruleus* with Australian Kite *E. axillaris* and the American *E. leucurus* White-tailed Kite. Clements recognizes these three forms as full species.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

This Palearctic migrant was uncommon and only recorded at a few sites with a high of fifty birds at Bogol Manyo .

**[Yellow-billed Kite ]***Milvus [migrans] parasitus*

This Inter-African migrant breeds in Ethiopia and is often considered a species distinct from the Palearctic Black Kite *M. migrans*. This species was recorded on every single day of the tour with highest numbers being over one hundred and fifteen seen en route to Awassa.

NOTE: Clements treats this species as a subspecies of Black Kite *M. migrans*.

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

Regularly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies with highest number being over 20 at Koka and Ziway.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia with over seventy-five seen on route from Addis to Awassa.

**Lammergeier***Gypaetus barbatus*

Small numbers were seen at Lallibela, Debre Libanos the Bale Mountains and at Debre Berhan.

**Egyptian Vulture***Neophron percnopterus*

Frequently recorded in the Rift Valley with highest numbers being over eleven around Bilen, Awash NP.

**White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being over twenty seen on our day drive to Sof Omar.

**Rueppell's Griffon***Gyps rueppellii*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being over thirty seen en route from Lake Langano to the Awash NP.

**V Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

One each at Sof Omar and the Fantalle Crater and a further sighting of two seen en route to Kebre Mengist.

**White-headed Vulture***Trionoceph occipitalis*

Four birds were seen near Wadera Forest.

**Short-toed Snake-Eagle***Circaetus gallicus*

One bird was seen en route to Awassa, another in the Awash NP and one at the Liben Plains at Negele. An uncommon Palearctic migrant to Ethiopia.

NOTE: This Palearctic migrant is sometimes considered to be conspecific with Black-breasted Snake Eagle *C. pectoralis* and Beauvuin's Snake Eagle *C. beaudouini*.

**Banded Snake-Eagle***Circaetus cinerascens*

We were fortunate to find 1 bird on our visit to Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano and two at Wadera Forest.

**Black-breasted Snake-Eagle***Circaetus pectoralis*

One bird was seen at Lake Langano.

NOTE: This resident Central and Southern African species is regarded by some authorities to be a form of Short-toed Eagle *C. gallicus*.

**Brown Snake-Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

One each at Langano and the Fantalle Crater and two en route to Bogol Manyo.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being four in the Awash NP.

**Western Marsh-Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

Several birds were seen each at Lakes Awassa, Koka, Langano the Awash NP and Jemmu valley.

**NT Pallid Harrier***Circus macrourus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia. We enjoyed excellent views of this Palearctic migrant.

**Montagu's Harrier***Circus pygargus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being six at Bilen, Awash NP.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*

Three between Addis and Awassa, one at Lake Langano and one en route to Debre Birhan.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

Recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being five daily in the Negele/Bogol Manyo area.

**Eastern Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers in the southern dry country of Ethiopia with highest numbers being ten birds seen en route from Negele to Yabello.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

Several birds were seen on our drives to Bogol Manyo and Negele.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

One at Wondo Genet and one at Wadera Forest.

*NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk A. tousseneli. Clements accepts this controversial split.*

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

One bird was seen en route from Yabello to Langano.

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*

One bird was seen en route from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*

Two at the Bale Mountains and one at the Tarmaber Pass. An uncommon forest bird in Ethiopia.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

One at Lallibela and one at the Jemmu escarpment. A scarce palearctic migrant to Ethiopia.

**Black Goshawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

We had crippling views of a single bird at Wondo Genet.

**Eurasian Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Singelton's recorded at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia. Our first bird was seen en route to Lake Awassa.

*NOTE: The subspecies which we encountered is the northern breeding B. b. vulpinus, sometimes regarded as a separate species; Western Steppe Buzzard, from the nominate Common Buzzard and three other incipient groups in eastern Asia. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus*

Excellent flight views were had of two birds en route to Kebre Mengist.

*NOTE: Most authorities recognise the northern African Mountain Buzzard B. oreophilus as distinct from the southern African endemic Forest Buzzard B. trizonatus. Clements does not recognise this split. These two resident African forms used to be lumped with the Eurasian Buzzard B. buteo.*

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*

We had an excellent sighting of one bird on the Bale Mountains.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being twenty on the Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains. We recorded both dark and normal (white) phase birds and intermediate forms.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump the Southern African Jackal Buzzard B. rufofuscus and the Somalia Archer's Buzzard B. archeri within this species. Clements and most other authorities now recognize three full species.*

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

Small numbers recorded at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with our highest count of twenty birds seen on several days.

*NOTE: The nominate African Tawny Eagle A. r. rapax may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle A. r. vindhiana. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

**V Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

Two adults were seen at a duiker carcass near Bogol Manyo.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Small numbers recorded at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being ten birds seen en route from Bogol Manyo to Negele.



NOTE: The Western Steppe Eagle *A. n. orientalis* which we recorded may be split from the Eastern Steppe Eagle *A. n. nipalensis*. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

**Golden Eagle***Aquila chrysaetos*

Three birds were seen in the Bale Mountains NP. A rare breeding resident species in Ethiopia.

**V Imperial Eagle***Aquila heliaca*

A juvenile bird was seen at Lake Langano.

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

Two en route to Awassa and one en route to Kebre Mengist.

**African Hawk Eagle***Aquila spilogaster*

Three birds were seen in the Lallibella area.

**Booted Eagle***Aquila pennatus*

A pale morph was seen at the airport in Addis and another at our centrally located hotel in Addis.

**Ayres' Hawk-Eagle***Aquila ayresii*

We had excellent views of a dark-phase bird at Bishingari Lodge, Lake Langano. An uncommon to rare bird in Ethiopia.

**Martial Eagle***Polemaetus bellicosus*

One near Negele and one near Yabello.

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

Commonly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes. Our first bird was seen near Koka.

**Secretary-bird *Sagittariidae*****Secretary-bird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

One was seen well at Bilen, lodge, Awash NP. A scarce bird in Ethiopia.

**Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae*****Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

First recorded on our day trip to Sof Omar with further sightings in the Awash NP, Negele and Bogol Manyo areas.

**V Lesser Kestrel***Falco naumanni*

We had close looks at a flock catching flying termites at Bilen, Awash NP with further sightings at the Liben Plains, Negele and en route to Bogol Manyo.

**Eurasian Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being 6 en route from Awash to Ankober.

NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Eurasian Kestrel, *F. tinnunculus* which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palaearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, *F. rupicolus* which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this splits.

**Gray Kestrel***Falco ardosiaceus*

Two were seen en route to Yabello and another at Yabelo.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

Singles observed at scattered localities with our highest count of six en route from Langano to the Awash NP.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

Singelton's were seen at Wondo Genet, Sof Omar, Fantalle Crater and at Debre Birhan.

**Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae*****Crested Francolin***Francolinus sephaena*

Recorded in small numbers at lowland sites in Ethiopia with highest numbers being ten near Negele.



NOTE: Some authorities recognize the coastal race *F. rovuma*, Kirk's Francolin as a full species. Clements does not recognize this species.

**NE Moorland Francolin***Francolinus psilolaemus*

A group of 4 birds was seen on two occasions next to the road on the Bale Mountain NP.

**Yellow-necked Francolin***Francolinus leucoscepus*

Only recorded in the dry south between Negele, Bogol Manyo and Yabello.

**Clapperton's Francolin***Francolinus clappertoni*

First seen at Lake Awassa and misidentified as a Harwood's Francolin. This bird was most certainly the well-marked *sharpii* race of Clapperton's! Our second sighting was of two birds at Lake Langano.

**E Harwood's Francolin***Francolinus harwoodi*

We enjoyed good views of at least two birds at the Jemmu Valley. A scarce and difficult endemic to locate in Ethiopia.

**NE Chestnut-naped Francolin***Francolinus castaneicollis*

Small groups with chicks were seen on the Bale Mountains.

**NE Erckel's Francolin***Francolinus erckelii*

First seen at Lallibela with a further five birds scoped at the Jemmu escarpment.

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

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being over 50 seen in Awash NP.

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

**Vulturine Guineafowl***Acryllium vulturinum*

Two flocks comprising some thirty-eight birds were seen en route from Negele to Yabello and a flock of twenty were seen at Yabello the next day.

**Cranes Gruidae****NT Black Crowned-Crane***Balearica pavonina*

First seen at a small water-body on the Sululta Plains with further sightings at Lakes Koka, Ziway and Langano.

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

Seen in the grasslands at higher elevations in Ethiopia our highest count was of fifty birds seen at Lake Chelecheke.

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae****NE & NT Rouget's Rail***Rougetius rougetii*

Twenty birds were seen near Dinsho en route to Goba and five + on the Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

Two birds at Lake Awassa were a trip exclusive.

**Red-knobbed Coot***Fulica cristata*

Ten at Lake Ziway and four en route to Goba.

**Bustards Otididae****Arabian Bustard***Ardeotis arabs*

We enjoyed excellent looks at as many as ten birds attracted to a termite emergence at Bilen, Awash NP.

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*

Eight on the Liben Plains near Negele and one en route from Langano to the Awash NP and one near Yabello.

**(Northern) White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis*

We had excellent views of several birds in the Awash NP and four en route to Yabello.

*NOTE: Clements lumps the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi. This treatment is not followed by most authorities and they are generally considered two distinct species.*

**Buff-crested Bustard** *Eupodotis gindiana*

Three were seen in the Awash NP and two daily in the Negele/Bogol Manyo / Yabello areas .

*NOTE: This species used to be lumped with the southern Red-crested Bustard E. ruficrista and the western Savile's Bustard E. savilei. All three of these species are now recognised by Clements.*

**Hartlaub's Bustard** *Lissotis hartlaubii*

Three birds were seen in the Awash NP.

### Jacanas *Jacanidae*

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

Several birds were seen in the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen at scattered wetland sites with highest count being ten at Lake Awassa.

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Thirty birds were seen on the Sululta Plains and thirty at Lake Langano.

### Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*

One recorded at Lake Awassa, four at the Jemmu River and three at Bogol Manyo.

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*

Three birds were seen at Bogol Manyo.

### Courser & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii*

Three en route to Lake Awassa and three near Yabello.

**Heuglin's (Three-banded) Courser** *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

We enjoyed excellent day views of a well-camouflaged bird at Bilen near Awash NP.

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

Twenty were seen flying near the road at Lake Koka.

### Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*

The commonest wetland lapwing occurring at virtually every wetland, the highest count being over sixteen on the central Rift Valley lake of Langano.

**Black-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus tectus*



Up to ten birds were found feeding at a termite emergence at Bilen, Awash NP.

**Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus*

The commonest grassland lapwing occurring in all higher altitude grasslands, the highest count being over one hundred en route to Goba.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*

Recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being ten en route to Bogol Manyo.

**E Spot-breasted Lapwing** *Vanellus melanocephalus*

Thirty plus of these stunning waders were seen on the road near Dinsho. Another fifteen were seen on the Bale Mountains. An extremely attractive lapwing.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

Six were seen at Lake Koka.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*

One at Awassa and two at Lake Langano.

### Sandpipers & Allies

**African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*

One bird was located on the Bale Mountains.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Three at Lake Koka and one at Langano.

*NOTE: The Old World Common Snipe G. gallinago is now recognised as distinct from the New World Wilson's Snipe G. delicata.*

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Thirty birds were seen at a small wetland on the Sululta Plains with small numbers seen at the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

One was seen at Awassa Fish Market.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Small numbers seen at the Rift Valley lakes.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being three on the Bale Mountains.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia's central Rift Valley lakes.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being fifteen at Lake Awassa.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One at Ziway and two at Awassa.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Small numbers recorded at Ethiopia's central Rift Valley lakes.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being sixty+ on the Sululta Plains.

### Gulls Laridae

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

Twenty-five at Ziway and two at Awassa Fish Market.



**Gray-headed Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

**Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gull***Larus ichthyetus*

One bird in winter plumage was seen at Lake Ziway.

**Black-headed Gull***Larus ridibundus*

Fifteen at Ziway, One hundred and fifty at Awassa fish market and one at Langano.

**Terns Sternidae****Gull-billed Tern***Sterna nilotica*

Small numbers were seen at Koka, Langano and Beseka.

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybridus*

Fifteen were seen at Lake Koka.

**White-winged Tern***Chlidonias leucopterus*

Two hundred at Lake Awassa and 5 at Langano.

**Sandgrouse Pteroclididae****Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse***Pterocles exustus*

One hundred + were seen flying over the roads in the Rift Valley Lakes area.

**Black-faced Sandgrouse***Pterocles decoratus*

Four birds were seen well at Bogol Manyo.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse***Pterocles lichtensteinii*

We enjoyed good close views of eight birds at Bilen, Awash NP and a further eight at Bogol Manyo.

*NOTE: The nominate African form which we recorded may be regarded as distinct from the Asian P. l. arabicus which would be renamed Close-barred Sandgrouse. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.***Doves & Pigeons Collumbidae****Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

A few seen at urban settlements.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Recorded on every single day of the tour with the highest count of sixty+ en route to Goba.

**NE White-collared Pigeon***Columba albitorques*

Commonly recorded at all higher elevation sites with highest count of seventy-five + between Addis and Debre Libanos.

**Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon***Columba arquatrix*

Two birds were seen in a fig forest at Lake Langano.

**Lemon (Cinnamon) Dove***Columba larvata*

One at Wondo Genet and two in a fig forest at Langano.

**Eurasian Turtle-Dove***Streptopelia turtur*

Twenty + were seen near Bilen Lodge, Awash NP.

**Dusky Turtle-Dove***Streptopelia lugens*

Commonly recorded at all higher elevation sites.

**NE & NT African White-winged Dove***Streptopelia reichenowi*

We had excellent views of thirty + birds at Bogol Manyo.

**African Mourning Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being thirty at Bogol Manyo.

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

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

Two seen at Sof Omar and twenty seen between Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

Five seen en route to Sof Omar, two at Langano and one at the Jemmu Valley.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Commonly recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 20 on the first day.

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

Recorded at scattered sites in the drier lowlands of Ethiopia and highest count being 10 en route from Negele to Yabello.

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

Four birds were seen at Lake Langano and four near Wadera Forest.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

Six brief sightings at Wondo Genet and three at Wadera Forest.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

Commonly recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being fifty+ en route to Awassa.

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

We had excellent looks at a bird on the nest at Lallibela with further sightings at Awassa, Langano, Wondo Genet and Wadera Forest.

### Parrots, Macaws & Allies Psittacidae

**NE Black-winged Lovebird** *Agapornis taranta*

Commonly recorded at several scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 15 at Debre Zeyit Crater Lake.

**Red-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris*

A few birds were found in dry country in the Awash Park and between Negele and Yabello.

**E Yellow-fronted Parrot** *Poicephalus flavifrons*

Five seen at Wondo Genet where we enjoyed excellent looks and two birds flying at Wadera Forest.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**NE White-cheeked Turaco** *Tauraco leucotis*

Several birds were seen at Wondo Genet and at Wadera Forest.

**E & V Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** *Tauraco ruspolii*

Three birds were found at Wadera Forest but were difficult to see. Eventually we located a bird feeding near the town of Negele allowing crippling scope looks. Voted bird of the tour!! This enigmatic species is restricted to a few small and isolated southern woodlands and forests and was discovered by the Italian royal adventurer and explorer, Prince Ruspoli, during his peregrinations in the early 1890's. However, before returning to civilization, the Prince was killed in an altercation with an elephant and the type location of the turaco remained a mystery until its rediscovery in the 1940's. It again remained unrecorded until the 1970's and has now become Ethiopia's most sought-after endemic. Long live the Prince!!!

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*

We enjoyed excellent views of three birds at Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano and one at Yabello.

**White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster*

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being twenty-five+ en route from Negele to Yabello.



**Eastern Plantain-eater***Crinifer zonurus*

One bird was seen on the drive between Yabello and Langano.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Blue-headed Coucal***Centropus monachus*

One at Lake Awassa.

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

Singelton's at Langano, the Awash Park and Bogol Manyo.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Ethiopia.*

**Typical Owls Strigidae****Northern White-faced Owl***Ptloipsis leucotis*

Hugh and Richard located this gem in the early morning at Lake Langano.

**Grayish Eagle-Owl***Bubo cinerascens*

Heard only at Langano.

*NOTE: Clements splits this northern form from the widespread Spotted Eagle-Owl B. africanus which occurs south of the Equator.*

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl***Bubo lacteus*

A pair at Awassa and one at Lake Langano.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum*

One at Sof Omar and one at Yabello.

**Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae****Freckled Nightjar***Caprimulgus tristigma*

A pair were heard calling at dawn, daily, Lake Langano.

**Slender-tailed Nightjar***Caprimulgus clarus*

Several birds were seen at Lake Langano and at the Awash Falls, Awash NP.

**Swifts Apodidae****African Palm-Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Small numbers seen in Bilen, Awash NP and in the Jemmu Valley.

*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.*

**Mottled Swift***Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Twenty were seen en route to Lake Awassa.

**Nyanza Swift***Apus niansae*

Small flocks recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being forty+ in the Sululta Plains.

**Horus Swift***Apus affinis*

Two birds were seen at our stop at Lake Chelecheka.

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

Six birds were seen in the Rift Valley Lakes area.

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

Commonly recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being twenty+ at Awassa.

**Blue-naped Mousebird***Urocolius macrourus*

Small flocks recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being thirty+ at Bilen, Awash NP.

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

We enjoyed excellent views of two birds at Wondo Genet and one in Fig Forest, Lake Langano.

**Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*****African Pygmy Kingfisher***Ispidina picta*

1 at Lake Awassa and two at Lake Langano.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

Small numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being six at Awassa.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

Small numbers recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being six at Awassa.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

Small numbers recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being two en route from Negele to Yabello.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

One bird in the Jemmu Valley.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being Six + at Awassa.

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

Small numbers at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being seven huddled together at Lake Langano.

**Blue-breasted Bee-eater***Merops variegatus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being thirty at Bilen, Awash NP.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is considered by several authorities to form a distinct species, called Abyssinian Bee-eater, based on size, coloration and habitat differences, combined with an isolated population in the Highlands of Ethiopia and the Boma Hills in Sudan. It would therefore be an Ethiopian near-endemic if full species status is awarded. This enigmatic race has in the past been lumped with Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater M. oreobates.*

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

Three birds were seen near the Genale River at Bogol Manyo.

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

Ten birds were seen between Goba and Langano.

**Northern Carmine Bee-eater***Merops nubicus*

This beautiful bird was commonly recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three hundred+ between Addis and Awassa.

**Rollers *Coraciidae*****Abyssinian Roller***Coracias abyssinica*

Small numbers seen at most sites north of Addis Ababa and highest count being twenty+ in Awash NP.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

*NOTE: The subspecies which we recorded in Ethiopia, C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller which would become an Ethiopian near-endemic, based upon coloration of the breast and crown and an isolated population.*

**Rufous-crowned Roller**

*Coracias naevia*

Uncommonly recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four en route from Negele to Yabello.

**Hoopoes *Upupidae***

**Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

Small numbers seen, almost everyday of the tour, at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, and the highest count being ten on our day visit to the Fig Forest at Lake Langano.

*NOTE: Clements only recognises two species of Hoopoe; Eurasian U. epops and Madagascar U. marginata. One further species, is widely recognised namely African U. africana and a 4<sup>th</sup> is sometimes recognised, West/Central African U. senegalensis. We only recorded the nominate Palearctic migrant form U. e. epops.*

**Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae***

**NE Black-billed Woodhoopoe**

*Phoeniculus somaliensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, first one bird was seen at Lallibela and the highest count thereafter being six seen between Kebre Mengist and Negele.

**Black Scimitarbill**

*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Four birds at Langano and three en route from Langano to the Awash NP.

**Abyssinian Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus minor*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country locations, Negele, Yabello and Awash NP.

**Hornbills *Bucerotidae***

**Red-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Recorded daily in small numbers at all lower elevation sites with the highest count being 30+ en route from Negele to Yabello.

*NOTE: Some authorities have split the Red-billed Hornbill complex into five species, the form we recorded would become Northern Red-billed Hornbill and is the nominate form. Clements does not recognize these splits as yet.*

**Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus flavirostris*

First recorded in the Awash NP with further sightings south of Negele and around Yabello.

**Von der Decken's Hornbill**

*Tockus deckeni*

Small numbers recorded at scattered lower elevation sites with the highest count being six birds at Lake Langano.

**Crowned Hornbill**

*Tockus alboterminatus*

Three at Jemmu Valley and two at Wadera Forest.

**Hemprich's Hornbill**

*Tockus hemprichii*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country, rocky locations, the highest count being four seen on our day trip to Debre Libanos.

**African Gray Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, and the highest count being six seen in the Awash NP.

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna brevis*

Commonly recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, especially where fig trees were fruiting and highest count being one hundred+ at Awassa..

**Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill**

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*



Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. A total of eleven of these impressive birds seen during the course of the tour.

### Barbets *Capitonidae*

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Two birds were seen at Sof Omar.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations, the highest count being two seen en route from Negele to Yabello.

**Red-fronted Barbet**

*Tricholaema diademata*

Several birds were seen around Lake Langano, Negele and Yabello.

**Black-throated Barbet**

*Tricholaema melanocephala*

First recorded in the Awash NP where we saw six birds with further sightings of singelton's at Bogol Manyo and Yabello.

*NOTE: The Serengeti and northern Tanzanian form of this barbet, T. m. flavibuccalis is sometimes considered a different species (Yellow-cheeked Barbet) from this nominate form we recorded in Ethiopia.*

**NE Banded Barbet**

*Lybius undatus*

The endemic was seen at scattered sites throughout the country with a high of six birds seen at Awassa.

**Black-billed Barbet**

*Lybius guifsobalito*

Small numbers regularly seen and heard at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, and the highest count being six in the Jemmu Valley.

**Double-toothed Barbet**

*Lybius bidentatus*

Several of these stunning birds were seen at Awassa, Wondo Genet and Lake Langano.

**Yellow-breasted Barbet**

*Trachyphonus margaritatus*

Only recorded in the Awash NP where we saw fourteen birds.

**Red-and-yellow Barbet**

*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

Only seen in the dry country around Negele and Yabello.

**D'Arnaud's Barbet**

*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Nine birds seen around Yabello. Several pairs were seen showing their characteristic tail wagging displays.

### Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

**Greater Honeyguide**

*Indicator indicator*

One was seen en route from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Lesser Honeyguide**

*Indicator minor*

First heard calling and then seen at Awassa with other birds heard at Sof Omar and Wadera Forest.

**Wahlberg's Honeyguide (Brown-backed Honeybird) *Prodotiscus regulus***

We found one bird at Lake Langano which allowed close looks. The status of this bird in Ethiopia is unknown with only a few records.

**Green-backed (Slender-billed) Honeyguide *Prodotiscus zambesiae***

One bird scoped at the Fig Forest at Lake Langano. Another scarce bird in Ethiopia.

### Woodpeckers & Allies *Picidae*

**Eurasian Wryneck**

*Jynx torquilla*

One at the Fantalle Crater and another at Bilen, Awash NP.

**Rufous-necked Wryneck**

*Jynx ruficollis*



Excellent views of this species were had at Awassa and Langanu.

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country locations, the highest count being three seen at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

**E Abyssinian Woodpecker** *Dendropicos abyssinicus*

We enjoyed excellent looks at a single bird at Wondo Genet with a further sighting of a bird seen by Phil at the Lower Sanetti Forest, Bale Mountains. A species that can be very difficult to find!

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Several birds were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*

Two birds were seen at Lake Langanu.

**Gray-headed Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Several birds were seen at Awassa, Wondo Genet and at Langanu.

*NOTE: This species is lumped by some authorities within the Gray Woodpecker D. goertae complex. Clements considers Gray-headed Woodpecker D. spodocephalus to be a distinct species.*

### Larks *Alaudidae*

**Red-winged Lark** *Mirafraga hypermetra*

One bird was seen well on the Sala plains in the Awash NP.

**NE Gillett's Lark** *Mirafraga gilletti*

Unfortunately, only two participants saw the bird in flight in the Awash Park.

**E & V Degodi Lark** *Mirafraga degodiensis*

We had excellent close looks at four of these range restricted endemics.

**Foxy (Abyssinian) Lark** *Calendulauda alopex*

Six birds were seen near Negele and three at Yabello.

*NOTE: This species has now been split from Fawn-coloured Lark C. africanoides and is recognized as a full species by Clements.*

**E & V Sidamo Lark** *Heteromirafraga sidamoensis*

Incredibly close views of six of these extremely range restricted and boldly marked larks on the Liben Plains near Negele.

**Chesnut-headed Sparrow-lark** *Eremopterix signatus*

Good views were had of three birds at Biklen, Awash NP.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucotis*

Small flocks seen at scattered dry country locations, the highest count being ten seen between Lakes Koka and Ziway en route to Kebre Mengist.

**NE Erlanger's Lark** *Calandrella blanfordi*

Small numbers seen at higher elevation grasslands, the highest count being twenty+ seen on the Sululta Plains.

*NOTE: Clements has given C. erlangeri of central Ethiopia full species status. The Blanford's/Erlanger's Lark complex was originally lumped within the Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, which itself was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla! Long live the days of splitting!*

**Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae*

Small numbers seen at higher elevation grasslands, the highest count being sixty+ seen en route from Goba to Langanu.

**Somali Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella somalica*

Two hundred+ birds were seen in feeding flocks at the Liben Plains.

### Swallows *Hirundinidae*

**Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)** *Riparia riparia*

Flocks seen at several scattered sites, the largest numbers being forty+ around Bilen, Awash NP.

**Plain Martin** *Riparia paludicola*



Regularly seen around wetlands throughout Ethiopia. Highest count being one hundred+ at Lake Langano.

**Eurasian Crag-Martin***Hirundo rupestris*

Several birds were seen at Lallibela, the Termaber Pass and Jemmu Escarpments.

**Rock Martin***Hirundo fuligula*

Regularly seen throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being twenty+ on the Jemmu Escarpment.

*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 and does not occur in Ethiopia. The more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla which is resident in Ethiopia. Furthermore over-wintering Palearctic birds which do occur in Ethiopia would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsoleta. We recorded both of these forms, the Palearctic migrants being paler and usually occurring in large flocks over grasslands and escarpments and the resident Ethiopian forms which are darker and usually in pairs. We found these nesting at Debre Zeyit Crater Lake. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in large numbers on nearly every day of the tour, the largest count being one thousand+ in the wheatlands near Goba.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Red-chested Swallow***Hirundo lucida*

One seen well on the Sululta Plains. A scarce bird in Ethiopia.

**Ethiopian Swallow***Hirundo aethiopica*

Singelton's were seen in the Awash NP and a further sighting of six birds at Yabello.

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

Regularly seen throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being eight at Bilen, Awash NP.

*NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form which would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow which would be H. filifera. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**E & V White-tailed Swallow***Hirundo megaensis*

First sighting was of two seen on our drive from Negele to Yabello A further two birds were seen at Yabello. A restricted and scarce endemic.

**Mosque Swallow***Hirundo senegalensis*

One bird was seen en route to Awassa.

**Red-rumped Swallow***Hirundo daurica*

Only recorded on the Sululta Plains where we saw eleven birds.

*NOTE: The resident H. d. melanocrissus which we frequently recorded may be considered a distinct species; Black-vented Swallow, which would become an Ethiopian endemic. Clements does not as yet recognise this split. Further extra-limital splits are likely within this wide-ranging species complex.*

**House Martin***Delichon urbica*

Seventy birds were seen in wheatlands en route to Goba.

**Black (Ethiopian, Blue, Brown) Sawwing** *Psaldoprocne pristopectera*

Fifteen seen at Wondo Genet, and approximately fifteen seen en route to Kebre Mengist.

*NOTE: The Black Sawwing P. pristopectera complex was split into 8 full species which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification, however, all authorities including Clements have now accepted one species. We only recorded one of these forms, the Brown Sawwing P. p. antinorii. Please note that as per December 2004, P. oleaginea and P. antinorii have been re-lumped by Clements with P. pristopectera.*

## Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae*

**White Wagtail***Motacilla alba*

Small numbers seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being four+ near Robe.

**African Pied Wagtail***Motacilla aguimp*

Two at Langano and one in the Jemmu Valley.

**(Western) Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Small flocks seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being forty+ en route from Debre Birhan to the Jemmu Valley. The attractive and distinctive black-headed, waterside-dwelling *M. f. feldeggi* was frequently recorded during our tour.

*NOTE: Some authorities have recently split the Yellow Wagtail complex into 2 full species, the new species is named Eastern Yellow Wagtail.*

**Gray Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea*

A single seen alongside a small stream at Wondo Genet, Goba and the Jemmu Valley.

**Mountain Wagtail***Motacilla clara*

Several birds were seen on the river at Wondo Genet.

**Golden Pipit***Tmetothylacus tenellus*

Good views of a male seen in a bush next to the road and Hugh found another two nearby, Negele.

**E & NT Abyssinian Longclaw***Macronyx flavicollis*

We enjoyed excellent views of four on the Sululta Plains and one in the Bale Mountains.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being a remarkable ten en route to the Jemmu Valley.

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ethiopian races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Clements does not recognise this split.*

**Tawny Pipit***Anthus campestris*

Several birds were seen in the Awash NP.

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similis*

One recorded near Debre Libanos, two on the Tarmaber Pass and a further two at Lake Langanu.

**Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight between Wondo Genet and Goba.

**Red-throated Pipit***Anthus cervinus*

Seen at all higher elevation grassland with the highest count being twenty+ en route from Debre Birhan to the Jemmu Valley.

### Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike***Coracina pectoralis*

One bird was seen at Wadera Forest.

**Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike***Campephaga phoenicea*

One at the Fig Forest at Langanu and one near Yabello.

### Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

**Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus*

This abundant and ubiquitous bird was seen daily throughout Ethiopia.

**[Dark-capped Bulbul]***Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor*

Eight birds seen between Wadera Forest and Negele.

**[Somali Bulbul]***Pycnonotus [barbatus] somaliensis*

Several birds were seen in the Awash NP. Refer to taxonomic notes below.

**[Dodson's Bulbul]***Pycnonotus [barbatus] dodsoni*

Several birds were seen at Goba, Negele and Yabello. See taxonomic notes below.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species. Two further splits, which we recorded in Ethiopia, are widely recognised as full species (Somali Bulbul *P. somaliensis* and Dodson's Bulbul *P. dodsoni*) although Clements does not treat them as distinct, and furthermore, several other forms (including ones which we recorded i.e. Egyptian Bulbul *P. arsiniae* and Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor*) are likely to be recognised as distinct once genetic analysis and further study is completed.*

**Northern Brownbul***Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Three birds were seen at Sof Omar.

### Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

#### **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush**

*Monticola saxatilis*

Three were seen in the Awash NP and five birds in the south between Negele and Yabello.

#### **Little Rock-Thrush**

*Monticola rufocinereus*

Several birds were seen at Lallibela, Debre Libanos, Langano with a further sighting of a female at the Jemmu Valley.

#### **Blue Rock-Thrush**

*Monticola solitarius*

Several birds were seen at Lallibela, Debre Libanos, Langano and Debre Birhan.

#### **Abyssinian Ground-Thrush**

*Zoothera piaggiae*

We enjoyed good views of several birds at Wondo Genet.

#### **Groundscraper Thrush**

*Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

Seen at all higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being one hundred+ seen on our drive between Goba and Sof Omar.

*NOTE: Ethiopian Thrush P. l. simensis is considered a distinct species by several authorities and would therefore become a further Ethiopian endemic. This split is based on distributional (P. l. simensis forms an isolated population far to the north of the nominate form), habitat (high altitude grasslands versus wooded Southern savannas of the nominate), plumage and vocal differences do seem to validate this opinion. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

#### **Olive (Mountain) Thrush**

*Turdus olivaceus*

Seen at all higher elevation forests and woodlands with the highest count being twenty+ around Goba and the Lower Sanetti Forest.

*NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex may be split into a range of up to 10 full species. The form which we recorded in Ethiopia, Abyssinian Thrush T. o. abyssinicus would be recognised as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush T. helleri.*

#### **African Thrush**

*Turdus pelios*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being twenty at Langano.

#### **African Bare-eyed Thrush**

*Turdus tephronotus*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair foraging at Yabello.

### Cisticolas & Allies

#### **Red-faced Cisticola**

*Cisticola erythrops*

One bird was heard at the Jemmu River.

#### **Singing Cisticola**

*Cisticola cantans*

Two birds were seen at the Jemmu Valley.

#### **NE Boran Cisticola**

*Cisticola bodessa*

Three seen in the Yabello area and six in the Awash NP.

#### **Rattling Cisticola**

*Cisticola chiniana*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six around Yabello.

#### **Ashy Cisticola**

*Cisticola cinereolus*

One bird was seen en route to Bogol Manyo.

#### **Winding (Ethiopian) Cisticola**

*Cisticola galactotes lugubris*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten en route to the Bale Mountains

*NOTE: This widespread African species has been split by several authorities into 5 full species. Races include marginatus, haematocephala, luapula, nominate galactotes and lugubris. The race occurring in Ethiopia is lugubris and is split as Ethiopia cisticola. Clements does not recognise any of these races as full species.*

#### **Stout Cisticola**

*Cisticola robustus*

Two at Lallibela and three at Debre Libanos

#### **Tiny Cisticola**

*Cisticola nanus*



Six birds were seen at Yabello.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

Two were seen on our day trip to Debre Libanos.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

One at the Awash Park and one near Negele.

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*

Ten birds were seen on the Liben Plains.

**Black-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola eximius*

One bird in non-breeding plumage was scoped on the Liben Plains, Negele.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 4 in the Jemmu Valley.

**Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*

Six birds were seen en route to Bogol Manyo and four in the Negele/Yabello area.

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

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being six en route to Bogol Manyo.

*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of A. f. viridiceps, or Brown-tailed Apalis of Somalia and adjacent Ethiopia. We saw this bird at Sof Omar. This form if recognised would be an Ethiopian near-endemic. The subspecies we saw at Yabello and elsewhere is A. f. flavocincta which would remain within the nominate group of Yellow-breasted Apalis. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Red-faced Apalis (Red-fronted Warbler)** *Apalis rufifrons*

Three recorded at Bilen and several seen in the dry woodland en route to Bogol Manyo.

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*

Small numbers seen almost daily, at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty in the Fig Forest at Langano.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of C. brevicauda, or Gray-backed Camaroptera from the nominate Green-backed Camaroptera. The subspecies we saw through-out Ethiopia was C. b. abyssinica which would fall within the drier country dwelling Gray-backed Camaroptera complex. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Gray Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being four seen en route from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Three in the Lower Sanetti forest and a further sighting of one at the Tarmaber Pass.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Two at Lake Awassa and one at Lake Langano.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Three at Koka and two at Langano.

**Lesser Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Heard at Awassa and four birds seen at Langano.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: Clements has split Olivaceous Warbler into two species namely H. pallida, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and H. opaca, Western Olivaceous Warbler.*

**Upcher's Warbler** *Hippolais languida*

One at Ziway and one at Langano.

**African Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

One bird was seen on the Sululta Plains en route to Debre Libanos.

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being four at Langano.

**Yellow-vented Eremomela** *Eremomela flavicrissalis*

Four of these scarce birds were found around Bogol Manyo.



**Yellow-bellied Eremomela*****Eremomela icteropygialis***

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being twelve on the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

**Northern Crombec*****Sylvietta brachyura***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six at Bilen, Awash NP.

**NE & DD Phillipa's (Short-billed) Crombec** ***Sylvietta philippae***

Hugh and Phil found this scarce near-endemic at Bogol Manyo and much to the delight of the rest of the group we relocated the bird after a tense ten minute search.

**Somali Crombec*****Sylvietta isabellina***

Several birds were seen on our drive to Bogol Manyo.

**Red-faced Crombec*****Sylvietta whytii***

Small numbers seen at sites to the south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being six around Langano.

**Brown Woodland-Warbler*****Phylloscopus umbrovirens***

One bird was seen at Wondo Genet.

**Willow Warbler*****Phylloscopus trochilus***

Commonly recorded throughout Ethiopia.

**Wood Warbler*****Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

One bird was found by John at Wadera Forest. A scarce Palearctic migrant.

**Common Chiffchaff*****Phylloscopus collybita***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a high count of ten at Debre Libanos.

*NOTE: Most authorities split, including Clements have split the Chiffchaff complex into 4 full species. The nominate form which we recorded is known as Common Chiffchaff P. collybita.*

**Blackcap*****Sylvia atricapilla***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four at Wadera Forest.

**Greater Whitethroat*****Sylvia communis***

Singelton's were seen at Negele, Filtu and Bogol Manyo .

**Lesser Whitethroat*****Sylvia curruca***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six en route from Goba to Langano.

**Brown Warbler (Parisoma)*****Parisoma lugens***

A pair were seen at the Ghion Hotel, in central Addis Ababa, our only sighting of the tour.

**[Bale Warbler (Parisoma)]*****Parisoma [lugens] griseiventris***

We were extremely fortunate to find two pairs on our trip up the Bale Mountain.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise this potential split from P. lugens at present.*

**Banded Warbler (Parisoma)*****Parisoma boehmi***

Three birds were seen at Yabello.

**Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*****Pale Flycatcher*****Bradornis pallidus***

First seen in the Awash NP with further sightings in the Negele, Bogol Manyo and Yabello areas.

*NOTE: The subspecies of Pale Flycatcher which we recorded may be considered a distinct form and split as Wajir Flycatcher B. bafirawari. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**African Gray Flycatcher*****Bradornis microrhynchus***

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight at Yabello.

*NOTE: We recorded two subspecies of this flycatcher, B. m. neumanni in the South and B. m. pumilus in the Rift Valley to the East. These forms have been split by many authorities although Clements does not recognise this split. B. m. neumanni would remain with the nominate African Gray Flycatcher and B. m. pumilus has been called Small Gray Flycatcher.*

**E Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher*****Melaenornis chocolatinus***

Small numbers seen at scattered forested sites and the highest count being twelve at Wadera Forest.

**Northern Black-Flycatcher*****Melaenornis edolioides***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten seen at Lake Langano.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three at Wondo Genet.

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Two seen at Awassa, and two at Langano.

**Rueppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being two at our hotel in Addis.

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

Two birds were heard and seen at Awassa.

**Red-backed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten at the Fantalle Crater Awash NP.

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

**Black Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*

Two of these striking birds were seen at Bilen Lodge, Awash NP. A scarce and under-recorded bird in Ethiopia.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six around our hotel at Lallibela.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites in the south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being ten en route to Goba.

*NOTE: Although Clements recognises the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats, the form we recorded in the highlands of Ethiopia S. t. albofasciata is considered for further separation as Ethiopian Stonechat and would then become an Ethiopian near-endemic. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola maura*

One male bird was seen at Lake Koka.

*NOTE: The Eastern Palearctic races may be split off as Siberian Stonechat S. maura. The forms which we recorded would remain within the nominate group.*

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty en route from Wadera to Negele.

*NOTE: The North-West African race may be split off as Black-throated Wheatear O. seebohmi. The Palearctic migrant forms which we recorded would remain within the nominate group.*

**Mourning Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugens*

Several at Langano and ten at the Jemmu Valley.

*NOTE: This extremely variable complex with an extensive range and many distinctive isolated populations is a perfect candidate for multi-splitting. The resident Ethiopian form O. l. lugubris is usually treated as a full species within Schalow's Wheatear O. schalowi (this complex includes O. l. schalowi of Kenya/N. Tanzania and O. l. vauriei of Somalia.) Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

One of the most frequently seen birds recorded on almost every single day of the tour at every site. We regularly recorded fifty daily in the Negele, Bogol Manyo and Yabello areas.

**Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*

One at Lallibela and another at Yabello.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

Recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a high of twenty on our day visit to Sof Omar. Due to the difficulty in separating this species from *O. oenanthe* many wheatears were not identified to species.

**[Cyprus Wheatear]** *[Oenanthe cypriaca pleschanka]?*

A bird resembling this species was seen on the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP. A rare Palearctic migrant to Ethiopia.

**Red-breasted Wheatear** *Oenanthe bottae*



Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being one hundred on our day visit to Sof Omar.

*NOTE: This African and Arabian complex is usually treated as two species, Heuglin's Wheatear *O. heuglini* of the Sahelian zone of Africa and Botta's Wheatear *O. bottae*, which is resident in Ethiopia and Arabia and is the form which we recorded. This split is not as yet recognised by Clements.*

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

One at Langanano and another at the Jemmu Valley.

**Brown-tailed Chat** *Cercomela scotocerca*

Four at Sof Omar.

**NE & DD Sombre Rock Chat** *Cercomelia dubia*

A pair of these scarce near endemics were seen on the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

**Blackstart** *Cercomela melanura*

Two birds were seen at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

**NE Moorland Chat** *Cercomela sordida*

Regularly seen in good numbers in higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being fifty in the Goba area en route to Langanano.

**NE Rueppell's Chat** *Myrmecocichla melaena*

Regularly seen in rocky areas Lallibela Debre Libanos and the Jemmu Escarpment.

**Mocking Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Regularly seen in rocky areas to the north of Addis Ababa with the highest count being 15+ on the Jemmu Escarpment.

*NOTE: White-crowned Cliff-Chat, *T. c. coronata* of West Africa is considered by some authorities as a full species. Clements does not recognize this species as yet.*

**NE White-winged Cliff-Chat** *Thamnolaea semirufa*

A pair were seen at Lallibela, Debre Libanos and the Jemmu escarpment.

### Wattle-eyes *Platysteiridae*

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

A pair were seen at Wondo Genet.

**Gray-headed Batis** *Batis orientalis*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

**Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor*

Small numbers seen at scattered moister sites throughout Ethiopia with our first sighting of two at Lallibela.

**Pygmy Batis** *Batis perkeo*

Eight seen on the drive from Negele to Bogol Manyo .

### Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight at the Fig Forest at Langanano.

*NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher *T. plumbeiceps*. The subspecies which we recorded in Ethiopia is *T. v. ferreti* which would fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex *T. viridis* if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

### Babblers *Timaliidae*



**Rufous Chatterer***Turdoides rubiginosus*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 10+ around Yabello.

**[NE] White-rumped Babbler***Turdoides leucopygius*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty at Langanu.

*NOTE: Clements has recently split T. leucopygius into four full species. We saw the nominate form in Ethiopia.*

**Chickadees & Tits Paridae****E Abyssinian Catbird***Parophasma galinieri*

Four in Lallibela and three+ birds were seen in Hygenia forests at the Dinsho HQ, Bale Mountains.

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

A pair seen were seen on two consecutive days at Langanu.

*NOTE: Clements now recognises 2 full species. The nominate dark-eyed M. l. leucomelas which we recorded in Ethiopia remains White-winged Black-Tit and the western yellow-eyed M. l. guineensis becomes White-shouldered Black-Tit.*

**NE White-backed Black-Tit***Melaniparus leuconotus*

One at the Ghion Hotel in central Addis and ten seen extremely well at the Dinsho, Bale Mountains.

**Somali Tit***Melaniparus thruppi*

Seen at scattered sites in drier country with a high count of six at Bogol Manyo.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit***Anthoscopus musculus*

First recorded in the Awash NP with further sightings at Bogol Manyo.

**Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae****Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes orientalis*

Several birds were seen at Negele, Bogol Manyo and Yabello.

**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

One at Langanu and one at the Jemmu River.

**Nile Valley Sunbird***Hedydipna metallica*

Six of these nomadic sunbirds seen daily in the Bilen area, Awash NP.

**Western Olive Sunbird***Cyanomitra obscura*

One heard and seen at Wondo Genet.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six seen at Awassa.

**Hunter's Sunbird***Chalcomitra hunteri*

Fifteen birds seen en route from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Tacazze Sunbird***Nectarinia tacazze*

Small numbers seen at all highland sites throughout Ethiopia, even in central Addis Ababa. The highest count was thirty at the our centrally located hotel in Addis.

**Malachite Sunbird***Nectarinia famosa*

Phil saw one seen at Lake Lagano.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris pulchellus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight at Langanu.

**Mariqua Sunbird***Cinnyris mariquensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four+daily in the Negele and Yabello areas.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. osiris which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*



**Shining Sunbird*****Cinnyris habessinicus***

These beautiful sunbirds were seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a high of ten at Sof Omar.

**Variable Sunbird*****Cinnyris venustus***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being fifteen+ at Lallibela.

*NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species. All our records, except a single seen near Negele relate to C. v. fazoglensis which would remain with the nominate yellow-bellied group, V. venustus Variable Sunbird. The single southern bird we saw belonged to the white-bellied form, C. v. albiventris which may be split as White-bellied Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**White-eyes *Zosteropidae*****NE Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye *Zosterops poliogaster***

Small numbers seen at scattered higher altitude sites throughout Ethiopia and first recorded at Lallibela

*NOTE: Most authorities split this complex into 6 full species. The nominate form which we recorded would become Heuglin's White-eye Z. poliogaster. Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**White-breasted (Abyssinian) White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus***

This drier country species was seen at Langano, Negele, Yabello and Jemmu Valley.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The nominate form which we recorded would become Abyssinian White-eye Z. abyssinicus and the Kenyan and Tanzanian form would be Z. flavilateralis, Kenya White-eye. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Yellow White-eye*****Zosterops senegalensis***

Three were seen at Yabello.

**Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*****NE Dark-headed (Ethiopian) Oriole*****Oriolus monacha***

Eleven seen in Wondo Genet.

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

Two at Sof Omar and several recorded in the Negele and Yabello areas.

**Shrikes *Laniidae*****Rufous-tailed Shrike*****Lanius isabellinus***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six at Negele.

*NOTE: This complex which used to be lumped with Red-backed Shrike L. collurio is being considered for a further 3-way split. The western L. i. phoenicuroides (Turkestan Shrike) group and the nominate Isabelline Shrike group have both been recorded in Ethiopia. The L. i. speculigerus (Daurian Shrike) group are extra-limital. Based on plumage differences, we recorded birds of the Turkestan Shrike group during our tour. Clements does not as yet recognise the three-way split of the L. isabellinus group but does recognise the split from the Red-backed Shrike L. collurio group.*

**Southern Gray Shrike*****Lanius meridionalis***

Singelton's seen daily in the vicinity of Awash NP.

*NOTE: This complex which used to be lumped with Northern Shrike L. excubitor is being considered for further splitting. These splits would include the nominate Southern Grey Shrike, Saharan Shrike (L. leucopygos) and the migrant Steppe Shrike (L. pallidirostris) which is the form we recorded in Ethiopia during our tour. Clements recognises the split from Northern Shrike but not the further splits of the Southern Grey Shrike group.*

**Gray-backed Fiscal*****Lanius excubitoroides***

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten en route to Awassa.

**Somali Fiscal*****Lanius somalicus***

Eleven sightings in the Awash NP.

**Taita Fiscal*****Lanius dorsalis***

Six birds were found east of Negele.

**Common Fiscal*****Lanius collaris***

Small numbers seen almost daily at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with regular counts of up to twenty birds in the higher grassland areas.



**Masked Shrike***Lanius nubicus*

Two of these striking birds were seen daily at Langano.

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

One at Wash NP and one at Bogol Manyo.

**White-rumped Shrike***Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Small numbers seen at scattered drier country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten+ around Yabello.

**Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae*****Brubru***Nilaus afer*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four around Bogol Manyo.

*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. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.***Northern Puffback***Dryoscopus gambensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Pringle's Puffback***Dryoscopus pringlii*

Two birds were found en route to Bogol Manyo.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP.

*NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra T. s. cucullata of north-west Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.***Three-streaked (James's) Tchagra***Tchagra jamesi*

We had excellent looks at two birds en route from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Slate-colored Boubou***Laniarius funebris*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six on our day trip to Sof Omar.

**Rosy-patch Bushshrike***Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four around Bogol Manyo.

*NOTE: Tsavo Bushshrike R. c. cathemagmenus of Tanzania may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.***Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike***Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, first seen at Sof Omar.

**Gray-headed Bush Shrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

Heard only at Wadera Forest.

**Red-naped Bush Shrike***Laniarius ruficeps*

Excellent views were had of this scarce near-endemic near Filtu.

**Helmetsrikes *Prionopidae*****White Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight+ en route from Goba to Sof Omar.



NOTE: This species is being considered for a 3-way split. *P. p. cristatus* which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Curly-crested Helmetshrike, *P. p. poliocephalus* would become Southern Helmetshrike and the nominate *P. p. plumatus* would become Straight-crested Helmetshrike. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

### Drongos *Dicruridae*

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

### Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae*

#### **E & V Stresemann's Bush-Crow** *Zavattariornis stresemanni*

Small family groups totaling twenty+ were seen in the Yabello area. A strikingly attractive and noisy bird that struts around with a serious attitude. At first impression is reminds one of a Clarke's Nutcracker, however, the most recent genetic work indicates that it probably belongs in the Starling family. It has no close affinities to any other bird and has an unusually restricted distribution in the very south of Ethiopia.

#### **Red-billed Chough** *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*

Two birds were found foraging on the Sanetti plateau, Bale Mountains, A lifer for Erik! And a free round of drinks!

#### **Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eighty+ in the grasslands around Goba.

#### **Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being forty+ around Addis Ababa.

#### **NE Somali Crow (Dwarf Raven)** *Corvus edithae*

This corvid was common in villages on the dry south especially *en route* to Bogol Manyo when twenty-five daily were encountered.

NOTE: Clements now acknowledges the well-recognised split of Somali Crow *C. edithae* from Brown-necked Raven *C. ruficollis*. This species is considered distinct based on habitat, distribution (it is an Ethiopian near-endemic), plumage, physiology, call and behavior. It is known to hybridize with Pied Crow *C. albus*.

#### **NE Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty-five at Lallibela.

#### **NE Thick-billed Raven** *Corvus crassirostris*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty+ at Lalibella. This species has an impressive bill.

### Starlings *Sturnidae*

#### **Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being thirty-five near Awassa.

#### **Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Recorded on every single day of the tour with highest count being one hundred+ en route from Kebre Mengist to Negele.

#### **[Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis chloropterus]*

Several birds seen at Lallibela. After some careful reading and listening to play-back calls, it is believed that these birds are the above species.

#### **Rueppell's Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being forty+ around Langano.

#### **Golden-breasted Starling** *Lamprotornis regius*

This unbelievably beautiful bird was seen near Filu and at Bogol Manyo.



- Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*  
Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being one hundred+ on the drive from Negele to Yabello.
- Shelley's Starling** *Lamprotornis shelleyi*  
Encountered at southern dry country sites Negele, Bogol Manyo and in the Yabello area.
- Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*  
Six at Awassa, one at Langano and twenty in the Wadera Forest.
- NE White-crowned Starling** *Spreo albicapillus*  
First seen at the Liben Plains with further sightings at Bogol Manyo and Yabello.
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*  
First seen at Lallibela with further sightings at the Bale Mountains, Wadera Forest and Yabello.
- Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*  
Six at Lallibela and twenty-five feeding in a fruiting fig-tree at Awassa.
- NE Somali Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*  
A flock flew past us at the Jemmu Valley.
- Bristle-crowned Starling** *Onychognathus salvadorii*  
Our only sighting was of four birds en route to Sof Omar.
- NE White-billed Starling** *Onychognathus albirostris*  
Small numbers seen at scattered rocky sites to the north of Addis Ababa at Lallibela, Debre Libanos and at the Jemmu Valley.
- Sharpe's Starling** *Pholia sharpii*  
An uncommonly recorded bird, two were seen at Wadera Forest.
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*  
Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being fifteen+ on cattle at Bishangari Lodge, Langano.

### Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

- Shelley's Rufous Sparrow** *Passer shelleyi*  
Three seen at Yabello.  
*NOTE: Clements has recently split the Rufous Sparrow complex 4 ways. Great Rufous Sparrow, P.motitensis, Kenyan Rufous Sparrow, P. rufocintus, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, P. cordofunicus and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow, P.shelleyi.*
- NE Swainson's Sparrow** *Passer swainsonii*  
Encountered almost daily sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being one hundred+ Lallibela.  
*NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into 5 full species which are fully recognised by Clements and other authorities.*
- Parrot-billed Sparrow** *Passer gongonensis*  
We recorded up to seventeen birds in the Bogol Manyo area.
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey*  
Four birds were seen at Yabello.
- Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Petronia pyrgita*  
Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being four+ daily in Negele and Yabello area.
- Bush Petronia** *Petronia dentata*  
Four at the Awash NP and six in the Jemmu Valley.

### Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*

- Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*  
Small numbers seen at scattered sites to the south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being four at Negele.



NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver and the form which we recorded in Ethiopia would become *B. intermedius* Northern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

**White-headed Buffalo-Weaver***Dinemellia dinemelli*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty+ Bogol Manyo.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver***Sporopipes frontalis*

One at Lallibela and ten at Langano.

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

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being thirty+ in Lake Langano.

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

Four seen in the Jemmu Valley.

**Gray-headed Social-Weaver***Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Fifty+ seen in the Yabello area.

**Black-capped Social Weaver***Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

Twenty-five were found between Arero and Yabello.

**Baglafaecht Weaver***Ploceus baglafaecht*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being thirty around our hotel in central Addis.

NOTE: This polytypic species complex has been considered for multi-species splitting. We recorded two distinct subspecies which stand a good possibility of full species recognition: the nominate form Baglafaecht Weaver *P. b. baglafaecht* was recorded at Addis Ababa, Lalibela and other higher altitude sites, and Emin's Weaver *P. b. emini* was recorded through-out the Rift Valley e.g. Awassa. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

**Little Weaver***Ploceus luteolus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty at Langano.

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

One at Wondo Genet, two at the Fig Forest, Lake Langano and one at Wadera Forest.

**Rueppell's Weaver***Ploceus galbula*

Recorded at Debre Zeit Crater Lake and at Lake Langano.

**Vitelline Masked-Weaver***Ploceus vitellinus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites to the south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being Twelve at Lake Langano.

NOTE: This widespread African Masked Weaver complex has been a candidate for 4-way splitting. The subspecies *P. v. vitellinus* is now recognized by Clements as a full species, Vitelline Masked-Weaver.

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

Irregularly recorded at scattered sites with a high count of forty birds at Sof Omar.

NOTE: This widespread African complex is also a candidate for multi-species splitting and the subspecies *P. c. abyssinicus* which we recorded in Ethiopia will probably remain within the nominate Village Weaver *P. cucullatus* group. These splits are not as yet recognised by Clements.

**Chestnut Weaver***Ploceus rubiginosus*

Sixty seen en route to Sof Omar and one bird seen at Bogol Manyo.

**Juba (Salvadori's) Weaver***Ploceus dicrocephalus*

A flock was seen briefly at the Genale River at Bogol Manyo. A scarce near-endemic.

**Speke's Weaver***Ploceus spekei*

One male at Langano and ten+ in the garden at the new Yabello Hotel.

**Red-headed Weaver***Anaplectes rubriceps*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 5 around Yabello.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Red-winged Weaver *A. leuconotos*. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.

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

Seen at scattered localities throughout Ethiopia with our highest count of two hundred at the Genale River, Bogol Manyo.



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

We recorded two hundred at the Genale River, Bogol Manyo.

**Northern Red (Orange) Bishop** *Euplectes franciscanus*

Thirty seen in the Awash NP.

**Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae****Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

Eight birds seen in the Awash NP.

**Abyssinian Crimson-wing** *Crytospiza salvadorii*

Six birds were seen briefly at Wondo Genet.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twenty-five+ in the Jemmu Valley.

**Black-faced Firefinch** *Lagonosticta lavata*

We had close looks at two birds found by Hugh at the Jemmu River.

**Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being thirty+ at Langano.

**Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 10 around Negele and Yabello.

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

One at a nest at Lallibela and another two at the Jemmu valley.

**NE Abyssinian Waxbill** *Estrilda ochrogaster*

Hugh found four birds at the Jemmu River.

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga*

Eight at Bilen, Awash NP.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

Ten at Awassa.

**Red-rumped (Black-cheeked) Waxbill** *Estrilda chamosyna*

Two birds were found at Lake Langano.

**African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*

One at Awassa and excellent views of two at Bilen, Awash NP.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

Ten seen at our centrally located hotel in Addis and Several birds daily at Awassa.

**Cut-throat** *Amadina fasciata*

Small numbers seen at the Jemmu Valley, Negele and Yabello

**Indigobirds Viduinae****Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being eight en route to Lallibela.

*Note: This extremely confusing species complex is in consideration for a multi-species split. The form which we recorded in Ethiopia V. c. ultramarina would become Purple Indigobird as opposed to the nominate V. c. chalybeata Green Indigobird of West Africa and the southern V. c. amauropteryx or South African Indigobird. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

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

Five birds seen en route from Wondo Genet to Goba and another six from Goba to Langano.

**Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae**

**E & En Ankober Serin***Serinus ankoberensis*

This extremely range restricted endemic seedeater was seen at the Tarmaber Pass (15+) and the prize went to Elaine Mahaffey for spotting these well-camouflaged birds. This species was only discovered in 1976 and is currently classed as Endangered, and therefore the species of highest conservation status which we recorded during our tour.

**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

Twelve at Lallibela and six+ seen in the Hareenna Forest, Bale Mountains.

*NOTE: This species complex has be split into two, the nominate southern group is now Cape Canary and the form which we recorded in Ethiopia has become S. flavivertex Yellow-crowned Canary.*

**E Abyssinian Siskin***Serinus nigriceps*

Regularly encountered at scattered higher altitude sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being two hundred+ on the Sanetti Plateau.

**NE African Citril***Serinus citrinelloides*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with the highest count being fifty+ en route from Goba to Sof Omar.

*NOTE: This complex is now treated as 3 full species, Southern Citril, S. hypostictus, the central Western Citril S. frontalis and the nominate African/Abyssinian Citril S. citrinelloides which is the form which we recorded during our tour.*

**E & NT Salvadori's Serin***Serinus xantholaemus*

Six of these extremely range restricted endemic seedeater was seen at close quarters at Sof Omar. Three other birds were located at different stops on our drive to Bogol Manyo.

*NOTE: The following 2 species which are fully recognised by Clements and most other authorities, have in the past all been lumped within the Black-throated Canary S. atrogularis species complex.*

**E & V Yellow-throated Serin***Serinus flavigula*

A pair was found at Debre Libanos, which is an extension from their known range. Another four birds were seen at the traditional site on the Fantalle Crater in the Awash NP.

**E Yellow-rumped Serin***Serinus xanthopygius*

Fifteen were seen at Lallibela while visiting the ancient churches. We had good looks at a small flock at Asheton Miriam.

**Reichenow's (Kenya Yellow-rumped Seed-eater) Seed-eater** *Serinus reichenowi*

Recorded at scattered sites with a high of six at Langanano.

*NOTE: See Salvadori's Serin above.*

**Yellow-fronted Canary***Serinus mozambicus*

Four birds heard and seen at the Jemmu Valley.

**White-bellied Canary***Serinus dorsostriatus*

Ten at Langanano and two at Yabello

**NE Brown-rumped Seedeater***Serinus tristriatus*

This abundant suburban species was seen at all higher altitude sites with the highest count being one hundred+ birds at Lallibela.

**Streaky Seedeater***Serinus striolatus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with the highest count being ten+ on the Bale Mountains.

*NOTE: Clements recognizes the Tanzanian race S. whytii as a full species Yellow-browed Seed-eater.*

**Buntings *Emberizidae*****Ortolan Bunting***Emberiza hortulana*

Five on the Sululta Plains, one en route to the Bale Mountains and twenty+ seen in the Jemmu Valley.

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

Several at Lallibella, two on the Sululta Plains and six+ seen on the Jemmu Escarpment.

**Somali Bunting***Emberiza poliopleura*

Four at the Awash Park and Twenty en route to Bogol Manyo and a few between Negele and Yabello.



## MAMMALS (34 species)

### Baboons & Monkeys: Cercopithecidae

#### **Guereza Colobus**

#### *Colobus guereza*

Commonly recorded in forested and well wooded areas of Ethiopia with highest count of twenty+ in Awassa and fifteen seen in the fig forest at Langanu. Many of these beautifully adorned monkeys were very approachable.

#### **Sacred (Hamadryas) Baboon**

#### *Papio hamadryas*

We enjoyed excellent views of eight near Sof Omar, a troop of twenty-seven at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP and twenty *en route* to Bogol Manyo. These baboon's range used to extend to Egypt where they were held sacred to the ancient Egyptian god Thoth.

#### **Olive (Anubis) Baboon**

#### *Papio anubis*

Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia with highest count of 25+ in the Langanu area.

#### **E & V Gelada**

#### *Theropithecus gelada*

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful close look at eight on our day trip to Debre Libanos, and a troop of seventy+ studied at close quarters at the Tarmaber Pass. These endemic baboons have the largest canines in proportion to their body size of any mammal still in existence, despite the fact that they feed almost entirely on grass. We were able to marvel at the size of these fearsome fangs as they flip their lips back to expose their weapons during threat displays and during mating. Two impressive, swaggering males were dominant in the troop.

#### **Grivet Monkey**

#### *Cercopithecus aethiops*

Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia with highest count of thirty+ at Awassa.

### Bats: Chiroptera

#### **Heart-nosed Bat**

#### *Cardioderma cor*

One bat was found at the cave in Sof Omar. Many could be heard further into the cave.

#### **Peter's Epauletted Fruit-Bat**

Fifteen were found roosting at our lunch stop at Awassa.

### Hares: Leporidae

#### **Scrub Hare**

#### *Lepus capensis*

One flushed in the Bogol Manyo area.

*NOTE: The subspecies which was encountered in Ethiopia is L. c. habessinicus which is often regarded as a different species; Abyssinian Hare.*

#### **Starck's Hare**

#### *Lepus starcki*

Two were seen on the Sannetti plateau, Bale Mountains.

#### **Unstriped Ground Squirrel**

#### *Xerus rutilus*

Small numbers seen at several sites south of Addis Ababa, the highest count being 10 around the Awash NP.

#### **Gambian Sun Squirrel**

#### *Heliosciurus gambianus*

Two of these beautiful squirrels seen in the forests at Wondo Genet and a further six at the Fig Forest at Langanu.

### Rat-like Rodents: Muroidae

#### **Giant Root Rat**

#### *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

Several of these "large beasts" were seen at their burrows around Goba and the Bale Mountains area.



**Ethiopian Meadow Rats** *Stenocephalemys griseicauda*  
Commonly recorded in the Bale Mountains area.

### Carnivores: Canidae

**Common (Golden) Jackal** *Canis aureus*  
A mother and her two pups were at our hotel in Goba with a further sighting of two in the Awash NP.

**Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas*  
One in the Awash NP and one at Bogol Manyo.

**E & En Ethiopian (Simien) Wolf** *Canis simensis*  
Sixteen sightings involving maybe eight individuals of these wonderful, richly-coloured wolves seen moving across the Sanetti Plateau on our visit. These are the rarest canid on Earth with a population estimated to be less than 500 individuals. Latest genetic evidence indicates they are most closely related to the Eurasian Wolf (*C. lupus*).

### Weasels: Mustelinae

**Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguinea*  
One at Awash NP and one at Bogol Manyo.

**Somali Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale hirtula*  
Ten were seen crossing the road en route to Bogol Manyo.

**White-tailed Mongoose** *Ichnueumia albicauda*  
One seen at dawn at Lake Langano.

### Hyaenas: Hyaenidae

**Spotted Hyaena** *Crocuta crocuta*  
One seen briefly at Langano.

### Cats: Felidae

**African Wild Cat** *Felis sylvestrus*  
One at the Liben Plains and one en route from Bogol Manyo to Negele.

### Hyraxes: Procavidae

**NE Ethiopian Rock Hyrax** *Procavia habessinica*  
Two were seen en route to Goba.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei*  
Seen at a few rocky sites in the Bale Mountains and Langano.

### Pigs: Suidae

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*  
Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia and generally the only larger wildlife species surviving, as it is not eaten by the Muslims or Orthodox Christians, and therefore left unmolested. Highest count was twenty+ near the Bale Mountains.

### Antelopes & Allies: Bovidae



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<b>E &amp; T Mountain Nyala</b>	<i>Tragelaphus buxtoni</i>
Twenty-one seen around Dinsho in Bale NP.	
<b>Bushbuck</b>	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Two were seen at the Dinsho headquarters, Bale Mountains NP.	
<b>Common Duiker</b>	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Two were seen around Negele.	
<b>Lesser Kudu</b>	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>
We had three sightings in the Awash NP and fifteen in the Bogol Manyo area.	
<b>Klipspringer</b>	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Three seen on the Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains.	
<b>Salt's Dikdik</b>	<i>Madoqua saltiana</i>
Small numbers seen at scattered southern dry country location with the highest count being fifty in the Awash NP.	
<b>Guenther's Dikdik</b>	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>
Up to twenty seen en route to and from Bogol Manyo.	
<b>Bohor Reedbuck</b>	<i>Redunca redunca</i>
Six seen around Dinsho, Bale Mountains NP.	
<b>NE &amp; T Soemmerring's Gazelle</b>	<i>Gazella soemmerringi</i>
Several seen in Awash NP.	
<b>Gerenuk</b>	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>
We had good looks at fifteen at Bilen, Awash NP and tree en route to Bogol Manyo. An incredibly long-necked and agile antelope.	
<b>Beisa Oryx</b>	<i>Oryx beisa</i>
Seen daily in Awash NP with a maximum count of eighty+.	

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