



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

ETHIOPIA

1st - 18th December 2006



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Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Glen Valentine

Tour summary

Our incredible journey through the awe-inspiring wonderland of Ethiopia began early in the morning at the Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa. Our first day found us traversing the many Rift Valley Lakes that lie to the south of Addis, and an array of highlights were experienced. Lake Chelekcheka was absolutely teeming with birds and gave us a fantastic introduction to Ethiopian birding. Lifers abound and it was fascinating to see heads turning in every direction at an amazing rate, as new birds were being called within seconds of each other. Black Crowned-Crane was the most memorable bird before we moved on to Lake Hora. Here we bumped into a dark morph Western Reef Heron and our only Barred Warbler of the trip.

Hundreds of Common Cranes were seen as we made our way further south and a stop at Lake Koka, produced stunning Goliath Heron and the



uncommon Ethiopian Swallow. Lake Ziway had large numbers of migratory waders, a single Heuglin's Gull was notable and a few brief stops in the woodland before our overnight stop at Lake Awassa gave us our first taste of dry woodland birds, which included the appropriately named Superb Starling, White-headed Buffalo-Weaver, White-bellied Go-away-bird, the huge Abyssinian Ground-hornbill and Black Scimitar-bill. The birding the next morning, around our hotel at Awassa, was fantastic with Spotted Creeper, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, the endemic Black-winged Lovebird and African Pygmy-goose all showing well. We also had lovely looks at Guereza Colobus, one of the most beautiful primates and made our way to the Awassa Fish Market, where the most surprising find was a single Yellow-legged (Caspian) Gull and great looks at the endemic and sometimes very elusive Banded Barbet.

The montane forest of Wondo Genet with all its magical endemics beckoned, and it was not long before we were ticking off gaudy Double-toothed Barbet, Sharpe's Starling, Dark-headed Oriole, White-cheeked Turaco and Hemprich's Hornbill. A serious highlight was obtaining scope views of the endemic and globally endangered Yellow-fronted Parrot, right above our heads! Abyssinian Ground-Thrush showed exceptionally well the next morning, as did Gray-headed Woodpecker and Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike. A long drive ensued to the high-altitude town of Goba, from where we would explore the mystical Bale Mountains. The birds *en route* included many sought-after endemics such as the massive Thick-billed Raven, Botta's Wheatear, Thekla and Erlanger's Lark, gorgeous Rouget's Rail, Blue-winged Goose, Spot-breasted Lapwing and a splendid Cape Eagle-Owl on a day roost. Our journey up the Bale Mountains began with a fair deal of enthusiasm and anticipation, and even the thick fog and intermittent rain did not put a damper on the birding. Abyssinian Catbird, Rueppell's Robin-Chat and Abyssinian Woodpecker kept the spirits high. The Sanetti Plateau at over 4000 meters above sea level was amazing to experience and this was where we drove on the highest all-weather road in Africa and very close to the second highest mountain in Ethiopia. A great wildlife experience was to be enjoyed for the next few hours, with five Ethiopian Wolves watched trotting over the landscape. One of these critically endangered wolves was absorbed in ripping apart a Giant Root Rat! Coveys of Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolins were enjoyed, as were Abyssinian Siskin, the stately Wattled Crane, Ruddy Shelduck, Lammergeier and the unexpected bonus, a pair of Red-billed Chough.



The next day saw us heading for the remote town of Negele in the south-eastern lowlands and short stops on the way saw us cleaning up on White-backed Black Tit, Bale Parisoma, Abyssinian Crimson-wing and African Hill Babbler. We were all delighted to reach the warm savannas of the South, so we could warm up and dry off after the last few days. We arrived at the mythical Prince Ruspoli's Turaco site in the late afternoon and within a few minutes were all "ooing" and "aahing," as three individuals of one of the world's most wanted birds were bounding through the trees in typical turaco style. Whilst basking in our glory and watching Red-and-yellow Barbet, Slate-colored Boubou and Von der Decken's Hornbill, the call of "Bristle-crowned Starling flying right" was heard, I swung my neck around at such a

speed that I experienced the most painful whiplash, followed by a few chuckles. These are the types of "birding discomforts" one might endure on a trip, where there are so many mega birds around that one does not know where to look next!

Our trip to the most remote destination of the trip, Bogol Manyo was adrenalin-filled to say the least. The feeling of being far away from civilization, birding the hugest bird parties ever, encountered by the guides and in pristine habitats, racking up lifers at a rate of knots and seeing birds of the highest quality made this area one of the highlights of the trip. We had brilliant views of hard-to-find birds, including Red-naped Bushshrike, Pringle's Puffback, Somali Crombec, Somali Courser, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Gillett's Lark, Somali Tit and Red-rumped Waxbill to mention a few and on the mammal front we had good looks at the strange Gerenuk and a



brief view of Lesser Kudu. Near our camp, we found the incredibly localized and uncommon Degodi Lark, together with another stunner, the Golden-breasted Starling. At the Genale River we lapped up both targets, White-winged Collared-Dove and the very difficult Juba (Salvadori's) Weaver. On the way back to Negele, we found one of the mega endemics in the form of Salvadori's Serin, drinking at a puddle in the road.

Up the next morning before dawn, we headed to the famous Liben Plains, home of Sidamo Lark and many other more widespread but equally tantalizing goodies. Both Sidamo and Somali Short-toed Lark were found with a little walking, which worked up our appetites once again for another one of Zerohn and the lads' great "packed bush breakfasts" that was enjoyed before the long, but bird-filled drive, to Yabello. One of the most memorable stops was made on this route when a black-and-white bird caused us to investigate its identity. The bird turned out to be the seldom seen Magpie Starling and further searching in the general area produced some mind-blowing sightings. Just off the way was a small group of Somali Ostrich, together with a herd of Grant's Gazelle. Shelley's Starling was around, as was Rosy-patched Bushshrike, and just up the road we encountered our first of many Stresemann's Bush-Crow, a pair of exquisite White-tailed Swallow and a very responsive male Coqui Francolin. When we left the site, it was already getting dusky and this is when some of the group was fortunate to obtain views of an Aardwolf, a very seldom seen mammal. The remainder of the evening drive was rounded off spectacularly with a fantastic Grayish Eagle-Owl. Our target the next morning was Bare-eyed Thrush, which we found before breakfast and meant that the pressure was off for the remainder of the day. A night drive produced extremely close looks a Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar.



Lake Langano, one of Ethiopia's more southerly Rift Valley Lakes, was our next destination and produced some incredible birds. Masked and Woodchat Shrikes and Long-legged Buzzard were seen on arrival in the area, and later that evening we all enjoyed an obliging Freckled Nightjar. A marvelous pair of Saddle-billed Stork was seen in the marshy backwaters and the fig forest gave us repeat views of some forest birds previously encountered at Wondo Genet. The drive to the town of Awash in the north-east was punctuated by several fantastic birding stops, most notably at Lake Shalla, where we bumped into a flock of Pacific Golden Plovers and a single Pallas's Gull; and at a section of Lake Ziway, never previously visited, we saw our only Hippopotamus and a stunning Citrine Wagtail.

The Awash National Park and surrounds held some different but nonetheless fantastic birding in an incredibly dry environment. In fact, one of the most memorable wildlife spectacles of the entire trip was experienced at an



extensive, open, grassy plain outside the park. Astounding numbers of Arabian, Kori and White-bellied Bustards and Somali Ostrich were seen striding along with huge herds of Soemmering's Gazelle, and a few Grevy's Zebras. Harriers were quartering low over the plain and we found Greater Short-toed and Singing Bush Larks, Tawny Pipit and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse feeding on the ground - absolutely amazing! The Fantalle Crater did not disappoint and yielded both specials with a bit of hard work (thanks to everyone for their dedication and effort put in here), Yellow-throated Serin and Sombre Rock-Chat. Another awesome bird seen brilliantly here was a pair of Fox Kestrel, and the mammal of the day was a troop of Sacred (Hamadryas)



Baboons making their way down the rim of the crater. Birding the dry thickets produced stunning Black Scrub-Robin and a rarity for Ethiopia, in the form of a vagrant male Menetries' Warbler.

The high-altitude town of Debre Birhan was where we were headed next, and was to be our launch point for further endemic hotspots. Exploring the surrounding area found us adding White-billed Starling and the highly localized and endangered Ankober Serin within the nick of time, fantastic views of the mega Harwood's Francolin, as well as Erckel's Francolin, Abyssinian Black Wheatear, White-winged Cliff and Rueppell's Chats. Our fortune, however, kept running as we came across a magnificent troop of Gelada Baboons led by two impressive, swaggering males, a fantastic sighting and a trip highlight. Making our way across the Sululta Plains the following day, we stopped at a few small waterbodies, where we found several species of migratory ducks, most notably Eurasian Wigeon. We also had our best views of Abyssinian Longclaw in this productive area. The final morning of this spectacular trip was spent at Ghibe Gorge, looking for the seldom seen Lineated Pytilia, of which we found three beautiful individuals, a really tough endemic seen by very few birders! The highlights, however, were not over and a Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle perched on a powerline on the way back to Addis Ababa was a wonderful finish to a great morning's birding.

That night, we dined at a traditional restaurant in the heart of Addis Ababa, a fitting way to end a fantastic eighteen day tour of Ethiopia with a wonderful group of people.

Annotated Checklists of Birds and Mammals

Birds: nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5th Edition (2004) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to December 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 (511 species)

Ostrich Struthionidae

[Somali] Ostrich

Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes

A group of 5 birds were seen on our drive from Negele to Yabello, with remarkable numbers totaling around 60 birds being encountered later in the trip on an open grassy plain north of Awash NP.

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

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

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

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps Cristatus

6 were recorded on our journey through the Rift Valley Lakes.

Pelicans Pelicanidae

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus



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

Pink-backed Pelican*Pelecanus rufescens*

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes.

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*

Fairly regular at the Rift Valley Lakes with 15 seen in total.

NOTE: The resident African subspecies P. c. rufa is regarded by most authorities to be a distinct species; African Darter.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae**Gray Heron***Ardea cinerea*

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

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

Uncommonly recorded from a few scattered localities.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

Irregularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with three at Langano, two at Koka and one at Awassa.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

Uncommonly recorded with two seen at Awassa and four 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*

Fairly regular at Rift Valley Lakes with a total of 24 being noted.

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 recognized by Clements.

Western Reef Heron*Egretta gularis*

This is a vagrant to Ethiopia with the odd bird pitching up on one of the Rift Valley Lakes. We encountered a dark Morph bird at close quarters at Lake Hora.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

Scarce at the Rift Valley Lakes. We had singletons on three occasions.

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 recognized 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*

Regularly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies with highest number being 15 at Langano.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

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 recognized by Clements.

Striated Heron*Butorides Striatus*

Uncommonly recorded with two in the Bilen area of Awash and a single bird at the Jemma River.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nycticorax nycticorax*

15 were seen at a wetland in the Bilen area of Awash.



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Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers with highest numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes.

Storks Ciconidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Irregularly recorded throughout Ethiopia. One was seen at Lake Shalla and one at a wetland on the Sululta Plains.

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Three seen in the Jemma Valley and one on the Sululta Plains.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

Three were seen on the drive from Lake Langano to Awash and a further huge flock of over 50 was encountered on an open grassy plain north of Awash NP.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia Episcopus

A single bird was encountered on the drive from Yabello to Lake Langano.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

8 seen on the drive to Awassa on the first day and approximately 80 on a plain north of Awash NP.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

Irregularly recorded with two at Langano and one at Beseka.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being over one hundred at the Awassa fish market. It was amazing to see them nesting in trees overhanging the road near our hotel in Awassa.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being over 80 seen on our journey through the Rift Valley Lakes.

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.

E Wattled Ibis

Bostrychia carunculata

Regularly recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia with highest number being over 80 on our scenic journey from Wondo Genet to Goba.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Small numbers recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes and other smaller waterbodies.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

Small numbers recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes with a total of 14 being recorded.

Eurasian Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

A singleton of this uncommon Palearctic migrant was seen at Lake Shaba.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopiterus ruber

Hundreds were seen on Lake Shalla.

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

Lesser Flamingo

Phoenicopiterus minor

Hundreds were seen on Lake Shalla with smaller numbers on Langano and Beseka.

Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae



Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Our only encounter was with 10 birds on Lake Chelekcheka.

*Dendrocygna bicolor***White-faced Whistling-Duck**

Fairly Large numbers were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes and 8 were seen at the Genale River.

*Dendrocygna viduata***White-backed Duck**

Small numbers were noted on the first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes.

*Thalassornis leuconotus***NE & NT Blue-winged Goose**

Regularly recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia with highest number being over 40 birds on the drive from Debre Birhan to Welliso. This unusual bird's closest relative is the Andean Goose.

*Cyanochen cyanopterus***Egyptian Goose**

Commonly recorded on most waterbodies.

*Alopochen aegyptiacus***Ruddy Shelduck**

Four of these beautiful ducks were seen on our first day in the Bale Mountains with six (three pairs) the following day driving through the Sanetti Plateau to Negele.

*Tadorna Ferruginea***Spur-winged Goose**

Small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes with a total of 16 on the Trip.

*Plectropterus gambensis***Comb Duck**

Only four were seen at the Rift Valley Lakes. A scarce species.

Sarkidiornis melanotos

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 recognize this split.

African Pygmy-goose

One of these beautiful geese was seen on Lake Chelekcheka, Five on Lake Awassa and three on Ziway.

*Nettapus auritus***Eurasian Wigeon**

Fifteen were found on a waterbody on the Sululta Plains.

*Anas Penelope***Green-winged Teal**

Over 50 were seen on a fantastic little waterbody on the Sululta Plains.

*Anas crecca***Yellow-billed Duck**

Large numbers were found on the Rift Valley Lakes and other small waterbodies.

*Anas undulata***Northern Pintail**

At least 70 were found on a small waterbody on the Sululta Plains.

*Anas acuta***Red-billed Duck**

At least 50 were seen on the first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes plus a singleton on the Sululta Plains.

*Anas Erythrorhyncha***Hottentot Teal**

Small numbers encountered on the Rift Valley Lakes with a total of 22 on the trip.

*Anas hottentota***Garganey**

Two birds at Chelekcheka and one Ziway.

*Anas querquedula***Southern Pochard**

Large numbers totaling around 150 individuals seen on the Rift Valley Lakes, mainly on Lake Chelekcheka.

*Netta erythrophthalma***Northern Shoveler**

Large numbers were encountered on the Rift Valley Lakes and on a waterbody on the Sululta Plains.

*Anas clypeata***Tufted Duck**

Two birds were briefly seen on Lake Chelekcheka.

*Aythya Fuligula***Maccoa Duck**

Six birds were seen on Lake Hora.

*Oxyura maccoa***Osprey Pandionidae****Osprey**

A pair was seen in flight at the Jemma River.

Pandion haliaetus

Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite*Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers regularly recorded at scattered localities.

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 scarce with only one individual was seen at the Fantalle Crater.

[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 200 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.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia with over 100 seen on our drive between Yabello to Lake Langano.

Lammergeier*Gypaetus barbatus*

Small numbers were seen in the Bale Mountains, near Debre Birhan and on the Sululta Plains.

Egyptian Vulture*Neophron percnopterus*

Small numbers encountered between Negele and Bogol Manyo, around Lake Langano and in the Awash area.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

Rueppell's Griffon*Gyps rueppellii*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being over 50 breeding in the Fantalle Crater.

V Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotus*

Small numbers encountered at various scattered localities.

White-headed Vulture*Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Singletons seen at a few scattered localities.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle*Circaetus gallicus*

One bird was seen on the drive from Goba to Negele.

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

Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle*Circaetus beaudouini*

We had very good views of a single adult bird sitting on a telephone pole and then circling over us in flight. A very uncommon nomad to Ethiopia.

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle*Circaetus pectoralis*

Several birds were seen at various scattered localities.

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*

Two were found around Lake Langano.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being six in the Yabello region.

Western Marsh-Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

Several birds were seen at various grassland and wetland localities throughout Ethiopia.

NT Pallid Harrier*Circus macrourus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

Montagu's Harrier*Circus pygargus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being three north of Awash NP.

African Harrier-Hawk*Polyboroides typus*

Uncommonly recorded with a total of four seen the whole trip, the highest numbers being two in the Awash region.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Recorded in small numbers in dry woodland in the Rift Valley.

Eastern Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

Regularly recorded in small numbers in the southern dry country.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

One individual from Negele to Yabello and one at Lake Langano.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One bird was seen from Bogol Manyo to Negele and one at Ghibe Gorge.

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

One bird was seen on our excursion up the Bale Mountains.

Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One individual seen from Wondo Genet to Goba was the only bird of the trip.

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 recognize any of these splits.

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*

One seen briefly in flight at Wondo Genet was made up for in brilliant, perched roadside views of a single bird at the base of the Bale Mountains.

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

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

We had excellent scope views of an adult at Lake Langano.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being 25 on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba. 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 being six birds on our drive through the Rift Valley Lakes.

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 recognized by Clements.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Small numbers were seen at various scattered localities throughout Ethiopia.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Singletons recorded in the Bale Mountains, from Yabello to Lake Langano and at Langano itself.

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 recognized by Clements.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

Singletons were seen throughout the tour at various sites.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*

Two of these awesome raptors were seen soaring over the Jemma Valley.

African Hawk Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*

One bird was seen on the drive from Bogol Manyo to Negele and another was picked up in the Jemma Valley.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennatus*

Two pale morph individuals were seen on the trip. One between Bogol Manyo and Negele and another in the Bilen region of Awash NP.

Ayres' Hawk-Eagle *Aquila ayresii*

A total of four separate sightings were obtained of this uncommon eagle, varying from very heavily streaked adults to fairly pale juveniles.



Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

One pair of these magnificent eagles was seen well between Negele and Yabello and another pair showed well in the Yabello Region.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

Uncommon with only four seen the entire trip.

Crowned Hawk-Eagle*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

Good flight views were obtained of a soaring bird over the forest at Wondo Genet.

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

Small numbers of this beautiful little falcon were found almost daily in the dry South.

V Lesser Kestrel*Falco naumanni*

Small numbers were seen at a few sites with the largest amount being a flock of at least 15 hunting over a field between Langanano and Awash.

Eurasian Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being 10 in the Awash region.

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. ruficollis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this splits.

Fox Kestrel*Falco Alopex*

Brilliant and unexpected perched and flight views were obtained at the Fantalle Crater of this elegant and uncommon raptor.

Grey Kestrel*Falco ardosiaceus*

Two were seen at Yabello and another one was sighted on our drive to Langanano the next day.

Amur Falcon*Falco Amurensis*

An uncommon bird in Ethiopia. Two were seen perched on dead trees near Bogol Manyo

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus*

Singles observed at scattered localities with a total of six being noted on the trip.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

A single bird was seen at Lake Langanano.

Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae**Coqui Francolin***Francolinus Coqui*

We had great views of a male coming in to the tape on the drive from Negele to Yabello. This is a very localized and tricky bird in Ethiopia.

Crested Francolin*Francolinus sephaena*

Recorded in small numbers at lowland sites in Ethiopia with highest numbers being five 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*

Through the dense fog that enveloped the Sanetti Plateau of the Bale Mountains we eventually had views of two groups of this localized bird totaling five individuals.

Scaly Francolin*Francolinus Squamatus*

Some of the group was fortunate to get brief views of this secretive understory forest dweller at Wondo Genet and Bishangari Lodge at Lake Langanano.

Yellow-necked Francolin*Francolinus leucoscepus*

Only recorded in the dry south between Negele, Bogol Manyo and Yabello where it was pleasantly common.

E Harwood's Francolin*Francolinus harwoodi*

We enjoyed great scope views of one bird at the Jemma 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*

A huge and noisy francolin that gave fantastic scope views in the Jemma Valley.

Harlequin Quail*Coturnix Delegorguei*

It was wonderful to see three of these shy and secretive birds on the ground in Awash NP.

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

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest numbers being over 30 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 recognize these splits.

Vulturine Guineafowl*Acryllium vulturinum*

This outrageous species strutted around the dry South in good numbers with over 250 seen from Negele to Yabello.

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

We were fortunate to encounter four of these beauties on our first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes. Our first views were at Lake Chelekcheka.

Wattled Crane*Bugeranus carunculatus*

A total of six were seen in two days in the Bale Mountains and a further pair was found at Lake Shalla. A very handsome bird!

Common Crane*Grus grus*

Seen in the grasslands at higher elevations in Ethiopia, our highest count was of at least 250 birds seen on our first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Amazingly obtrusive for a rail, 6 were seen from Wondo Genet to Goba and a further 17 in the Bale Mountains.

Black Crake*Amauromis flavirostris*

A total of six were seen at wetlands with dense reedbeds and floating vegetation.

Purple Swamphen*Porphyrio porphyrio*

Unfortunately this secretive creature would not show itself and was only heard at Lake Langano.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Several were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes, especially Lake Awassa with a further sighting near Bilen in Awash NP.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

Commonly seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

It was incredible to enjoy saturation scope views of at least 20 individuals strutting around an open grassy plain north of Awash NP.

Kori Bustard*Ardeotis kori*

Small numbers were seen in the South and in the Awash region.

(Northern) White-bellied Bustard*Eupodotis senegalensis*

We had excellent views of several birds on different occasions with a high of 8 being found in the Yabello Area.

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*

We had stunning looks at several birds daily in the dry South, including displaying birds.

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 recognized by Clements.

Black-bellied Bustard

Lissotis melanogaster

A single bird was seen on the Liben Plains.

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 the highest count being 20 at Lake Awassa.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Ten were found at Lake Shalla, two at Lake Beseka and at least 40 on the Sululta Plains.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

Several were seen at scattered sites with a huge flock of 25 at the Jemma River.

Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Somali (Cream-colored) Courser

Cursorius [cursor] somaliensis

A total of 12 were seen in the Bogol Manyo area.

Heuglin's (Three-banded) Courser

Rhinoptilus cinctus

We enjoyed crippling views of a single bird in the Yabello region in the midday heat.

Collared Pratincole

Glareola pratincola

One was seen flying at Lake Langano and a further 20 were enjoyed roosting at Lake Ziway.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing

Vanellus spinosus

The commonest wetland lapwing occurring at virtually every wetland.

Black-winged Lapwing

Vanellus melanopterus

Fairly common in high altitude grassland but also seen around Yabello.

Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus Senegallus

A single bird was seen en route from Goba to Negele.

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

Recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

E Spot-breasted Lapwing

Vanellus melanocephalus

11 of these stunning waders were seen on the road near Dinsho with a further flock of 8 the next day in the Bale Mountains. An extremely attractive lapwing.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

Small numbers seen at scattered wetland sites throughout, the first being co-operative individuals feeding at the edge of a puddle in a dirt track at the edge of Lake Chelekcheka.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

Seen at the Rift Valley Lakes with huge numbers in excess of 200 at Shalla.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

Uncommon in Ethiopia with three recorded on the trip.

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis fulva



We found a flock of 41 birds in a dry open field at Lake Shalla. An uncommon Palearctic migrant to Ethiopia and a wonderful surprise.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Common Snipe

Seen at scattered marshy wetlands with a high of ten at Lake Langanano.

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

Black-tailed Godwit

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

Marsh Sandpiper

Small numbers seen at the Rift Valley lakes.

Common Greenshank

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Green Sandpiper

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia. A total of 15 were seen on the trip.

Wood Sandpiper

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Common Sandpiper

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Little Stint

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being at least 100 at Lake Shalla.

Temminck's Stint

One at Chelekcheka, four at Ziway, two at Shalla and four in the Bilen region of Awash.

Curlew Sandpiper

Two at Shalla and six at Beseka.

Ruff

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia with highest count being 200+ at Lake Shalla.

Gulls Laridae

Heuglin's Gull

One was seen at Lake Ziway on our first day.

Yellow-legged (Caspian) Gull

A single bird was scoped on Lake Awassa near the fish market.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Small numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes.

Gray-headed Gull

Regularly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes.

Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gull

One bird in winter plumage was seen at Lake Shalla and another encountered later at Lake Beseka.

Black-headed Gull

Large numbers were recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes with at least 80 at Awassa Fish Market.

Slender-billed Gull

Unfortunately it was only learnt at dinner that two of the group had an individual of this species earlier in the day at the Awassa Fish Market.

Terns Sternidae

Gull-billed Tern

Small numbers were seen at virtually all Rift Valley Lakes.

Whiskered Tern

Good numbers were encountered at the Rift Valley Lakes.



White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

Good numbers were seen at the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Our largest numbers were of 50+ birds in Awash NP with further sightings at Bogol Manyo.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

We enjoyed good close views of several birds on different occasions in the dry South such as around Bogol Manyo and later at Bilen.

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 recognize this split.

Doves & Pigeons Collumbidae**I Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

A few seen at an urban settlement.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea*

Recorded in good numbers on nearly every day of the tour.

NE White-collared Pigeon*Columba albitorques*

Commonly recorded at all higher elevation sites with highest count of 300+ near Debre Birhan.

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon*Columba arquatrix*

Several birds seen on a few occasions in the more forested habitats.

Lemon (Cinnamon) Dove*Columba larvata*

Incredible views were obtained of this normally shy and secretive forest dove at Wondo Genet and Bishangari Lodge at Lake Langano.

Eurasian Turtle-Dove*Streptopelia turtur*

One was seen on the drive from Negele to Bogol Manyo.

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 the Genale River near Bogol Manyo and at the camp itself. One bird was also found at the Gowa River between Negele and Yabello.

African Mourning Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being ten at Bilen.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Ring-necked Dove*Streptopelia capicola*

Commonly recorded in the South of the country.

Vinaceous Dove*Streptopelia vinacea*

A single bird was seen very well in our hotel grounds of Negash Lodge/Welliso.

Laughing Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Small numbers were recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur chalcospilos*

One seen at Lake Awassa and another between Negele and Yabello.

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove*Turtur afer*

Several seen at scattered dry and forested sites with a high of four at Lake Langano.

Tambourine Dove*Turtur tympanistria*

A few seen at most forested sites with highest number being two on both days at Wondo Genet.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

Commonly recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 20 between Awash and Debre Birhan.

Bruce's Green-Pigeon*Treeron waalia*

Our only sightings of the trip were of a single bird at Lake Chelekcheka and another two stunners at our lunch stop near Lake Ziway on the first day.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies Psittacidae

NE Black-winged Lovebird

Agapornis taranta

Commonly recorded at several scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 30 at Lake Langano.

Red-bellied Parrot

Poicephalus rufiventris

Several birds were found in dry country habitats with a maximum of 11 between Negele and Yabello.

E Yellow-fronted Parrot

Poicephalus flavifrons

We had excellent scope views of a pair at Wondo Genet with another four birds seen flying over the forest.

Turacos Musophagidae

NE White-cheeked Turaco

Tauraco leucotis

Pleasantly common at several forested sites with the highest being at least 20 in our two days at Wondo Genet.

E & V Prince Ruspoli's Turaco

Tauraco ruspolii

We all had fantastic, memorable views of three birds bounding up branches in typical turaco fashion near the Genale River. 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 four individuals between Yabello and Lake Langano with another group of four the next day at Langano.

White-bellied Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides leucogaster

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 12 between Bogol Manyo and Negele.

Cuckoos & Coucals Cuculidae

Pied Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

Two between Bogol Manyo and Negele and one at Yabello.

Great-spotted Cuckoo

Clamator glandarius

Great looks at a single bird between Negele and Yabello.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

Unfortunately it was only heard on our drive from Goba to Negele.

Klaas' Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

One was seen on our drive between Negele and Yabello and a couple more heard.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

A single Female was seen at Wondo Genet and another was heard in the vast Hareenna Forest.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

We only heard this cuckoo between Bogol Manyo and Negele.

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis

One bird was seen at Lake Awassa.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

Small numbers were seen at various sites with a high of four at Lake Langano.

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

Typical Owls Strigidae

African Scops-Owl

Otus senegalensis



Its diagnostic call was heard at Yabello and another was seen on a night drive from Bishangari Lodge to Bakeli Mola at Lake Langano.

Cape Eagle-Owl*Bubo Capensis*

A beautiful adult of this seldom-seen owl was enjoyed on the roost near Goba.

Grayish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

A single bird was seen well in the spotlight whilst traveling the last leg of our journey from Negele to Yabello. Another individual was seen on a night drive in Awash National Park.

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

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

This huge owl was first seen at the Genale River at the Ruspoli's Turaco site and again at Lake Langano.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

One between Goba and Negele and another being mobbed by at least 50 birds all crammed in a tiny bare-leaved Acacia tree. What a sight!

Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae**Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar***Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

Incredible close up views was obtained of this tiny, richly colored nightjar on our night drive at Yabello.

Freckled Nightjar*Caprimulgus tristigma*

Good views were obtained of one that responded to tape at Lake Langano. Also heard calling at Negash Lodge/Welliso.

Slender-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus clarus*

A single bird was taped in at Bogol Manyo and two more were seen roosting on the ground at Bilen near Awash NP.

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

A flock numbering at least 20 was encountered at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo.

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 recognize this split.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

A Flock of about ten birds were seen circling above the restaurant at Wondo Genet.

Mottled Swift*Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Twenty were seen at Lake Chelekcheka with the same amount at Wondo Genet.

Common Swift*Apus apus*

Two birds seen between Negele and Bogol Manyo.

African (Black) Swift*Apus barbatus*

We saw a few birds in the Bale Mountains. A bird virtually unknown from Ethiopia but probably under-recorded.

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

Commonly recorded, almost daily, at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Blue-naped Mousebird*Urocolius macrourus*

Small flocks recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being five in the Yabello area.

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

Three of these gorgeous birds were found in the forest at Wondo Genet.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Half-collared Kingfisher***Alcedo semitorquata*

Two individuals were seen very well, one at Wondo Genet and another on a stream between Goba and Negele.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Two birds near Bilen, Awash NP and another pair in the Jemma Valley.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Small numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 20 at Awassa.

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

Singletons found at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo and at Lake Langano.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

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

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Small numbers recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a total of seven birds recorded on the tour.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

One bird at the Jemma River.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 12 at Awassa.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Small numbers at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and highest count being 20 birds each at Lake Langano and Ghibe Gorge.

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.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

A flock of 20 were seen in the Awash area.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Ten birds were seen between Wondo Genet and Goba.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

This beautiful bird was commonly recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being at least 200 perched on powerlines between Yabello and Lake Langano.

Rollers Coraciidae

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*

Six of these beauties were seen in the Awash region.

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*

Several recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 12 en route from Negele to Yabello.

Hoopoes Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Small numbers seen almost every day of the tour, at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: Clements only recognizes two species of Hoopoe; Eurasian U. epops and Madagascar U. marginata. One further species, is widely recognized namely African U. africana and a 4th is sometimes recognized, West/Central African U. senegalensis. We only recorded the nominate Palaearctic migrant form U. e. epops.



Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae

NE Black-billed Woodhoopoe

Phoeniculus somaliensis

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with eight at both Yabello and Between Yabello and Langano being the highest day counts.

Black Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

Two birds between Lakes Ziway and Awassa were the only ones of the trip.

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus minor

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country locations, especially in the South around Bogol Manyo and Negele.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

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

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

Small numbers South of Negele, around Yabello and in the Awash NP.

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Tockus deckeni

Small numbers recorded at scattered lower elevation sites with the highest count being ten birds between Goba and Negele.

Hemprich's Hornbill

Tockus hemprichii

Small numbers seen at scattered sites, the first being a single bird in the forest at Wondo Genet.

African Grey Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

Ceratogymna brevis

Small numbers at scattered wooded and forested sites with a high of 30+ at Awassa..

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia A total of 15 of these impressive birds seen during the course of the tour.

Barbets Capitonidae

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

Two birds were seen at Wondo Genet.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus

Two birds seen on consecutive days from Negele to Yabello and in the Yabello region.

Red-fronted Barbet

Tricholaema diademata

Several birds were seen around Yabello and Lake Langano.

Black-throated Barbet

Tricholaema melanocephala

First recorded between Negele and Bogol Manyo with further sightings in the general area and a single bird later on at Awash NP.

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

This handsome endemic was fairly regularly seen and heard at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, and the highest count being three at Langano.

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

Fairly regularly encountered at various sites throughout the trip.

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

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

Yellow-breasted Barbet

Trachyphonus margaritatus

A single bird was seen on our way to Awash and a further four being found at Bilen Lodge, Awash NP.



Red-and-yellow Barbet*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

A few were seen in the dry South with the highest amount being five on our journey from Goba to Negele.

D'Arnaud's Barbet*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

One bird was found in the midday heat at the Gowa River on the way to Yabello with a further 8 birds seen around Yabello. Several pairs were seen showing their characteristic tail wagging displays.

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

Two were seen en route from Goba to Negele, one seen from Langano to Awash and a few more heard at various other sites.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

Singletons seen at Awash and Langano.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

First picked up at Lake Langano with another sighting in the Jemma Valley.

Rufous-necked Wryneck*Jynx ruficollis*

Excellent views of this species were had at a few separate localities, our first being at Lake Hora.

Nubian Woodpecker*Campethera nubica*

Singletons seen at scattered dry country location. A total of 8 recorded on the trip.

E Abyssinian Woodpecker*Dendropicos abyssinicus*

We enjoyed crippling views of at least three separate birds in open Juniper Forest at the base of the 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*

Singletons were seen at Lake Langano.

Grey-headed Woodpecker*Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Several birds were seen at Awassa, Wondo Genet, Langano and between Langano and Awash.

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**Singing Bushlark***Mirafra cantillans*

Two birds were found on an open, grassy plain north of Awash NP.

Red-winged Lark*Mirafra hypermetra*

Two birds were seen at the Fantalle Crater.

NE Gillett's Lark*Mirafra gilletti*

One bird was seen calling on the drive from Negele to Bogol Manyo and another two were found near Bogol Manyo.

E & V Degodi Lark*Mirafra degodiensis*

We had excellent close looks a two of these range-restricted endemics at Bogol Manyo.

Foxy (Abyssinian) Lark*Calendulauda alopex*

Only a single bird was scoped at the top of a tree between Negele and Bogol Manyo.

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

E & V Sidamo Lark*Heteromirafra sidamoensis*

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

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix signata*

Excellent views were had of at least 20 individuals near the Genale River at Bogol Manyo and another singleton was encountered in the Awash area.



Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

A total of 20+ birds were encountered in the Awash region.

Greater Short-toed Lark*Calandrella brachydactyla*

This is a mega for Ethiopia! Six of these dry country larks were found on a dry plain north of Awash NP.

NE Erlanger's Lark*Calandrella blanfordi*

Small numbers seen at higher elevation grasslands. 11 were seen in total.

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 20+ in the Bale Mountains.

Somali Short-toed Lark*Calandrella somalica*

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

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

Huge flocks numbering hundreds of birds were seen at several scattered sites, especially Lake Langano.

Plain Martin*Riparia paludicola*

Regularly seen around wetlands throughout Ethiopia. Highest count being 200+ on the Sululta Plains.

Grey-rumped Swallow*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

At least 30 were seen at Lake Ziway on our first day.

Eurasian Crag-Martin*Hirundo rupestris*

Several birds were seen in the Bale Mountains, Lake Langano and at least ten at the Jemma Escarpment.

Rock Martin*Hirundo fuligula*

Regularly seen throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being 30+ at the Jemma 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 Palaearctic birds which do occur in Ethiopia would become Pale Crag Martin H. obsoleta. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in large numbers on nearly every day of the tour.

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 Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

Four at Lake Koka, six between Negele and Yabello and one in the Awash area.

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

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

E & V White-tailed Swallow*Hirundo megaensis*

First sighting was of two seen on our drive from Negele to Yabello. A single bird was seen the next day at Yabello. A restricted and scarce endemic.

Lesser Striped-Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites with the highest number being 30 at Ghibe Gorge.

Red-rumped Swallow*Hirundo daurica*

Several birds were seen at various sites with a high of ten birds in the Awash area.

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 recognize this split. Further extra-limital splits are likely within this wide-ranging species complex.

House Martin*Delichon urbica*

Small numbers between Wondo Genet and Goba, Goba and Negele and at Ghibe Gorge.



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

A total of 24 at Wondo Genet.

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 at wetlands throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being four on the Sululta Plains.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

Two at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo and two at the Jemma River.

(Western) Yellow Wagtail*Motacilla flava*

Huge flocks seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia with the highest numbers being thousands of birds at Lake Langano. 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.

Citrine Wagtail*Motacilla citreola*

Ethiopia is the only place in Africa where this Palaearctic migrant migrates and even here in is incredibly scarce. We found a single non-breeding adult at Lake Ziway and obtained prolonged scope views of the bird.

Grey Wagtail*Motacilla cinerea*

One at Lake Hora, three at Wondo Genet, one at Goba and one on a stream between Goba and Negele.

Mountain Wagtail*Motacilla clara*

Several birds were seen on the rivers at Wondo Genet with another one at Goba.

E & NT Abyssinian Longclaw*Macronyx flavicollis*

Several birds were seen at high altitude grasslands with excellent views of one on the Sululta plains.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

Four seen between Negele and Yabello and another four recorded around Yabello.

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 recognize this split.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Several birds were seen at scattered grassland sites with a high of 8 on the Sululta Plains.

Tawny Pipit*Anthus campestris*

Three of these very pale, migratory pipits were found on a dry, open plain near the turnoff to Bilen Lodge, Awash area.

Long-billed Pipit*Anthus similis*

8 seen at the Fantalle Crater and one in the Jemma Valley.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

Singletons were seen at a couple of sites, however a huge flock totaling at least 100 individuals flew over us in a progressive stream at an open plain between Negele and Yabello.

Red-throated Pipit*Anthus cervinus*

Seen at all higher elevation grassland with the highest count being 50+ en route from Wondo Genet to Goba.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae**Grey Cuckoo-shrike***Coracina caesia*

8 of these beautiful birds were seen brilliantly at Wondo Genet.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike*Campephaga phoenicea*

One at Awassa, Two at Wondo Genet and two at Langano.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul

This abundant and ubiquitous bird was seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

[Dark-capped Bulbul]

50 birds were seen in the Goba area, otherwise two were seen on the drive between Yabello and Lake Langano.

[Somali Bulbul]

A couple were seen at Bilen Lodge, Awash NP. Refer to taxonomic notes below.

[Dodson's Bulbul]

Several birds were seen in the dry South. See taxonomic notes below.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognized as distinct species within the super-species. Two further splits, which we recorded in Ethiopia, are widely recognized 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. arsinoe* and Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor*) are likely to be recognized as distinct once genetic analysis and further study is completed.*

Northern Brownbul

Our first encounter was of four birds at the Ruspoli's Turaco site. Later on we saw a single bird in a bird flock between Yabello and Langano.

*Pycnonotus barbatus**Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor**Pycnonotus [barbatus] somaliensis**Pycnonotus [barbatus] dodsoni**Phyllastrephus strepitans***Thrushes & Allies Turdidae****Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush**

Several non-breeding individuals were seen at widely scattered localities with no more than two birds being recorded in a day.

Little Rock-Thrush

Two of these delightful little birds were found and scoped at Lake Langano with further sightings of a single bird on the drive between Awash and Debre Birhan. We also saw another two at Ghibe Gorge.

Blue Rock-Thrush

This very good-looking bird was first seen at a rocky cliff face between Wondo Genet and Goba with further sightings at Lake Langano, Fantalle Crater and Jemma Escarpment.

Abyssinian Ground-Thrush

We enjoyed magical views of two birds at close range at Wondo Genet with a further sighting at Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.

Groundscraper Thrush

Seen at all higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being 60 odd birds between Wondo Genet and Goba and on the Sululta Plains.

*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 recognize this split.*

Olive (Mountain) Thrush

Seen at all higher elevation forests and woodlands with the highest count being 50+ around Goba and the Bale Mountains.

*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 recognized as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush *T. helleri*.*

African Thrush

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with a high of six at Wondo Genet.

African Bare-eyed Thrush

We enjoyed good views of a single bird in a mixed species flock at Yabello.

*Monticola saxatilis**Monticola rufocinereus**Monticola solitarius**Zoothera piaggiae**Psophocichla litsipsirupa**Turdus olivaceus**Turdus pelios**Turdus tephronotus***Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae****Red-faced Cisticola**

One seen at Ziway, another seen at Awassa and two more heard, one between Yabello and Langano and the other at Ghibe Gorge.

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola erythrops**Cisticola cantans*

Three birds were seen in the Jemma Valley.

NE Boran Cisticola*Cisticola bodessa*

Four between Negele and Yabello, one at Yabello, two at Awash and three at Ghibe Gorge.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

Small numbers seen at a few scattered locations with a high of six at Yabello.

Ashy Cisticola*Cisticola cinereolus*

Two of these uncommon cisticolas were seen in Awash NP.

Winding (Ethiopian) Cisticola*Cisticola galactotes lugubris*

Small numbers seen at scattered high altitude grassland locations throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six on the Sululta Plains.

NOTE: Several authorities have split this widespread African species 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 recognize any of these races as full species.

Foxy Cisticola*Cisticola troglodytes*

We were afforded saturation views of this species at Ghibe Gorge.

Tiny Cisticola*Cisticola nanus*

We were lucky to find three birds on a short walk in scrubland near the Liben Plains. Our only sighting of the trip.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

One bird was seen in the Awash NP.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola*Cisticola brunnescens*

8 birds were seen on the Liben Plains.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

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

Pale Prinia*Prinia somalica*

A total of 8 birds were seen in the dry south around Negele and Bogol Manyo.

Yellow-breasted Apalis*Apalis flavida*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being 8 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 recognized 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 recognize this split.

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

Several seen in the dry woodland en route to Bogol Manyo with a further sighting of two near Bilen Lodge.

Green-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brachyuran*

Small numbers seen almost daily, at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

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 recognize this split.

Old World Warblers Sylvidae

Moustached Grass Warbler*Melocichla mentalis*

We saw a single bird in dense Elephant Grass at Ghibe Gorge. A great find!

Grey Wren-Warbler*Calamonastes simplex*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites and the highest count being three 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 just as we dropped off the Sanetti Plateau on our way to Negele.

Eurasian Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Two seen at Lake Awassa.



Sedge Warbler

A few seen in dense reedbeds of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Lesser Swamp-Warbler

Four seen at Lake Awassa.

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the tour with the highest number being ten in Awash NP.

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

Hippolais pallida

Buff-bellied Warbler

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

Phylloscopus pulchella

Yellow-vented Eremomela

One bird was seen by some of the group between Negele and Bogol Manyo and fortunately everyone got brilliant views later of a pair of these elusive birds at the Gowa River.

Eremomela flavicrissalis

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites.

Eremomela icteropygialis

Northern Crombec

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Sylvietta brachyura

Somali Crombec

Five birds were seen on our drive to and from Bogol Manyo.

Sylvietta isabellina

Red-faced Crombec

Small numbers seen at sites to the south of Addis Ababa with 15 individuals recorded on the trip.

Sylvietta whytii

Brown Woodland-Warbler

Two birds seen very well at Wondo Genet with a further sighting of three at the Lower Sanetti Forest.

Phylloscopus umbrovirens

Willow Warbler

Small numbers recorded throughout Ethiopia.

Phylloscopus trochilus

Common Chiffchaff

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a high count of 30+ in the Lower Sanetti Forest.

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*.

Phylloscopus collybita

Menetries' Warbler

Another rarity in Ethiopia, We found a single male at Bilen Lodge, Awash NP. An uncommon Palaearctic migrant to where it normally migrates in Africa, this was a really good find!

Sylvia mystacea

Blackcap

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 16 at Wondo Genet.

Sylvia atricapilla

Greater Whitethroat

Singletons were seen at scattered dry acacia sites.

Sylvia communis

Lesser Whitethroat

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Sylvia curruca

Barred Warbler

We were extremely fortunate to see a single female of this scarce bird in Ethiopia on our first morning at Lake Hora.

Sylvia nisoria

Brown Warbler (Parisoma)

A pair was seen feeding in *Acacia Abyssinica* trees on our drive between Yabello and Lake Langano.

Parisoma lugens

[Bale Warbler (Parisoma)]

We were very fortunate to get brief views of a pair of these highly range-restricted endemics in limited time and dense fog on our way to Negele just as we dropped of the Sanetti Plateau.

Parisoma [lugens] griseiventris

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

Banded Warbler (Parisoma)

Four birds were seen to and from Bogol Manyo with another sighting at Yabello.

Parisoma boehmi

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Pale Flycatcher

Bradornis pallidus



Three seen between Negele and Yabello with a further two at Ghibe Gorge.

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

African Grey Flycatcher

Bradornis microrhynchus

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.

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 recognize 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 three at Wondo Genet.

Northern Black-Flycatcher

Melaenornis edolioides

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 8 between Negele and Bogol Manyo.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a total of 13 recorded on the trip.

Common Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

One seen at Awassa, two at Langanu and one at Awash NP.

Rueppell's Robin-Chat

Cossypha semirufa

Small numbers seen at scattered forested and wooded sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 12 in the Lower Sanetti Forest.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat

Cossypha niveicapilla

A single bird was seen at Ghibe Gorge. A scarce and very localized bird in Ethiopia.

Spotted Morning-Thrush

Cichladusa guttata

A pair of these beautiful birds were found at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo with a further two pairs at Yabello.

Red-backed Scrub-Robin

Cercotrichas leucophrys

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

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 recognize these splits.

Black Scrub-Robin

Cercotrichas podobe

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

Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a trip total of 14 birds seen.

Whinchat

Saxicola torquata

We had three encounters with this Palearctic migrant. Three birds at Lake Langanu and two at Ghibe Gorge.

African Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Small numbers seen at scattered high altitude grassland sites and the highest count being three en route to Goba.

NOTE: Although Clements recognizes 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 recognize this split.

Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 40+ on the Sululta Plains.

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

Four at Langanu, two near Debre Birhan and 8 at the Jemma 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 recognize 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 30+ daily in several places.

Black-eared Wheatear*Oenanthe hispanica*

One at Langanano and one in the Jemma Valley.

Isabelline Wheatear*Oenanthe isabellina*

Recorded at scattered dry sites throughout Ethiopia. At least 15 were positively identified as Isabelline. Due to the difficulty in separating this species from *O. oenanthe* many wheatears were not identified to species.

Red-breasted (Botta's) Wheatear*Oenanthe bottae*

Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being 20 on our journey from Wondo Genet to Goba.

*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 recognized by Clements.*

Familiar Chat*Cercomela familiaris*

One at Ghibe Gorge.

NE & DD Sombre Rock Chat*Cercomela dubia*

After many frustrating hours of searching which revealed many of the similar-looking Blackstart, we eventually found a singleton of this scarce near endemic on the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP and were all afforded good views in the end.

Blackstart*Cercomela melanura*

One bird was seen on the way to Awash with a further five being found at the Fantalle Crater.

NE Moorland Chat*Cercomela sordida*

Regularly seen in good numbers in higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being 30 on our day trip up the Bale Mountains.

NE Rueppell's Chat*Myrmecocichla melaena*

Six birds were seen at the Jemma 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 Jemma 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 was seen between Yabello and Langanano and at least ten of these attractive endemics were encountered at the Jemma Escarpment.

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

A pair was seen at Wondo Genet and a family group of four was later seen at extremely close range for an extended period at Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langanano.

Grey-headed Batis*Batis orientalis*

Four seen between Negele and Yabello and seven in Awash NP were our only encounters with this bird.

Black-headed Batis*Batis minor*

Small numbers seen at scattered moister sites throughout Ethiopia with no more than three being seen on any day.

Pygmy Batis*Batis perkeo*

13 individuals were counted to and from Bogol Manyo.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**African Paradise-Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six birds at a few moist sites.



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 recognize this split.

Babblers Timaliidae

African Hill Babbler

Illadopsis abyssinica

Heard at Wondo Genet with a pair being seen briefly in the Haremma Forest.

Rufous Chatterer

Turdoides rubiginosus

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia. Our first encounter was with a single bird at Lake Awassa.

[NE] White-rumped Babbler

Turdoides leucopygius

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten at both Langanu and Ghibe.

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

8 birds were seen in open Juniper Forest at the base of the Bale Mountains.

White-winged Black-Tit

Melaniparus leucomelas

Several birds were seen on two consecutive days at Langanu.

NOTE: Clements now recognizes 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

After much searching we eventually came across a single bird in the Lower Sanetti Forest. A huge relief!

Somali Tit

Melaniparus thruppi

Ten birds were seen in total in the dry South.

Creepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper

Salpornis spilonotus

A very good bird for Ethiopia, we found a pair feeding in typical creeper style at Lake Awassa.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit

Anthoscopus musculus

Several birds were encountered in the dry South with a sighting later in Awash NP.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes orientalis

This stunner was seen a few times in the dry South.

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

Three pairs were seen at widely scattered localities.

Nile Valley Sunbird

Hedydipna metallica

8 of these nomadic sunbirds seen in the Bilen area, Awash NP. We did however have a few very unusual "pygmy-type" Sunbirds on the Bogol Manyo Road which most probably relate to Nile Valley Sunbird but unfortunately we can't be sure.

Western Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra obscura

A singleton seen at Wondo Genet.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra senegalensis

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Hunter's Sunbird

Chalcomitra hunteri

19 of these beauties were seen in the Bogol Manyo, Negele and Yabello areas.



Tacazze Sunbird*Nectarinia tacazze*

Small numbers seen at all highland sites throughout Ethiopia, even in central Addis Ababa. The highest count was ten on our Bale Mountain excursion.

Malachite Sunbird*Nectarinia famosa*

One was seen between Debre Birhan and Addis Ababa.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris pulchellus*

Several eclipse plumage birds seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. 19 were seen in total.

Mariqua Sunbird*Cinnyris mariquensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten between Negele and Yabello.

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 recognize this split.

Shining Sunbird*Cinnyris habessinicus*

Small numbers of these beautiful sunbirds were seen in the dry South and in Awash NP.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venustus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 50+ between Negele and Bogol Manyo.

NOTE: This complex may be split into 3 full species. We recorded both the yellow and white-bellied races. The white-bellied form may be split into White-bellied Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered higher altitude sites such as Wondo Genet and Goba.

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 recognize any of these splits.

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

This drier country species was seen in small numbers at most lower-lying sites.

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 recognize this split.

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

This gorgeous endemic was pleasantly common at Wondo Genet with 16 individuals being encountered. We also saw another bird later on at Negash Lodge.

African Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus larvatus*

Several were seen in drier areas in the South of the country.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

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. Clements does not as yet recognize the three-way split of the L. isabellinus group but does recognize the split from the Red-backed Shrike L. collurio group.

Southern Grey Shrike*Lanius meridionalis*

Several seen daily in the vicinity of Awash NP plus a single bird between Bogol Manyo and Negele.

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 recognizes the split from Northern Shrike but not the further splits of the Southern Grey Shrike group.

Grey-backed Fiscal*Lanius excubitoroides*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten at a few localities.

Somali Fiscal*Lanius somalicus*

Ten between Negele and Yabello, four at Yabello and one at Awash NP.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis*

Four birds were seen driving to and from Bogol Manyo.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Small numbers seen almost daily at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with a high of ten between Wondo Genet and Goba.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

Pairs and singletons were found daily at Langanano and Awash.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Singletons were seen in dry Acacia woodland at Langanano and Awash.

White-rumped Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Small numbers seen at scattered drier country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 20+ birds in Awash NP.

Bushshrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three between Bogol Manyo and Negele.

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 recognize these splits.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii*

Four of these shy skulkers offered good views to and from Bogol Manyo.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three between Yabello and Langanano.

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 recognize this split.

Three-streaked (James's) Tchagra *Tchagra jamesi*

Most of the group had a view of one of the three birds seen on separate days in the dry South.

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 in the South of the country with the largest count being six at Yabello.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Small numbers of this beauty were seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten at Yabello.

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 recognize this split.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. Nine were noted on the trip.

Grey-headed Bush Shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

One at Langanano and another at Awash NP.

Red-naped Bush Shrike *Laniarius ruficeps*

Mega crippling close up views were had of three of these scarce near-endemics en route to Bogol Manyo. A serious highlight!

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*



Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites in the South of Ethiopia.

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 recognize these splits.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

Small numbers seen on almost every day of the trip.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

E & V Stresemann's Bush-Crow

Zavattariornis stresemanni

Small family groups were encountered in the Yabello area, although we first found them East of Mega. We saw 60+ individuals in total including a group building nests in a tiny Acacia tree right above our heads. 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

Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax

Two birds were found foraging on the Sanetti plateau, Bale Mountains, a very localized and uncommon bird in Ethiopia.

Cape Crow

Corvus capensis

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 50+ on the Sululta Plains.

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and twice we reached day counts of over 50.

NE Somali Crow (Dwarf Raven)

Corvus edithae

This corvid was common in villages on the dry south especially *en route* to Bogol Manyo when 40+ daily were encountered.

NOTE: Clements now acknowledges the well-recognized 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. We reached day counts of 20+ birds on three occasions.

NE Thick-billed Raven

Corvus crassirostris

This magnificent corvid was regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 20+ on a few occasions. This species has an impressive bill.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

Two seen at Awassa and ten at Langanjo.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Recorded in large numbers on almost every day of the tour.

Rueppell's Glossy-Starling

Lamprotornis purpuropterus

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 20+ around Awassa.

Golden-breasted Starling

Lamprotornis regius

This unbelievably beautiful bird was seen in small numbers throughout the dry South.

Superb Starling

Lamprotornis superbus

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being one 100+ in the Yabello area.

Shelley's Starling

Lamprotornis shelleyi

Encountered in small numbers at southern dry country sites Negele to Yabello and at Yabello.



Violet-backed Starling

Six at Awassa and one at Langano.

NE White-crowned Starling

Fairly large numbers recorded every day in the southern dry region.

Red-winged Starling

Several birds seen at widely scattered localities with a high of six at Ghibe Gorge.

Slender-billed Starling

One at Awassa, two between Yabello and Langano and large numbers exceeding 60 individuals at Wondo Genet.

Bristle-crowned Starling

After only obtaining distant flight views at the Ruspoli's Turaco site, we all were rewarded with magical, prolonged scope views of a pair that appeared to be nesting in the roof of one of the buildings at our campsite near Bogol Manyo. We also saw another four birds between Negele and Yabello.

NE White-billed Starling

First seen near Debre Birhan at Gemasa Geden, we later encountered large numbers of at least 40 birds in the Jemma Valley.

Sharpe's Starling

An uncommonly recorded bird, we were fortunate to see three flocks totaling at least 60 individuals in the forest at Wondo Genet.

Magpie Starling

One of the megas of the trip, a pair of these beautiful and elusive starlings were seen for an extended period on our drive between Negele and Yabello.

Red-billed Oxpecker

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 15 at Langano.

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

Spreo albicapillus

Onychognathus morio

Onychognathus tenuirostris

Onychognathus salvadorii

Onychognathus albirostris

Pholia sharpii

Speculipastor bicolor

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Shelley's Rufous Sparrow

Six between Negele and Yabello and another six at Yabello.

NOTE: Clements has recently split the Rufous Sparrow complex 4 ways. Great Rufous Sparrow, P.motitensis, Kenyan Rufous Sparrow, P. rufocinctus, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, P. cordofanicus and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow. P.shellei.

NE Swainson's Sparrow

Encountered almost daily at sites throughout Ethiopia. One of the most common birds.

NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into 5 full species that are fully recognized by Clements and other authorities.

Parrot-billed Sparrow

We recorded only four birds around Bogol Manyo.

Yellow-spotted Petronia

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being ten birds in Awash NP.

Bush Petronia

One at Langano, four in the Jemma Valley and eight at Ghibe Gorge.

Passer shelleyi

Passer swainsonii

Passer gongonensis

Petronia pyrgita

Petronia dentata

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites with a high of 20 at Yabello.

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 recognize this split.

White-headed Buffalo-Weaver

This Attractive bird was regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being twelve on our first day through the Rift Valley Lakes.

Speckle-fronted Weaver

We were fortunate to bump into six birds in the Jemma Valley.

Bubalornis niger

Dinemellia dinemelli

Sporopipes frontalis



White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. We reached day counts of up to 20 individuals.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver

Two seen at the Fantalle Crater, Awash NP and two in the Jemma Valley.

Grey-headed Social-Weaver

Huge flocks were seen everywhere in the Yabello region with the total numbering at least 300 birds.

Black-capped Social Weaver

Three flocks totaling 50+ birds were encountered at their nests on the road from Negele to Yabello.

Baglafaecht Weaver

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

*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 recognize these splits.*

Little Weaver

A scarce weaver, which we only saw three times, three birds at Awassa, one at Yabello and one from Langano to Awash.

Lesser Masked-Weaver

Several birds were recorded in the Yabello area.

Spectacled Weaver

Two at Awassa, one between Yabello and Langano and three at Langano itself.

Rueppell's Weaver

Small numbers recorded Lake Hora and at Lake Langano.

Vitelline Masked-Weaver

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites to the south of Addis Ababa and the highest count being 15 to and from Bogol Manyo.

*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

Irregularly recorded at scattered sites with a high count of 20 on our first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes.

*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 recognized by Clements.*

Chestnut Weaver

At least 200 at Lake Chelekcheka, one between Wondo Genet and Goba and another at Langano.

NE Juba (Salvadori's) Weaver

Another mega of the trip, we were very lucky to see a single male at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo. A scarce near-endemic.

Speke's Weaver

A few were seen nesting in villages in the dry south and at our hotel in Yabello with further sightings in Awash NP.

Red-headed Weaver

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being three at Ghibe Gorge.

*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 recognize this split.*

Red-billed Quelea

Two were seen en route from Wondo Genet to Goba and another flock of around 30 birds was found at Lake Langano.

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop

One non-breeding bird at Lake Ckelekcheka and eight birds in breeding plumage seen at the Genale River near Bogol Manyo.

Yellow Bishop***Plocepasser mahali******Plocepasser superciliosus******Pseudonigrita arnaudi******Pseudonigrita cabanisi******Ploceus baglafaecht******Ploceus luteolus******Ploceus intermedius******Ploceus ocularis******Ploceus galbula******Ploceus vitellinus******Ploceus cucullatus******Ploceus rubiginosus******Ploceus dichrocephalus******Ploceus spekei******Anaplectes rubriceps******Quelea quelea******Euplectes franciscanus******Euplectes capensis***

Several birds in breeding and non-breeding plumage were seen at scattered wetland and grassland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Fan-tailed Widowbird*Euplectes axillaris*

Seven individuals in non-breeding plumage were seen on the Sululta Plains.

White-winged Widowbird*Euplectes albonotatus*

Six birds in breeding plumage were seen in a moist grassy patch at Yabello.

Red-collared Widowbird*Euplectes ardens*

We were fortunate to come across two breeding plumage males in a small wetland between Yabello and Langano.

NOTE: Three distinct races exist within this species, the nominate ardens of SE Africa, laticauda or "Red-naped Widowbird" of NE Africa and concolor or "Black Widowbird" of West and Central Africa. The race we recorded was laticauda with the red collar extending onto the nape and crown. Clements does not yet recognize any of these splits.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

E Red-billed (Lineated) Pytilia*Pytilia lineata*

Three of these stunning and exceptionally difficult to find endemics were seen well by all at Ghibe Gorge.

Green-winged Pytilia*Pytilia melba*

Two of these stunners were seen on the Bogol Manyo road with another pair being found at Awash NP.

Abyssinian Crimson-wing*Cryptospiza salvadorii*

Three birds were seen briefly at the Harena Forest.

Red-billed Firefinch*Lagonosticta senegala*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

African Firefinch*Lagonosticta rubricata*

One at Wondo Genet and another at Ghibe Gorge.

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu*Uraeginthus bengalus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 20+ on our drives to Yabello and Langano.

Purple Grenadier*Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

A total of six of these gaudy birds were seen in the extreme dry south.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill*Estrilda quartinia*

Several birds were encountered at widely scattered sites with a high of six birds in the Bale Mountains and on our drive to Langano.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda rhodopyga*

Seen on three occasions with the highest count being eight birds at the Jemma River.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Six birds seen between Wondo Genet and Goba.

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

One bird on the Bogol Manyo road showed very well and another was picked up on the drive between Negele and Yabello.

African Quailfinch*Ortygospiza atricollis*

We had brief flight views of the same bird on two occasions on the Sululta Plains. An incredibly difficult bird to see on the ground.

Gray-headed Silverbill*Odontospiza griseicapilla*

We were fortunate to obtain killer views of a pair at Yabello. A tricky bird in Ethiopia.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

Several were seen at scattered sites throughout with a high day count of ten at Lake Langano.

Black-and-white Mannikin*Spermestes bicolor*

We were very fortunate to bump into three of these birds at a small wetland between Yabello and Langano, our only sighting of the trip.

Cut-throat*Amadina fasciata*

Relatively common in the drier areas of the country, especially in the extreme South.



Indigobirds Viduinae

Village Indigobird

Vidua chalybeata

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being six in the Jemma Valley.

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 recognize these splits.

Straw-tailed Whydah

Vidua fischeri

Ten full breeding plumage males were seen in the extreme dry south. A very smart bird!

Pin-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura

Several birds were seen at scattered localities with the highest count being ten on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba.

Eastern Paradise-Whydah

Vidua paradisaea

Four stunning males were seen in total. One at Bogol Manyo, one between Negele and Yabello and two in Awash NP.

Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae

E & En Ankober Serin

Serinus ankoberensis

We were amazingly fortunate to have seen these extremely localized endemics at Gemasa Geden. We found a flock of 13 as soon as we arrived and within ten minutes of finding the birds a thick blanket of mist rolled in over the escarpment and we could not see further than five meters in front of us. Incredible timing! This species was only discovered in 1976 and is currently classed as Endangered, and therefore the species of highest conservation status that we recorded during our tour.

Yellow-crowned Canary

Serinus flavivertex

45+ individuals were seen on our excursion up the Bale Mountains.

NOTE: This species complex has been 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 grassland and moorland sites throughout Ethiopia and the highest count being 100+ on the Sanetti Plateau.

NE African Citril

Serinus citrinelloides

Several encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. A total of 18 were recorded on the trip.

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

Two of these extremely range-restricted endemics were found drinking in a puddle on the Bogol Manyo road.

E & V Yellow-throated Serin

Serinus flavigula

A small flock of 8 of these highly range-restricted endemics were seen at the Fantalle Crater. *NOTE: The following 2 species which are fully recognized by Clements and most other authorities, have in the past all been lumped within the Black-throated Canary S. atrogularis species complex.*

E Yellow-rumped Serin

Serinus xanthopygius

We first found three birds at the Jemma Valley and later encountered small groups totaling at least 20 individuals at Ghibe Gorge.

Reichenow's (Kenya Yellow-rumped) Seed-eater

Serinus reichenowi

Recorded at scattered sites with a high of ten between Negele and Yabello.

NOTE: See Salvadori's Serin above.

Northern Grosbeak-Canary

Serinus donaldsoni

We had great views of 7 individuals to and from Bogol Manyo. This is usually a very uncommon bird and we may have experienced a possible influx into the area due to the good rains that the region recently enjoyed.

White-bellied Canary

Serinus dorsostriatus

Six birds were seen in the Yabello area.

NE Brown-rumped Seedeater

Serinus tristriatus

This common suburban species was seen at all higher altitude sites.



Streaky Seedeater*Serinus striolatus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia with the highest count being 18+ during our trips up 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*

Three en route to Goba, three at Ghibe Gorge and a grand total of 20+ birds in the Jemma Valley.

House Bunting*Emberiza striolata*

We were fortunate to find three of these uncommon buntings in the Jemma Valley.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*Emberiza tahapisi*

Two between Goba and Negele, two at Ghibe and at least 50 in the Jemma Valley.

Somali Bunting*Emberiza poliopleura*

Several seen daily in the dry south between Bogol Manyo and Negele with a further two in Awash NP.

MAMMALS (35 species)**Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae****Guereza Colobus***Colobus guereza*

Commonly recorded in forested and well-wooded areas of Ethiopia with highest count of 15+ in Awassa. Many of these beautifully adorned monkeys were very approachable.

Sacred (Hamadryas) Baboon*Papio hamadryas*

The leading vehicle was lucky to have a troop cross the road in front of them between Bogol Manyo and Negele and fortunately the whole group was later treated to fabulous views of another troop of 15+ at the Fantalle Crater. 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 100+ between Goba and Negele.

E & V Gelada*Theropithecus gelada*

Everyone enjoyed wonderful close looks at a huge troop of at least 40 of these impressive beasts. 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. Two large, swaggering males were dominant in the troop.

Griquet Monkey*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia with highest count of 30+ at Negash Lodge.

Bats Chiroptera**Peter's Epauletted Fruit-Bat***Epomophorus crypturus*

A single bat was seen roosting at Lake Langanu.

Hares Leporidae**Scrub Hare***Lepus capensis*

Commonly seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

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*

Some of the group was fortunate to have seen this mammal on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba.

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*

We all had fantastic views of five of these beautiful squirrels in the forest at Bishangari Lodge, Langanu



Rat-like Rodents Muroidae**Giant Root Rat***Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

One of these “large beasts” was briefly seen alive before it was ripped to shreds by a cunning Ethiopian Wolf.

Ethiopian Meadow Rats*Stenocephalemys griseicauda*

Commonly recorded in the Bale Mountains area.

Carnivores Canidae**Common (Golden) Jackal***Canis aureus*

Several were seen at widely scattered localities with a high of seven in Awash NP.

E & En Ethiopian (Simien) Wolf*Canis simensis*

Five individuals of these wonderful, richly-colored 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*).

Bat-eared Fox*Otocyon megalotis*

Four of these cute little foxes were seen on a night drive at Langano with a further six on a night drive in Awash NP.

Weasels Mustelinae**Ichneumon Egyptian) Mongoose***Herpestes ichneumon*

Some of the group saw a singleton at Ghibe Gorge.

Somali Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale hirtula*

The front vehicle was fortunate to see two cross the road in front of them between Negele and Bogol Manyo.

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

We all had good views of one next to the road on the early morning's drive up to the Fantalle Crater.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae**Spotted Hyena***Crocuta crocuta*

We heard them calling at Negele and Yabello and had brief views of one on the night drive at Langano.

Aardwolf*Proteles cristata*

One of the mega highlights for those lucky enough to have seen it. In the early evening on our drive to Yabello one of these elusive and beautiful mammals ran across the road between the first and second vehicles and disappeared into the dusky gloom. Fortunately there was still enough light to see its distinctive shape and patterning.

Hyraxes: Procaviidae**NE Ethiopian Rock Hyrax***Procavia habessinica*

Ten were seen en route to Goba and two were found at Gemasa Geden.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax*Heterohyrax brucei*

Seen at a few rocky sites at Yabello, Langano and Negash Lodge.

Hippopotamus Hippopotamidae**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

One was seen at Lake Ziway.

Pigs Suidae**Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

A few seen at several sites throughout Ethiopia and generally the only larger wildlife species surviving in most of Ethiopia, as it is not eaten by the Muslims or Orthodox Christians, and therefore left unmolested. Highest count was eight on the Bogol Manyo road.



Antelopes & Allies Bovidae

Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
One was seen at Ghibe Gorge.	
Lesser Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>
One was seen briefly on the Bogol Manyo road.	
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Three were seen on a rocky outcrop at Yabello.	
Salt's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua saltiana</i>
A total of 17 were recorded in the Awash NP.	
Guenther's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>
Fairly common in the dry south with up to 30 being seen around Bogol Manyo and Yabello.	
Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>
A herd of 20+ were scoped on an open plain on the road between Negele and Yabello.	
NE & T Soemmerring's Gazelle	<i>Gazella soemmerringi</i>
Three seen in Awash NP itself and an amazing spectacle of 1000+ gazelles on a huge open plain north of Awash NP.	
Gerenuk	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>
We had good looks at three on the Bogol Manyo road and another two at Yabello. An incredibly long-necked and agile antelope.	
Beisa Oryx	<i>Oryx beisa</i>
Seen daily in Awash NP with a maximum count of 100+.	
Plains (Burchell's) Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
A herd of seven was seen at Yabello.	
Grevy's Zebra	<i>Equus grevyi</i>
A herd of at least 20 were encountered on an open plain north of Awash NP.	

Photos: Gelada Baboon (J Rossouw), Blue-winged Goose (NP Dreyer), Rouget's Rail (J Rossouw), Stresemann's Bush-Crow (J Rossouw), Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse (NP Dreyer), Prince Ruspoli's Turaco (NP Dreyer). All photos taken during Rockjumper Ethiopia tours

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