



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## ETHIOPIA I

### Comprehensive Tour

*1<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007*

### Historical Extension

*28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007*



**Tour Leaders:** Glen Valentine and Fraser Gear

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Glen Valentine**



## Tour Summary

Our December 2007 tour to the wonderfully scenic country of Ethiopia began with several of the participants heading off with Fraser to the ancient monolithic rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in the north of Ethiopia. This is an impressive site to witness and everyone walked away with fantastic memories of the churches, undoubtedly one the great wonders of the world. Several very good endemics and near endemics such as Yellow-rumped Seed-eater, White-winged Cliff and Rueppell's Black Chat, Hemprich's Hornbill and White-backed Tit were encountered whilst enjoying the amazing history. The extremely scarce White-fronted Black Chat was even enjoyed and the group began getting to grips with many of the more common and widespread birds on the trip. This was a great introduction to Ethiopia before beginning the main tour in Addis Ababa.

An early departure ensured that we made the most of the incredible birding en route to Lake Awassa. Specials included small flocks of Common and Black Crowned-Crane, hundreds of resident and migratory ducks on Lake Chelekcheka, endemic Black-winged Lovebird, Red-throated Wryneck and intimate encounters with huge Great White Pelican, Marabou Stork, the unique Hamerkop and boldly patterned Spur-winged Lapwing. We were very pleased to all have great views of the gorgeous Guereza Colobus, Spotted Creeper, an uncommon and localized bird in Ethiopia as well as Blue-headed Coucal, African Pygmy Goose and Silvery-cheeked Hornbill the next morning before departing for the forest site of Wondo Genet.

Wondo Genet lies at the edge of the Great Rift Valley and supports a wide variety of highly sought-after forest species of which we managed to find the vivid White-cheeked Turaco, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, secretive Scaly Francolin, Abyssinian Ground Thrush and Rueppell's Robin-Chat as well as flight views of Ayre's Hawk Eagle. The drive to Goba is a long but exciting day producing some extremely memorable sightings and the elegant Spot-breasted Lapwing, handsome Cape Eagle Owl, Blue-winged Goose and several cracking mammals like the localized and endemic Mountain Nyala and the rare and seldom-seen Serval punctuated the long but entertaining drive across the Ethiopian Highlands.

The day trip up the Bale Mountains is undoubtedly one of the trip highlights, especially when the weather is as good as that which we experienced. The coniferous forests in the area produced the likes of Abyssinian Catbird, White-backed Tit, the skulking Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Mountain Buzzard and the mighty Verreaux's Eagle soaring overhead. The air is icy on the plateau and tingles one's senses, as do the fascinating creatures that inhabit this "barren wasteland". This is the home of the rarest canid in the world, and we had unbeatable views of six individual Ethiopian Wolves prancing across the landscape after Ethiopian Meadow and fat, juicy Root Rats. We also had the most amazing encounters with several legendary species such as Wattled Crane, Rouget's Rail, Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolins, Bale (Brown) Parisoma, Lammergeier and Red-billed Chough. Numerous sightings of several commoner but no less desirable gems such as Abyssinian Siskin, Thekla Lark and Abyssinian Longclaw were also appreciated.

Sof Omar is a lovely area with a fascinating network of caves surrounded by acacia savanna that absolutely teems with birds. We found some real specials here, most notably the extremely range-restricted Salvadori's Serin, the impressive Bristle-crowned Starling, exquisite Shining Sunbird, Grey Wren-Warbler,

Pygmy Falcon, outrageously beautiful Golden-breasted Starling, Red-fronted Warbler cocking its tail from side to side and a variety of other exciting species.

Heading towards Negele we picked up the near-mythical Prince Ruspoli's Turaco and enjoyed the most prolonged views of this genuine mega that anyone could ever have, in fact we ended up walking away from this beauty. The road to Bogol Mayo is packed with birds and is famous for producing a number of mouth-watering East African specialties that can be readily found nowhere else on earth and we racked up the rare and skulking Red-naped Bush Shrike, Pringle's Puffback, localized Northern Grosbeak-Canary, Black-throated Barbet, scarce Somali Long-billed Crombec, Taita Fiscal, Foxy Lark, minuscule Pygmy Batis, Somali Crow and nearer Negele we scored with good scope and flight views of a juvenile Short-toed Snake-Eagle, much sought-after White-crowned Starling and the extremely localized and uncommon Sidamo Lark.

We headed out early in the morning along the dusty track towards the seldom-visited area of Yabello, which would yield some avian gems. A stop at a river en route produced some of the most localized and exciting birds of the tour; these being the bright and attractive Salvadori's (Juba) Weaver, White-winged Collared Dove and the stunning Black-bellied Sunbird. The weaver and dove are most notable, as they are only known from adjacent, inaccessible areas of North-eastern Kenya and Western Somalia. Our lunch stop was superbly situated and we began reeling in more cracking birds like White-tailed Swallow, the rare and little-known Steel-blue Wydah and other dry country specialists such as Red-bellied Parrot, Pale Prinia, the melodious Spotted Morning Thrush, Red-rumped Waxbill, noisy Rufous Chatterer, Black-capped Social Weaver and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow whilst Z and the chaps made us yet another scrumptious bush lunch. We arrived in the early evening at our rustic hotel in the tiny town of Yabello, brimming after finding yet more delectable species along the way; Stresseman's Bush Crow proved a favorite as always, Grant's Gazelle and Guenther's Dik-dik were enjoyed and we also found small flocks of Shelley's Starling, Somali Courser, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill and outrageous Vulturine Guineafowl along the way.

We had a rewarding time birding around Yabello finding the scarce and secretive Bare-eyed Thrush, beautiful Chestnut Sparrow, Tiny Cisticola, Grey-capped Social Weaver, attractive Buff-crested Bustard striding through the arid scrub, showy Straw-tailed Wydah and the brilliant Speke's Weaver, whilst a night drive saw us all obtaining crippling views of Donaldson Smith's Nightjar. Small-spotted Genet, African Wild Cat and the abundant Scrub Hare were also encountered. It was time to make our way north towards the Great Rift Valley lakes where we would spend some time in *Acacia* savanna, mid-altitude evergreen forest and surrounding lakeshore environs. We found some lovely avian gems in these habitats and the stunning Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike, gaudy Double-toothed Barbet, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, reclusive Lemon Dove, White-rumped Babbler and monstrous Silvery-cheeked Hornbill were highlights in the moist forest, whilst Abyssinian Black Wheatear, Little Rock Thrush, tiny and brightly-coloured Pygmy Kingfisher, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Hemprich's and Von Der Decken's Hornbills and the low density Masked Shrike were some of the targets picked up in the thornveld. We had the most cracking views of Slender-tailed Nightjar, Verreaux's and Grayish Eagle Owls all on day roosts, and we scoped Kentish Plover, Collared Pratincole and Pallas's Gull amongst other goodies at Lake Abijata, which broke the journey to the remote Awash National Park in the far north-east of the country where the wild and woolly Afar tribesmen roam these inhospitable lands.

Awash was cooking with specials and we found Yellow-breasted Barbet, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, skulking and localized Black Scrub Robin, Nile Valley Sunbird, African Silverbill, nomadic Chestnut-crowned Sparrowlark, uncommon Ashy Cisticola, Common Nightingale, Tawny Pipit and Red-winged Lark fairly easily, whilst Arabian Bustard gave us a serious run-around before obtaining great scope views of this regal giant. We saw a further four species of bustard in the area with the scarce Hartlaub's being most noteworthy. We also found a regional rarity, Pale Rock Finch, a rare and unpredictable bird in Sub-Saharan Africa in unprecedented numbers of 400+ individuals, as well as Desert Wheatear and the boldly patterned and extremely attractive Black-headed Lapwing. On the mammal front we gazed at herds of Soemmering's Gazelle, extraordinary Gerenuk and impressive Beisa Oryx and pairs of the cute Salt's Dik-dik, whilst a night drive produced the nocturnal Three-banded Courser and roosting Harlequin Quail.

We never realized that we would embark on one of the most epic drives of our lives when we left Awash early on our last morning there. This all day marathon would take us on sandy meandering tracks through remote tribal lands, the arid landscape punctuated by dry riverbeds and rolling mountains covered with stunted *Acacia* trees. This is the "Horn of Africa" at its best and we enjoyed every minute of the drive, whether it was finding sprawling troops of Hamadryas Baboon sunning themselves on low escarpments, or salivating over a small flock

of the highly sought-after Yellow-throated Serin in cultivated valleys.

The stunningly scenic Jemma Valley beckoned and we were not disappointed; the mega Harwood's Francolin gave saturation views after we spent the early hours freezing in the cold mountain breeze that lashed the escarpment where we stood. The stocky and demonstrative Erckel's Francolin was scoped, and endemic White-billed Starling, Rüppell's Black Chat and White-winged Cliff Chat made for easy pickings. Ortolan Bunting put in an appearance, as did several Nyanza Swift flying within arms reach of us, but alas we could not find the scarce Yellow-rumped Serin despite searching hard for this species. Lower down in the valley we enjoyed small flocks of Crimson-rumped and Abyssinian Waxbills along with Giant Kingfisher and Mocking Cliff Chat.

The end of the tour drew near and it was with no better way than with a huge, impressive and confiding troop of the fabled Gelada Baboon and Ankober Serin that we ended off another extremely successful and memorable trip to Ethiopia.



## Annotated Checklists of Birds and Mammals

**Birds:** nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2004) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to 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 (490 species)

### Ostrich Struthionidae

[Somali] Ostrich

*Struthio [camelus] molybdophanes*

Several individuals were seen striding the plains near 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**

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Great Crested Grebe**

Several birds seen at Lake Hora.

*Podiceps cristatus*

**Eared Grebe**

A few birds were seen on Lake Awassa.

*Podiceps nigricollis*

**Pelicans Pelicanidae****Great White Pelican**

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

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

**Pink-backed Pelican**

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes.

*Pelecanus rufescens*

**Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae****Great Cormorant**

Commonly recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes.

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

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**

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

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

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

Fairly regular at the Rift Valley Lakes.

*Anhinga melanogaster*

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

**Herons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae****Gray Heron**

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

*Ardea cinerea*

**Black-headed Heron**

Uncommonly recorded from a few scattered localities.

*Ardea melanocephala*

**Goliath Heron**

Singletons seen at Lake Koka and on the Jemma River.

*Ardea goliath*

**Purple Heron**

Only seen at Lake Langano.

*Ardea purpurea*

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

**Great Egret**

Fairly regular at Rift Valley Lakes.

*Ardea alba*

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**

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

*Egretta gularis*

**Little Egret**

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

*Egretta garzetta*

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

**Squacco Heron**

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

*Ardeola ralloides*

**Cattle Egret**

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

*Bubulcus ibis*

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*

One bird was seen at Lake Langanano.

### 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.

#### **Black Stork**

*Ciconia nigra*

Two birds were seen on the drive from Awash to Debre Birhan with a further sighting in the Jemma Valley.

#### **Abdim's Stork**

*Ciconia abdimii*

Large numbers were seen on a grassy plain near Awash NP.

#### **Woolly-necked Stork**

*Ciconia episcopus*

A single bird was encountered at Lake Langanano

#### **White Stork**

*Ciconia ciconia*

Fairly large numbers were seen in the Awash area.

#### **Saddle-billed Stork**

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Two of these magnificent birds were seen at Lake Langanano.

#### **Marabou Stork**

*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia with highest number being over one hundred at the Awassa fish market.



### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

#### **Sacred Ibis**

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia.

*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.

#### **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.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopus ruber*

Hundreds were seen on Lake Abijata.

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

Hundreds were seen on Lake Abijata.

**Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae****Fulvous Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

Our only encounter was of several birds at Lake Chelekcheka.

**White-faced Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

We saw large numbers of these ducks at Lake Chelekcheka.

**White-backed Duck***Thalassornis leuconotus*

A few were seen at Lake Chelekcheka.

**NE & NT Blue-winged Goose***Cyanochen cyanopterus*

Regularly recorded at all higher lying areas of Ethiopia. This unusual bird's closest relative is the Andean Goose.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Commonly recorded on most waterbodies.

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

Small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes.

**African Pygmy-goose***Nettapus auritus*

Several of these beautiful geese were found at Lake Awassa.

**African Black Duck***Anas sparsa*

A single bird was seen en route to Addis Ababa from Debre Birhan.

**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

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

**Northern Pintail***Anas acuta*

Several were seen on Lake Chelekcheka as well as two individuals in the Bale Mountains. These flocks included some beautiful drakes in full nuptials.

**Red-billed Duck***Anas erythrorhyncha*

Small numbers seen at Lake Chelekcheka.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

Small numbers seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Garganey***Anas querquedula*

Several seen on Lake Chelekcheka with a large flock being found at Lake Abijata.

**Southern Pochard***Netta erythrophthalma*

Large numbers were seen on several of the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Northern Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

Fairly large numbers were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula*

Several individuals were scoped on Lake Chelekcheka.

**Maccoa Duck***Oxyura maccoa*

Four birds were seen on Lake Chelekcheka.

**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 a few birds being seen near Addis Ababa.

**[Yellow-billed Kite]**

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.

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

**African Fish-Eagle**

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

**Hooded Vulture**

Regularly recorded daily throughout Ethiopia.

**Lammergeier**

Small numbers were seen in the Bale Mountains, near Debre Birhan and at the Jemma Escarpment.

**Egyptian Vulture**

Small numbers encountered at several different sites throughout the country.

**White-backed Vulture**

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

**Rueppell's Griffon**

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia. We had an awesome sighting of several birds tearing apart a dead Ass near Addis Ababa.

**V Lappet-faced Vulture**

Small numbers encountered at various scattered localities.

**White-headed Vulture**

Single birds seen at a few scattered localities.

**Short-toed Snake-Eagle**

Singletons seen at a few scattered localities.

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

**Black-breasted Snake-Eagle**

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.*

**Bateleur**

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

**Western Marsh-Harrier**

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

**NT Pallid Harrier**

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

**Montagu's Harrier**

Regularly recorded in small numbers at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

**African Harrier-Hawk**

Uncommonly recorded at several scattered localities. We had an awesome encounter at Awassa where a juvenile bird was seen hanging upside down clinging on to a tree trunk and raiding a nest of its contents.

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk**

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

**Eastern Chanting-Goshawk**

Regularly recorded in small numbers in the southern dry country.

**Gabar Goshawk**

Several individuals were encountered throughout the country.

**Shikra**

One bird was observed between Moyale and Yabello.

**Little Sparrowhawk**

We had great views of this tiny raptor in Awash NP.

**Eurasian Buzzard**

One individual seen en route to Lake Langano.

*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.*

***Milvus [migrans] parasitus******Haliaeetus vocifer******Necrosyrtes monachus******Gypaetus barbatus******Neophron percnopterus******Gyps africanus******Gyps rueppellii******Torgos tracheliotus******Trigonoceps occipitalis******Circaetus gallicus******Circaetus pectoralis******Terathopius ecaudatus******Circus aeruginosus******Circus macrourus******Circus pygargus******Polyboroides typus******Melierax metabates******Melierax poliopterus******Micronisus gabar******Accipiter badius******Accipiter minullus******Buteo buteo***

**Mountain Buzzard*****Buteo oreophilus***

Two birds were seen on two separate days in the Lower Sanetti Forest.

*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.*

**Augur Buzzard*****Buteo augur***

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia. 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.

*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.

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

A single juvenile bird was seen in flight at Lake Chelekcheka.

**Steppe Eagle*****Aquila nipalensis***

Fairly large numbers were seen in the Bale Mountains and at several other localities.

*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 at a few sites on tour.

**Golden Eagle*****Aquila chrysaetos***

A single bird was claimed at quite some distance in the Bale Mountains.

**Verreaux's Eagle*****Aquila verreauxii***

One of these huge eagles was seen soaring around the cliffs at the Lower Sanetti Forest.

**African Hawk Eagle*****Aquila spilogaster***

Several encounters were had with this raptor.

**Booted Eagle*****Aquila pennatus***

Two pale morph individuals and one dark morph bird were seen on three separate dates.

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

A single bird was seen soaring overhead at Wondo Genet.

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

Uncommon with only two birds being seen during the tour, one at Wondo Genet and another near Lake Langanano.

**Crowned Hawk-Eagle*****Stephanoaetus coronatus***

A single bird was heard calling and then briefly seen soaring above the forest canopy at Wondo Genet.

**Secretarybird Sagittaridae****Secretarybird*****Sagittarius serpentarius***

Two sightings were had of this unique bird, one between Negele and Yabello and another near Awash NP.

**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***

Several small flocks were seen at various localities whilst one huge flock totaling several hundred birds was seen near Awash.

**Eurasian Kestrel*****Falco tinnunculus***

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia.

*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 these splits.*

**Amur Falcon***Falco amurensis*

An uncommon bird in Ethiopia. A single bird was seen near Awash NP.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

Pairs and singletons being noted at several localities, our largest count being 8 on our day up the Bale Mountains.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

Several individuals were found at scattered sites.

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

Commonly seen in the south of the region.

*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***Fracolinus psilolaemus*

This uncommonly seen francolin was encountered on the Sanetti Plateau. We saw three in total.

**Scaly Francolin***Fracolinus squamatus*

Some of the group was fortunate to get brief views of this secretive understory forest dweller at Wondo Genet.

**Yellow-necked Francolin***Fracolinus leucoscepus*

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

**E Harwood's Francolin***Fracolinus harwoodi*

We enjoyed great views of one bird at the Jemma Valley. We did however, see a total of four birds on three occasions. A scarce and difficult endemic to locate in Ethiopia.

**NE Chestnut-naped Francolin***Fracolinus castaneicollis*

Many small covies were enjoyed in the Bale Mountains.

**NE Erckel's Francolin***Fracolinus erckelii*

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

**Common Quail***Coturnix coturnix*

A couple was seen on our full day in Awash NP.

**Harlequin Quail***Coturnix delegorguei*

It was wonderful to have good flight views of this nomadic bird. We also enjoyed incredible views of a male on the ground in the spotlight on our night drive in Awash NP.

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

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia.

*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. A particularly outrageous looking chicken.

**Buttonquails Turnicidae****Small Buttonquail***Turnix sylvatica*

Several individuals were seen buzzing away from the vehicles.

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

We were fortunate to encounter a few individuals at Lakes Chelekcheka and Koka.

**Wattled Crane***Bugeranus carunculatus*

A pair was seen on our full day up the Bale Mountains. A very handsome bird indeed!

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

Small flocks were seen on our first day in the country.

### Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae

- NE & NT Rouget's Rail** *Rougetius rougetii*  
 Amazingly obtrusive for a rail, we had incredible views on numerous occasions.
- Black Crake** *Amauromis flavirostris*  
 3 birds were seen on our morning at Lake Awassa.
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*  
 Several were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes, especially Lake Awassa.
- Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*  
 Commonly seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Bustards Otididae

- Arabian Bustard** *Ardeotis arabs*  
 After a long, intensive search, we were finally rewarded with good scope views of a pair near 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 in Awash NP with previous sightings around Negele.  
*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 and in Awash NP.  
*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.*
- Hartlaub's Bustard** *Lissotis hartlaubi*  
 We had good views of a single male in Awash NP.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*  
 Several birds were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*  
 Seen at scattered wetland sites with high numbers being found at Lake Abijata.
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
 Small numbers being found at the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Thick-knees Burhinidae

- Senegal Thick-knee** *Burhinus senegalensis*  
 Small flocks were seen at Lake Hora and at the Jemma River.
- Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*  
 A pair was seen en route from Yabello to Lake Langan and in Awash NP.

### Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae

- Somali (Cream-colored) Courser** *Cursorius [cursor] somaliensis*  
 Small flocks were seen to the south and east of Mega.
- Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius somalensis*  
 A single flock was seen to the south of Mega.
- Heuglin's (Three-banded) Courser** *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

We enjoyed great views of a pair in the road on a night drive in Awash NP.

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

A huge flock totaling at least 100 birds was seen at Lake Abijata.

### Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

**Spur-winged Lapwing**

*Vanellus spinosus*

The commonest wetland lapwing occurring at virtually every wetland.

**Black-headed Lapwing**

*Vanellus tectus*

This, arguably the most beautiful lapwing in Africa, was seen at point blank range in Awash NP.

**Black-winged Lapwing**

*Vanellus melanopterus*

Fairly common in high altitude grassland.

**Wattled Lapwing**

*Vanellus senegallus*

A single bird was seen at Lake Langano.

**Crowned Lapwing**

*Vanellus coronatus*

Recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**E Spot-breasted Lapwing**

*Vanellus melanocephalus*

A huge flock totaling several hundred was seen en route to Goba with another small flock being found on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Common Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Seen at Lake Langano and Lake Abijata.

**Little Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Kittlitz's Plover**

*Charadrius pecuarius*

Large numbers were seen at Lake Abijata.

**Three-banded Plover**

*Charadrius tricollaris*

Recorded several times at various scattered localities.

**Kentish (Snowy) Plover**

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Small numbers were seen at Lake Abijata.

### Sandpipers & Allies

**African Snipe**

*Gallinago nigripennis*

A single bird was seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Common Snipe**

*Gallinago gallinago*

Several birds were identified at Lake Langano.

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

**Black-tailed Godwit**

*Limosa limosa*

A few individuals were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Marsh Sandpiper**

*Tringa stagnatilis*

Small numbers seen at the Rift Valley lakes.

**Common Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Green Sandpiper**

*Tringa ochropus*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Wood Sandpiper**

*Tringa glareola*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Common Sandpiper**

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Little Stint**

*Calidris minuta*

Large numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Temminck's Stint**

*Calidris temminckii*

At least two individuals were found at Lake Beseka.

**Curlew Sandpiper**

*Calidris ferruginea*

Several being recorded at Lake Abijata.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

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

Small numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Regularly recorded in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Individuals were seen at Lake Ziway, Awassa and Beseka.

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

Large numbers were recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Small numbers were seen at virtually all Rift Valley Lakes.

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybridus*

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*

Small flocks were seen in Awash NP.

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

3 birds were found on the side of the road en route to Yabello from Negele.

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

We enjoyed good close views of a small flock at Bilen lodge.

*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 every day of the tour.

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

Commonly recorded at all higher elevation sites.

**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 Lake Langan.

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

Commonly recorded at all higher elevation sites.

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

We had excellent scope views of a single bird at the Dawa River.

**African Mourning Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**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.

**Laughing Dove***Streptopelia senegalensis*

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

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

Seen on several occasions at various scattered localities.

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

Several seen at scattered dry and forested sites.

**Tambourine Dove***Turtur tympanistris*

A few brief fly-bys were had in the vast Harrena Forest.

**Namaqua Dove***Oena capensis*

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

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

We saw this beautiful pigeon at Lake Hora, Koka and Langano.

**Parrots, Macaws & Allies Psittacidae****NE Black-winged Lovebird***Agapornis taranta*

Commonly recorded at several scattered sites throughout the tour.

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

Commonly recorded in the dry south of the country.

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

We had excellent views of several perched birds at Wondo Genet.

**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 accidentally discovered a new site, at least for Rockjumper, at a riverbed en route to Negele and were treated to saturation views of this mega endemic. 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 good views of this classy bird just north of Yabello.

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

Commonly recorded at all dry-country sites.

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

Several flocks were encountered near the base of the Ankober Escarpment. Their distinctive calls lead us to their presence in the area, a good bird for Ethiopia!

**Cuckoos & Coucals Cuculidae****Great-spotted Cuckoo***Clamator glandarius*

Great looks at a single bird between Negele and Yabello.

**African Cuckoo***Cuculus gularis*

A single juvenile bird was seen at Lake Awassa.

**Klaas' Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

Unfortunately this species was only heard on the way to Yabello.

**Blue-headed Coucal***Centropus monachus*

A single bird was seen at Lake Awassa.

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

Small numbers were seen, mainly in the Awash area.

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

#### **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*

We had wonderful views of this gorgeous owl on the day roost at Lake Langano.

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*

A singleton of this, Africa's largest owl was seen on the day roost at Lake Langano.

#### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

One bird near Yabello and another en route to Debre Birhan from Awash were our only sightings of this tiny, diurnal owl.

### 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*

Unfortunately we only heard this nightjar and would not show after considerable attempts.

#### **Slender-tailed Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus clarus*

Various sightings were had of this common nightjar, including a single bird during the daytime at Lake Langano.

### Swifts Apodidae

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

*Cypsiurus parvus*

A small flock was seen in Awash National Park.

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 small flock was encountered in the Bale Mountains.

#### **Nyanza Swift**

*Apus niansae*

Incredibly close views were had of this mountainous species at the Jemma Escarpment.

#### **Pallid Swift**

*Apus pallidus*

A small flock was identified near Sof Omar.

#### **Little Swift**

*Apus affinis*

Seen on our drive from Yabello to Langano.

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

*Apus caffer*

Small numbers seen on the first day of the trip.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

#### **Speckled Mousebird**

*Colius striatus*

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

#### **Blue-naped Mousebird**

*Urocolius macrourus*

Small flocks encountered at Lake Langano and in Awash NP. This bird has got the most outrageous blue patch on its nape.

### Trogons Trogonidae

#### **Narina Trogon**

*Apaloderma narina*

A single female was seen in the Haremma Forest. A very good find indeed.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

#### **African Pygmy Kingfisher**

*Ispidina picta*

This stunning bird was seen exceptionally well at Lake Langano.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

Small numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*

A few were seen in the Rift Valley.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

Small numbers recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Small numbers recorded at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

Two of these awesome kingfishers at the Jemma River.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

Seen at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

### 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 most higher altitude sites.

*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.*

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

Small flocks were seen in the Rift Valley, our first sighting being at Lake Chelekcheka.

**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*

Several of these elegant birds were seen in the Awash area.

**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 in the south of the country.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Commonly recorded on most days of the tour.

*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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 flocks recorded at widely scattered localities.

**Abyssinian Scimitar-bill** *Rhinopomastus minor*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country locations, especially in the South.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**(Northern) Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Recorded almost daily in small numbers at all lower elevation sites.

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.

**Hemprich's Hornbill***Tockus hemprichii*

Small groups were found at Lake Langano and in the Jemma Valley.

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites.

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill***Ceratogymna brevis*

Small numbers at scattered wooded and forested sites with particularly good sightings being had at Lake Awassa and Lake Langano.

**Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

The first sightings were had at Lalibela. Thereafter we had several small family groups strutting around the south of the country.

**Barbets Capitonidae****Red-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus pusillus*

Several birds were heard and seen at various localities.

**Red-fronted Barbet***Tricholaema diademata*

Several birds were seen in dry acacia savanna in the south and north-east.

**Black-throated Barbet***Tricholaema melanocephala*

Recorded commonly in the dry south.

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 Lake Awassa, Langano and Wondo Genet.

**Black-billed Barbet***Lybius guifsobalito*

Fairly regularly encountered at various sites throughout the trip, our first being at our breakfast stop near lake Hora.

**Double-toothed Barbet***Lybius bidentatus*

Cracking views were had of this gordy bird in forest at Lake Langano.

**Yellow-breasted Barbet***Trachyphonus margaritatus*

A total of three were seen in the Awash area with further encounters on the journey from Awash to Debre Birhan.

**Red-and-yellow Barbet***Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

A few were seen in the dry South near Negele and around Yabello.

**D'Arnaud's Barbet***Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Several pairs were seen at Sof Omar and in the Yabello area.

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

A single male was seen on the drive between Negele and Yabello.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

This, the most common and widespread honeyguide in Africa was first seen at Wondo Genet with further encounters being had in the dry south.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae****Rufous-necked Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

This is an uncommon and thinly distributed bird in Ethiopia. Great views were achieved at Lake Hora.

**Nubian Woodpecker**

Fairly common at most dry-country sites.

**E Abyssinian Woodpecker**

We enjoyed brilliant views of a single female bird in open Juniper Forest at the base of the Bale Mountains. This endemic species can be very difficult to find!

**Cardinal Woodpecker**

Several birds were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Bearded Woodpecker**

We had very good views at Lake Langano and Awash NP.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker**

We had numerous encounters with this species, mainly in wetter areas.

*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.*

*Campethera nubica*

*Dendropicos abyssinicus*

*Dendropicos fuscescens*

*Dendropicos namaquus*

*Dendropicos spodocephalus*

### Larks Alaudidae

**Singing Bushlark**

This species proved to be abundant in Awash National Park.

**Red-winged Lark**

Several individuals of this large lark were seen in the Awash NP.

**Foxy (Abyssinian) Lark**

A single bird was seen on the Bogol Mayo road.

*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**

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

**Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark**

Excellent views were finally had of this dry-country species in Awash NP.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**

Small flocks were encountered in the Awash region.

**NE Erlanger's Lark**

Small numbers seen at higher elevation grasslands. Our first sightings were had on the way to Goba.

*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**

Abundant on the Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains.

*Mirafra cantillans*

*Mirafra hypermetra*

*Calendulauda alopex*

*Heteromirafra sidamoensis*

*Eremopterix signata*

*Eremopterix leucotis*

*Calandrella blanfordi*

*Galerida theklae*

### Swallows Hirundinidae

**Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)**

Small flocks were seen at several sites.

**Plain Martin**

Commonly recorded at several sites often mixing with Bank Swallows.

**Grey-rumped Swallow**

A few individuals were seen on the drive from Yabello to Langano.

**Eurasian Crag-Martin**

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

**Rock Martin**

Regularly seen at all of the escarpments and other areas of altitude and rocky situations.

*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**

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

*Riparia riparia*

*Riparia paludicola*

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

*Hirundo rupestris*

*Hirundo fuligula*

*Hirundo rustica*

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***

Several individuals were seen at Lake Koka.

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

Small numbers seen at Lake Awassa and Awash NP.

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. Several more of these highly localized swallows were seen around Yabello.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow*****Cecropis abyssinica***

We had brilliant views of them flying, sitting and calling at a stop between Yabello and Langano.

**Mosque Swallow*****Cecropis senegalensis***

We had good views of several birds en route to Awash NP from Langano.

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

Several were encountered in the Awash area and at the Jemma Escarpment.

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 seen at several widely scattered localities.

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

Our largest numbers were at Wondo Genet. We also saw this species at the base of the Bale Mountains.

NOTE: The Black Sawwing *P. pristoptera* complex was split into eight 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. pristoptera*.

**Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae****White Wagtail*****Motacilla alba***

Small numbers seen almost at wetlands throughout Ethiopia.

**African Pied Wagtail*****Motacilla aguimp***

This species was encountered at the Dawa and Jemma Rivers.

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

Huge flocks seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia. 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.

**Grey Wagtail*****Motacilla cinerea***

Seen at several streams and highland waterbodies, with our first encounters being at Lake Hora.

**Mountain Wagtail*****Motacilla clara***

Seen on two occasions, at Wondo Genet and at the Jemma Escarpment.

**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***

Several individuals were seen the dry south.

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 around Awash NP.

**Tawny Pipit*****Anthus campestris***

Individuals were encountered in Awash NP and near Sof Omar.

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

Several individuals were found in highland grassland en route from Awassa to Goba and from Debre Birhan to Addis Ababa.

**Tree Pipit***Anthus trivialis*

A singleton was seen near Yabello.

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

Commonly encountered at all high altitude grassland sites.

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

Several of these beautiful birds were seen at Wondo Genet.

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

A single male in brilliant plumage was seen in forest at Lake Langano.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae****Common Bulbul***Pycnonotus barbatus*

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

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

Several birds were seen near Goba and en route from Yabello to Langano.

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

A couple were seen in Awash NP. Refer to taxonomic notes below.

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

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***Phyllastrephus strepitans*

We had a single group at the Dawa River.

**Thrushes & Allies Turdidae****Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush***Monticola saxatilis*

We had non-breeding individuals at Sof Omar, east of Negele and near Yabello.

**Little Rock-Thrush***Monticola rufocinereus*

A pair was seen at Lake Langano with several more being found on the Jemma Escarpment.

**Blue Rock-Thrush***Monticola solitarius*

This very good-looking bird was first seen at Lake Langano with further sightings at the Ankober and Jemma Escarpments.

**Abyssinian Ground-Thrush***Zoothera piaggiae*

We enjoyed views of a single bird at Wondo Genet with further sightings in the Harena Forest and at Lake Langano.

**Groundscraper Thrush***Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

Seen in good numbers at all higher elevation grasslands.

*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***Turdus olivaceus*

Seen at all higher elevation forests and woodlands.

*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***Turdus pelios*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

**African Bare-eyed Thrush***Turdus tephronotus*

We enjoyed good views of a single bird near Yabello. A further sighting was had by some between Moyale and Yabello.

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Singing Cisticola**

Heard and seen in the Jemma Valley.

*Cisticola cantans*

**Rattling Cisticola**

Small numbers seen at Langano and at Awash NP.

*Cisticola chiniana*

**Ashy Cisticola**

Two of these uncommon cisticolas were seen in Awash NP. This bird has a very distinctive call.

*Cisticola cinereolus*

**Winding (Ethiopian) Cisticola**

Small numbers seen at scattered high altitude grassland sites.

*Cisticola galactotes lugubris*

*NOTE: Several authorities have split this widespread African species into five 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.*

**Siffling Cisticola**

A single bird was seen at close range at Lake Langano.

*Cisticola brachypterus*

**Tiny Cisticola**

Several were seen in the Yabello area.

*Cisticola nanus*

**Zitting Cisticola**

One bird was seen in the Awash NP.

*Cisticola juncidis*

**Desert Cisticola**

A single bird was identified on the Liben Plains.

*Cisticola aridulus*

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola**

Several birds were seen on the Liben Plains.

*Cisticola brunnescens*

**Tawny-flanked Prinia**

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

*Prinia subflava*

**Pale Prinia**

Small numbers seen in the extreme dry south.

*Prinia somalica*

**Yellow-breasted Apalis**

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites.

*Apalis flavida*

*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)**

A bird with a lot of character, we saw several on the Bogol Mayo road.

*Apalis rufifrons*

**Green-backed Camaroptera**

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

*Camaroptera brachyuran*

*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 Sylviidae

**Grey Wren-Warbler**

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites with peak numbers being found east of Negele.

*Calamonastes simplex*

**African Bush Warbler**

A singleton was seen at Lake Awassa.

*Bradypterus baboecala*

**Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler**

Two in the Lower Sanetti forest were our only sightings of the trip.

*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

**Eurasian Reed Warbler**

At least one bird was seen at Lake Awassa.

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**Sedge Warbler**

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Several were seen well at Lake Langano and Lake Awassa.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

Several were heard and seen in the Haremma Forest and in the Jemma Valley.

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

Several were seen at Lake Awassa.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

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

**African Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

A single individual was seen at Lake Chelekcheka on our first morning of the tour.

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

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites.

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

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites.

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

Small numbers seen on four days of the trip.

**Somali Crombec** *Sylvietta isabellina*

This very scarce bird was seen east of Negele with a further sighting near Yabello.

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

Small numbers seen at sites to the south of Addis Ababa.

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

Two sightings were had, one at Wondo Genet and another en route to Negele from Goba.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Fairly common in the dry south.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Commonly recorded at all higher elevations.

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

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Small numbers seen in woodland and forest throughout Ethiopia.

**Greater Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Two encounters were had in the dry south.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common in Ethiopia, seen on eight days of the trip.

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

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

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

We were very fortunate to get views of a pair of these highly range-restricted endemics on our way up the Bale Mountains.

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

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

Seen on four days of the trip in the dry south.

## Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

A single bird was seen by some at the Gowa River.

*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*

Commonly encountered in the southern *Acacia* savanna.

*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**

Small numbers seen at scattered forested sites and the highest count being at Wondo Genet.

**Northern Black-Flycatcher**

Small numbers seen throughout the trip.

**African Dusky Flycatcher**

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Common Nightingale**

A single bird was coaxed out in the Awash National Park.

**Rueppell's Robin-Chat**

Seen at most forest sites with large numbers at Wondo Genet.

**Spotted Morning-Thrush**

Pairs were encountered on the drive from Negele to Yabello and in the Yabello area.

**Red-backed Scrub-Robin**

Farly common, seen on 6 days of the trip.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a three-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**

A single bird was coaxed out in likely looking habitat in the Awash NP.

**Common Redstart**

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Whinchat**

A single non-breeding male was seen on the Liben Plains.

**African Stonechat**

Common in high altitude grassland.

*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**

One of the commonest birds on the tour, recorded almost daily

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

**Mourning (Abyssinian Black) Wheatear**

Seen at Lake Langano and at the Jemma Escarpment.

*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**

One of the most frequently seen birds recorded on almost every single day of the tour.

**Black-eared Wheatear**

A few of these scarce migrants were found in the Awash NP.

**Desert Wheatear**

This is a scarce and seldom-recorded bird in Ethiopia. We had excellent looks at a single bird in the Awash region.

**Isabelline Wheatear**

Commonly recorded in very dry areas throughout.

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

Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands with the highest count being 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.*

**Brown-tailed Chat**

A pair of these localized but drab birds was found at Sof Omar.

**Sombre Rock Chat**

A singleton of this rare and highly localized species was scoped in the Awash area.

*Melaenornis chocolatinus*

*Melaenornis edolioides*

*Muscicapa adusta*

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

*Cossypha semirufa*

*Cichladusa guttata*

*Cercotrichas leucophrys*

*Cercotrichas podobe*

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

*Saxicola rubetra*

*Saxicola torquata*

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

*Oenanthe lugens*

*Oenanthe pleschanka*

*Oenanthe hispanica*

*Oenanthe deserti*

*Oenanthe isabellina*

*Oenanthe bottae*

*Cercomela scotocerca*

*Cercomela dubia*

**Blackstart**

At least 2 birds were seen from Awash to Debre Birhan.

**NE Moorland Chat**

Very common in high altitude grassland and heath.

**NE Rueppell's Chat**

Common at the Jemma Escarpment.

**Mocking Cliff-Chat**

Seen at Lake Langano and at 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**

Several of these attractive endemics were seen at the Jemma Escarpment.

**White-fronted Black Chat**

An extremely scarce bird throughout its range, a male was seen on the Lalibela Historical Extension.

*Cercomela melanura*

*Cercomela sordida*

*Myrmecocichla melaena*

*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

*Thamnolaea semirufa*

*Myrmecocichla albifrons*

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

A lovely pair was seen in forest at Lake Langano.

**Grey-headed Batis**

Several were seen in arid acacia woodland at Sof Omar and in the Awash NP and surrounds.

**Black-headed Batis**

Small numbers were seen at most of the more heavily wooded areas.

**Pygmy Batis**

Fairly common along the Bogol Mayo Road with a few more being seen around Yabello and the Awash area.

*Platysteira cyanea*

*Batis orientalis*

*Batis minor*

*Batis perkeo*

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

Small numbers seen in moist areas.

*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.*

*Terpsiphone viridis*

**Babblers Timaliidae****Rufous Chatterer**

A few small flocks were seen in the dry south.

**[NE] White-rumped Babbler**

Small parties were noted at several forested areas.

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

*Turdoides rubiginosus*

*Turdoides leucopygius*

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

Fairly common in forest at the base of the Bale Mountains.

**White-winged Black-Tit**

A pair was seen at Lake Langano.

*NOTE: Clements now recognizes two 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**

We found a single bird in the Lower Sanetti Forest.

**Somali Tit**

Fairly common in acacia savanna in the dry south.

*Parophasma galinieri*

*Melaniparus leucomelas*

*Melaniparus leuconotus*

*Melaniparus thruppi*

**Creepers Certhiidae**

**Spotted Creeper***Salpornis spilonotus*

A very good bird for Ethiopia, we found a singleton 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*

This attractive little bird was seen at the Dowa River and at Lake Langano.

**Nile Valley Sunbird***Hedydipna metallica*

Several non-breeding males and females were seen at Awash NP.

**Western Olive Sunbird***Cyanomitra obscura*

A singleton seen at Wondo Genet.

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

This gorgeous bird was seen on 7 days of the trip.

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

Fairly common in the dry south where it replaces the Scarlet-chested Sunbird.

**Tacazze Sunbird***Nectarinia tacazze*

Small numbers were seen at middle to high elevations.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris pulchellus*

Several eclipse plumage birds seen in woodland throughout with peak numbers in the rift valley.

**Mariqua Sunbird***Cinnyris mariquensis*

Small numbers seen at various scattered localities.

NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into two 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.

**Black-bellied Sunbird***Cinnyris nectarinioides*

This sunbird is extremely localized in Ethiopia and we had great views of a pair at the Dawa River.

**Shining Sunbird***Cinnyris habessinicus*

This stunning sunbird was seen at Sof Omar and Awash NP.

**Variable Sunbird***Cinnyris venustus*

Fairly common throughout, seen on most days.

NOTE: This complex may be split into three 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*

Commonly recorded in the highlands.

NOTE: Most authorities split this complex into six 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 two 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 a further sighting in the vast Haremma Forest.

**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.

*NOTE: This complex which used to be lumped with Red-backed Shrike L. collurio is being considered for a further three-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 Awash area.

*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*

Seen on six days of the tour, mainly in the Rift Valley.

**Somali Fiscal***Lanius somalicus*

Commonly encountered near Mega and in the Awash region.

**Taita Fiscal***Lanius dorsalis*

Several were seen on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

Seen on most days of the tour.

**Masked Shrike***Lanius nubicus*

A single bird was seen at the base of the escarpment at Lake Langano.

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

Very common in Awash NP.

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

Commonly encountered in *Acacia* savanna throughout.

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

Seen throughout *Acacia* savanna in the north and south of the country.

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split four 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*

We had sightings on six days of the tour.

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

3 of these extremely shy skulkers offered good views on the Bogol Mayo road.

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

Small numbers seen at widely scattered localities.

*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*

A very secretive and localized bird, we had great views on the Bogol Mayo road with a further sighting south of Yabello.

**Tropical Boubou***Laniarius aethiopicus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. This bird prefers thick, moist areas.

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

Commonly seen and heard in dry *acacia* scrub throughout.

**Rosy-patched Bushshrike***Rhodophoneus cruentus*

This beauty was seen on several occasions in dry *acacia* savanna throughout. Pairs were also seen dueting which was a pleasure to witness.

NOTE: Tsavo Bushshrike *R. c. cathemagenus* 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*

We had brief views of one on the drive from Yabello to Langanu.

**Grey-headed Bush Shrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

Seen on 3 days, near Sof Omar, en route from Goba to Negele and on the Bogol Mayo road.

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

A serious highlight of the tour, this is a true mega that was seen well by all on the Bogol Mayo road.

**Helmetshrikes Prionopidae****White Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

This spectacular and gregarious species was seen on four days of the tour in *Acacia* savanna.

NOTE: This species is being considered for a three-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*

Commonly encountered on most days 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. A strikingly attractive and noisy bird that struts around with a serious attitude. At first impression it 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***Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

It was incredible to see at least a dozen of these uncommon birds in one flock on our way from Wondo Genet to Goba. We later encountered a pair on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Cape Crow***Corvus capensis*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

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

Commonly seen in dry areas of the south and east.

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 behaviour. It is known to hybridize with Pied Crow *C. albus*.

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

Regularly encountered at higher elevations.

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

This magnificent corvid was regularly encountered, mainly in the Rift Valley. It was seen on six days of the trip.

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

Several small flocks encountered at Yabello, Langanu and Awash.

**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 around the Rift Valley lakes,

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

This unbelievably beautiful bird was seen in small numbers throughout the dry south and east.

**Superb Starling***Lamprotornis superbus*

Abundant in most areas and seen on almost every day of the trip.

**Shelley's Starling***Lamprotornis shelleyi*

Much more uncommon than the previous species, although we did see several flocks in the extreme south-west.

**Violet-backed Starling***Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Only recorded on one occasion at Lake Awassa where a female was seen.

**NE White-crowned Starling***Spreo albicapillus*

Fairly large numbers recorded every day in the southern region.

**Red-winged Starling***Onychognathus morio*

Several of these noisy birds were seen at Yabello.

**Slender-billed Starling***Onychognathus tenuirostris*

Small numbers were seen at Wondo Genet and around the Bale Mountains.

**Bristle-crowned Starling***Onychognathus salvadorii*

Commonly recorded around Sof Omar with a few more being recorded on the drive from Negele to Yabello.

**NE White-billed Starling***Onychognathus albirostris*

Good numbers were found at the Jemma Escarpment.

**Red-billed Oxpecker***Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Regularly encountered at widely scattered sites throughout the country.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**Shelley's Rufous Sparrow***Passer shelleyi*

This rather localized sparrow was regularly seen en route from Negele to Yabello and in the Yabello area.

*NOTE: Clements has recently split the Rufous Sparrow complex four ways. Great Rufous Sparrow, P. motitensis, Kenyan Rufous Sparrow, P. rufocinctus, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, P. cordofunicus and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi.*

**NE Swainson's Sparrow***Passer swainsonii*

The commonest bird in Ethiopia, seen in large numbers on every day of the tour.

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

**Chestnut Sparrow***Passer eminibey*

A small flock comprising males and females in various different stages was seen near Yabello.

**Yellow-spotted Petronia***Petronia pyrgita*

Regularly encountered in the south-west at Langano and at Awash NP.

**Bush Petronia***Petronia dentata*

A few of these scarce birds were seen at Lake Langano and in the Jemma Valley.

**Pale Rockfinch***Carpospiza brachydactyla*

A really good find for Ethiopia and Sub-Saharan Africa, we had unprecedented numbers (around 400 individuals) in flocks in the Awash region.

### Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

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

Small numbers seen at in *acacia* savanna in the south and around Awash.

*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***Dinemellia dinemelli*

A very common yet attractive bird of the *acacia* savanna that dominates the north, east and south of Ethiopia.

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

Regularly encountered, mainly in the Rift valley and in Awash NP.

**Grey-headed Social-Weaver***Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Huge flocks were seen everywhere in the Yabello region.

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

Small flocks were seen mainly on the Negele/Yabello route.

**Baglafaecht Weaver***Ploceus baglafaecht*

Commonly seen at middle to high altitude areas.

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***Ploceus luteolus*

A scarce weaver, which was only seen at Lake Awassa and near Yabello.

**Lesser Masked-Weaver***Ploceus intermedius*

Several birds were recorded in the Yabello area.

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

Seen on a few occasions in the Rift Valley.

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

This attractive weaver was seen at Lake Awassa and in Awash NP.

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

Small numbers seen at various scattered localities throughout.

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

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

Only recorded once on the trip en route from Negele to Yabello.

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***Ploceus rubiginosus*

Small numbers seen from Negele to Yabello and in the Yabello region. Several males in full breeding plumage were seen which is unusual for the time of year.

**NE Juba (Salvadori's) Weaver***Ploceus dichrocephalus*

Another mega of the trip, we were very lucky to see a small flock, which included at least 2 stunning males at the Dowa River.

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

Common only at Yabello.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia. The race in north-east Africa is very different and more striking from the race further south.

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***Quelea quelea*

Small flocks were seen in the Rift Valley and near Awash NP.

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

A few birds in non-breeding plumage were seen at the Jemma Escarpment.

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

**Green-winged Pytilia***Pytilia melba*

A few of these beauties were seen near Sof Omar and en route from Awash to Debre Birhan.

**Abyssinian Crimson-wing***Crytophaga salvadorii*

A few very brief sightings were had in the Haremma Forest.

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

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

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

Commonly recorded on most days of the tour.

**Purple Grenadier***Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

Fairly common in the south of the country where it was seen on 6 days.

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

Several of these beautiful little birds were found in the Lower Sanetti Forest and in the Haremma Forest.

**Fawn-breasted (Abyssinian) Waxbill***Estrilda paludicola*

The Ethiopian race is sometimes split as an endemic species, Abyssinian Waxbill which is very uncommon and localized. We were to find a flock in the Jemma Valley.

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

Seen on three occasions, at the Dawa River, at the Melka Gebdu track and in the Jemma Valley.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

A few were seen at Lake Awassa and in the Jemma Valley.

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

This is a scarce bird in Ethiopia; we saw a few en route from Negele and Yabello, near Yabello and en route from Awash to Debre Birhan.

**Bronze Mannikin***Lonchura cucullata*

Several were seen at scattered sites throughout the country.

**Black-and-white Mannikin***Spermestes bicolor*

Some of the group had views in the Haremma Forest.

**Cut-throat***Amadina fasciata*

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

**African Silverbill***Euodice cantans*

This tiny little East African waxbill was fairly regularly encountered in Awash NP.

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

Regularly encountered at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

*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.*

**Steel-blue Whydah***Vidua hypocherina*

Undoubtedly one of the birds of the trip, a very scarce bird throughout its range, we had good scope views of a male in full nuptials with his harem of females on the road from Negele to Yabello.

**Straw-tailed Whydah***Vidua fischeri*

A very attractive bird in breeding plumage, it is much more common than Steel-blue, we saw several in the south of the country.

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

We had two sightings, at Langano and en route from Goba to Negele.

**Eastern Paradise-Whydah***Vidua paradisaea*

We had great views of a single male in full breeding dress in Awash NP.

**Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae****E & En Ankober Serin***Serinus ankoberensis*

Most of the group saw two individuals on arrival at the Termaber Pass. Thereafter we spent ages searching the surroundings in freezing conditions for those who did not see the first pair until we finally found a massive flock of at least 100 birds a bit further down the road. 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*

Some of the group saw a small flock near our hotel in Goba.

*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*

Abundant on the Sanetti Plateau, we also saw a few on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba.

**NE African Citril***Serinus citrinelloides*

Recorded at most medium altitude sites.

*NOTE: This complex is now treated as three 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*

A beautiful little seed-eater, we had cracking views of several of these extremely range-restricted birds near Sof Omar.

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

A small flock was seen very well by all at the Melka Gebdu track. *NOTE: The following two 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*

Unfortunately after a long, hard search in good habitat and at known sites in the Jemma Valley, we came up with nothing. The bird was however, seen on the Lalibela Extension.

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

Recorded in the southern savanna on several occasions.

*NOTE: See Salvadori's Serin above.*

**Northern Grosbeak-Canary***Serinus donaldsoni*

This bird can be inexplicably scarce. We coincided our visit with what can only be described as a regional influx as we saw and heard plenty of these bold and attractive canaries on the Bogol Mayo road and near Moyale.

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

Several sightings were had near Yabello and at Lake Langano.

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

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

**Streaky Seedeater***Serinus striolatus*

Commonly encountered at higher altitudes.

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

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

Several were seen at the Jemma Escarpment.

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

Commonly recorded at the Jemma Escarpment.

**Somali Bunting***Emberiza poliopleura*

Commonly seen in dry acacia savanna in the south and east of Ethiopia.



## MAMMALS (41 species)

### Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae

#### **Guereza Colobus**

*Colobus guereza*

This extremely beautiful primate was seen very well at Lake Awassa, Wondo Genet, in the Harena Forest and at Lake Langanu.

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

*Papio hamadryas*

A brilliant troop was seen soaking in the morning rays on top of a low escarpment en route from Awash to Debre Birhan.

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

*Papio anubis*

Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia.

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

*Theropithecus gelada*

Everyone enjoyed wonderful close looks at a huge troop of at least 250 of these impressive beasts at the Termaber Pass. These endemic baboons have the largest canines in proportion to their body size of any mammal still in existence, despite the fact that they feed almost entirely on grass. Several huge swaggering males were seen “lip-flapping”, and impressive sighting indeed.

#### **Grivet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Commonly seen throughout Ethiopia.

### Bats Chiroptera

#### **Egyptian Fruit Bat**

*Rousettus aegyptiacus*

A roosting colony was seen in the Sof Omar Caves.

#### **Yellow-winged Bat**

*Lavia frons*

Several roosting bats were seen in the Yabello area.

### Hares Leporidae

#### **Scrub Hare**

*Lepus capensis*

Commonly seen at Yabello and Awash NP on night drives.

*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*

This localized hare was seen at dusk on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba and was also encountered on the Senetti Plateau.

#### **Springhare**

*Pedetes capensis*

One of these unique mammals was seen during our journey from Negele to Yabello.

### Rat-like Rodents Muroidae

#### **Giant Root Rat**

*Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

Several of these fat rodents were enjoyed on the Sanetti Plateau.

#### **Ethiopian Meadow Rat**

*Stenocephalemys griseicauda*

Commonly recorded in the Bale Mountains area.

#### **Unstriped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus rutilus*

Small numbers seen at several sites south and east of Addis Ababa.

#### **Gambian Sun Squirrel**

*Heliosciurus gambianus*

We all had fantastic views of several of these beautiful squirrels in forest at Langanu.

#### **Four-striped Grass Mouse**

*Rhabdomys pumilio*

One was seen on the Bogol Mayo road.

#### **House Rat**

*Ratus ratus*

One was seen in the Yabello area.

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

Several were seen on the Bogol Mayo road with a single sighting of one individual on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Black-backed Jackal***Canis mesomelas*

Small numbers of these scavengers were found patrolling the south and north east of the country.

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

Six individuals of these wonderful, richly-colored wolves were seen moving across the Sanetti Plateau on our visit. This is the rarest canid on Earth with a population estimated to be less than 500 individuals. Latest genetic evidence indicates they are most closely related to the Eurasian Wolf (*C. lupus*).

**Weasels Mustelinae****Dwarf Mongoose***Helogale parvula*

Several were seen in the extreme south of the country with peak numbers on the Bogol Mayo road.

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

A singleton was seen at dusk on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba.

**Genets and Civets Viverridae****Common Genet***Genetta genetta*

Several of these extremely beautiful creatures were seen on our night drive near Yabello.

**Cats Felidae****African Wild Cat***Felis sylvestrus*

We all had views of this beautiful cat after it fled into a culvert under the road south of Yabello.

**Serval***Felis serval*

This is undoubtedly one of the world's most beautiful cats, it is also very uncommon and a highly sought-after species. Some of the group had brief views of one at the side of the road near Goba.

**Hyraxes Procavidae****NE Ethiopian Rock Hyrax***Procavia habessinica*

Several of these endearing creatures were seen on the journey from Wondo Genet to Goba and at the Termaber Pass.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax***Heterohyrax brucei*

Seen at Sof Omar and Yabello.

**Hippopotamus Hippopotamidae****Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

This monstrous creature was seen at Lake Koka on our first day.

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

Several were seen on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba and in Awash NP.

**Antelopes & Allies Bovidae****(Menelik's) Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

This, the endemic race of Bushbuck was seen briefly by some of the group near the Lower Sanetti Forest.

**Mountain Nyala***Tragelaphus buxtoni*

This spectacular, rare and endemic buck was seen extremely well on the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba.

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

Two sightings were had, one near Sof Omar and another near Yabello.

**Lesser Kudu**

We saw several of these secretive antelope in *acacia* savanna in the south and north of the country.

**Klipspringer**

This extremely habitat specific antelope was seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Salt's Dik-dik**

Large numbers were seen in the Awash area.

**Guenther's Dik-dik**

Very commonly encountered in the south of the country.

**Mountain Reedbuck**

Several were seen en route from Wondo Genet to Goba.

**Grant's Gazelle**

Fairly large numbers were seen near Mega.

**NE & T Soemmerring's Gazelle**

This localized antelope was seen at close range in the Awash NP.

**Gerenuk**

We saw this oddly proportioned buck in the dry south and in Awash NP.

**Beisa Oryx**

Another extremely grand mammal that was seen in Awash NP.

**Plains (Burchell's) Zebra**

A small herd was seen near Yabello.

*Tragelaphus imberbis*

*Oreotragus oreotragus*

*Madoqua saltiana*

*Madoqua guentheri*

*Redunca fulvorufula*

*Gazella granti*

*Gazella soemmerringi*

*Litocranius walleri*

*Oryx beisa*

*Equus burchelli*

**Photo credits:** All photos by Glen Valentine, in order of appearance: Ethiopian Wolf, Chestnut-naped Francolin, Gelada Baboon, Rouget's Rail, Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, White-crowned Starling, Wattled Ibis and Blue-winged Goose.

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