



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Ethiopia

7th - 22nd November 2008



Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Gavin Lautenbach

Top 10 birds as voted by participants

1. Prince Ruspoli's Turaco
2. Egyptian Nightjar
3. Arabian Bustard
4. Wattled Crane
5. Stresemann's Bush-crow
6. Spot-breasted Lapwing
7. Scissor-tailed Kite
8. Yellow-fronted Parrot
9. Black-winged Lovebird
10. White-tailed Swallow

Top 5 Mammals as voted by participants

1. Ethiopian Wolf
2. Gelada Baboon
3. Mountain Nyala
4. Beisa Oryx
5. Serval

Tour Summary

Ethiopia is often a parched, dry and dusty land. What a fantastic feeling it was to arrive there this season to be greeted with a green blanket of foliage, rivers full and crops plentiful, Ethiopia was bursting with life and this made for an incredible and unforgettable birding adventure.

We left Addis in the early hours of the morning and headed southwards towards a series of lakes which were extremely full after the recent rains. There was an abundance of waterfowl, waders and the surrounding bush was brimming with migrant warblers. Blue-breasted Bee-eater was one of the many highlights as well as the magnificent Black Crowned Crane. All different sorts of Herons, Egrets, and Storks were seen in good numbers as well as great views of Slender-billed Starling, Spotted Creeper, Black-winged Lovebird and Greater Spotted Eagle. The fish market at Lake Awassa was an absolute highlight finding Orphean Warbler and picking out a Slender-billed Gull.



We then moved to the forests of Wondo Genet where we had some unexpected torrential downpours but also found some great birds! The waterproof perseverance of the team paid off and we were rewarded with Yellow-fronted Parrot, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Ethiopian Oriole, Abyssinian Ground Thrush and the much sought after Half-collared Kingfisher. We left the forests and made the long journey to Goba, along the way we saw Serval hunting in the open plains, a small herd of Mountain Nyala and some amazing birds including Blue-winged Goose, Abyssinian Longclaw, Rouget's Rail and Cape Eagle Owl.



Goba was the base for the next couple of days and with the perfect weather we decide to head up to the Sanetti Plateau where we spent a truly memorable day. The Juniper forests turned out some great birds such as Abyssinian Woodpecker, White-backed Black Tit and the extremely vocal Abyssinian Catbird, Golden, Imperial and Verreaux's Eagle ruling the sky while the highly endangered Ethiopian Wolf harassed Blick's Grass Rat and Giant Root Rats. We then located Saker Falcon, Spot-breasted

Lapwing, Wattled Crane and Bearded Vulture which rounded off the day well.

The excursion to Sof Omar was a long one but well worth it. We managed to track down Salvadori's Serin which was the target of the day. We had a tough time through the thickets but still



found Golden-breasted Starling, Pygmy Falcon, Shining Sunbird, Red-fronted Warbler and Brown-tailed Rock Chat.

Back over the hill and into the largest intact forest in Africa, yes Herrena. Definitely not enough time spent here but one would need months to explore such an expanse. We had flashes of Abyssinian Crimsonwing a glimpse of a Buff-spotted Flufftail crossing the road and were fortunate to see a Black Sparrowhawk. We saw *Guerreza* Colobus lazing in the canopy, troops of Olive Baboons in the under storey and a Meneliks's Bushbuck dart across the road. Big male lion tracks on the side of the road gave a slight tingle up the spine, were we being watched? Then out of the forest into the Acacia scrub where we found Red-bellied Parrot, Red



and Yellow Barbet and Abyssinian Ground Hornbill. After lunch we clocked up some mileage to get to the site for Prince Ruspoli's Turaco. Pressure was on but the Prince soon revealed itself and it was a special moment. We had cracking views of two birds filling our optics the white crest looking very similar to one of our participants Dave, who had been sitting next to the window and also had the white windswept crest and so from then on became known as the Prince.

Negele provides suitable habitat for many good dry country specials, some of which are endemic to this area and we notched-up most of our targets. Gillett's Lark, Pringle's Puffback, Pygmy Batis, Red-naped Bushshrike, Somali Crombec, Three-streaked Tchagra, and Hunter's Sunbird were all seen well. Searching the short, grassy plains closer to Negele yielded Temminck's Courser, Somali Short-toed Lark and the mega endemic Sidamo Lark while Black-winged Lapwing and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow were seen on the return drive.

We drove south down towards Yebello stopping en route for Vulturine Guineafowl, Juba Weaver, White-winged Collared Dove and Black-bellied Sunbird. The rivers were raging due to all the rain and we managed to find a Water Thick-knee which was quite a surprise. Just before lunch we found



shcrow, Great-spotted Cuckoo and Spotted Palm Thrush.

From the south we drove to Lake Langano with one or two road side stops. At Zed's pan we had, Grey-rumped Swallow, Little Rush Warbler and a fleeting glimpse of an African Rail. After entertaining the locals we pushed through to Lake Langano where we had a very productive afternoon. Red-throated Wryneck, Black Scimitarbill, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Masked Shrike and White-winged Black Tit were seen amongst the acacia scrub while Abyssinian Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush and Mocking Cliff Chat were seen around the cliffs. As evening came we had phenomenal views of the lovely Slender-tailed Nightjar.



We were up early to Lake Abijata for an abundance of Flamingo's, Common Crane, and thousands of waders and waterfowl. We spent some time sifting through the masses and picked out Black-necked Grebe, Black-tailed Godwit, Pied Avocet and Caspian Tern. A short stop at Lake Zeeway was very productive as well with Collared Pratincole, Mosque Swallow and Wahlberg's Eagle being seen. After a well deserved lunch we drove to Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve which proved very fruitful. The lovely hillside grassland was very scenic and we discovered over 90 Swayne's Hartebeest and an Oribi accompanied by at least 30 Scissor-tailed Kites, displaying Desert Cisticola and Flappet Lark. On the way back to Lake Langano we saw a clan of 5 Spotted Hyena next to the road.



Into the Awash National Park we were met by Red-rumped Swallow, African Palm Swift and Eastern Paradise Whydah. We then drove around in the early afternoon and found Buff-crested, White-bellied and Hartlaub's Bustard, Singing Bush Lark and Yellow-breasted Barbet. A little pan at the side of the road produced African Silverbill, Straw-tailed Whydah and Cut-throat Finch which all came in to quench their thirst. Harlequin Quail and Small Buttonquail were flushed from the grass and an Eleonora's Falcon flew right overhead. We also had views of African Wildcat, Genet, Bat-eared Fox, Porcupine and Scrub Hare on the way home using the spotlight.

We were onto the Bilen Plains early in the morning before the heat forced us to retreat. We walked over the stony ground and flushed 4 or 5 Egyptian Nightjars on the ground. We then flushed them a few more times and ended up getting crippling views of this rare species in Ethiopia. We then went down onto the plains where Kori Bustard, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Secretarybird, Greater Short-toed Lark, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-lark, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and finally a pair of Arabian Bustard all gave themselves up to our searching. Grevy's Zebra, Sommering's Gazelle, Gerenuk and Aardwolf were the mammal highlights. The Somali Ostrich ballet provided us all with amusing entertainment and at the end of the show we headed back to the vehicle for a hearty breakfast and some much needed water. A small distance away was Bilen Lodge where we took shelter from the intense heat. As it cooled we walked and found



Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Black Scrub-Robin and over 20 incredibly large Leopard Tortoise drinking. The following day we set out early for the lava fields and did well to find Blackstart and Sombre Rock Chat. We then visited Lake Basaka where Osprey was a new addition to the list before the long drive through to Debre Birhan.

On our second to last morning we drove to the Ankober Escarpment where we were greeted by a troop of 200 Gelada's on the Hillside. We spent some time with a small troop in better light for photography. It was an exceptionally crisp, clear day with Eurasian Griffon and Bearded Vulture soaring almost at eye level. After we found the Ankober Serin and made our way towards the Ankober valley. We stopped briefly to admire a flock of Nyanza Swift flying at low level over the agricultural lands. While lunch was being prepared we found Yellow-throated Seedeater singing away on the steep hillsides. A bird party was then located



and we were quickly getting views of Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver, Mouse-colored Penduline Tit and a real close up view of Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird.

Our last day was simply fantastic as on the way to the Jemma Valley we began with a Greyish Eagle Owl sitting on the road. We arrived at dawn and wasted no time in wrapping up the endemics. We were briefly distracted by a Peregrine Falcon mobbing a European Honey Buzzard. We then got stuck into the endemics and first to be found was White-billed Starling followed by Erkel's Francolin, 3 different sightings of Harwood's Francolin, White-winged Cliff Chat and Rueppell's Black Chat. Cinnamon-breasted and Ortolan Bunting were present too. We drove down towards the Jemma River and found Black-winged Bishop in the sorghum, Bush Petronia drinking and then the 500th bird for the trip came in the form of a group of Speckle-fronted Weaver. Common Buzzard, Martial Eagle and Fox Kestrel were our last birds before we decided to call it a day and start our journey back to Addis in time for the 42-6 thrashing of England by South Africa in the rugby. We also celebrated Adrian's birthday at one of the local cultural restaurants and after some festivities the team boarded for the return flight to the U.K that ended a truly memorable trip to Ethiopia, what a trip!



Annotated Checklists of Birds and Mammals

Birds: nomenclature and taxonomy follows F. Gill from the IOC.

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 (501 species)

Ostrich *Struthionidae*

Somali Ostrich

Struthio molybdophanes

Many of these birds were seen scattered across the Bilen Plains near Awash and on the way from Negelle to Yebello.

NOTE: This species is often lumped with Common Ostrich as one species. The IOC however does recognise this split.



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

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum*

This amazing bird was recorded in numerous flocks on route from Negele to Yabello.

Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae***Moorland Francolin (NE)** *Fracolinus psilolaemus*

A pair was seen on the Sanetti Plateau of the Bale Mountains.

Crested Francolin *Fracolinus sephaena*

Low numbers found at various bushed areas at low altitudes.

Clapperton's Francolin *Pternists clappertoni*

Seen on the roadside from Lake Langanu to Awash

Harwood's Francolin (E) *Fracolinus harwoodi*

We had a good sighting of a number of birds during our descent into the fabulous Jemma Valley.

This is a scarce and difficult endemic to locate in Ethiopia.

Chestnut-naped Francolin (NE) *Fracolinus castaneicollis*

Small groups with chicks were seen on the Bale Mountains.

Erckel's Francolin (NE) *Fracolinus erckelii*

This vocal species was eventually spotted in the scrubby vegetation on our descent into the Jemma Valley.

Several birds were flushed in the scrubby Acacia grasslands of Awash NP.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Fracolinus leucoscepus*

Recorded in the dry south between Negele and Yabello and then again in the Awash region.

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

Large numbers were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes on day one and two.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Our only encounter with this attractive duck was on Lake Cheleleka.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Small numbers were observed on the first day at Lake Cheleleka

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Small numbers seen at some of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

This is a scarce species in Ethiopia and we were fortunate to find a few birds on our first day of the tour.

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

Small numbers recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia and on the Sanetti Plateau.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Commonly recorded on most waterbodies.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadoma ferruginea*

Seen on the Sanetti plateau.

African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*

We had fantastic, close-up views of these stunning birds at Lake Awassa.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes and along small streams in the highlands near Goba

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Seen at Lake Cheleleka and Lake Abijata

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen on the first day's drive through the Rift Valley Lakes and the dam near Negele.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Were seen at Lake Cheleleka on the first day of the tour.

Garganey *Anas Querquedula*

Seen on the first day at Lake Cheleleka

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

Small numbers encountered on the Rift Valley Lakes

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Lake Cheleleka produced sightings of these fantastic waterfowl.

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

A few pairs were at Lake Cheleleka.

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Commonly recorded at most lakes and wetland sites throughout the tour.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps Cristatus*

Seen on the first day passing through the crater lakes.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Seen at Lake Abijata

Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Good numbers recorded at Lake Abijata

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

Hundreds were seen on Lake Abijatta.

Storks *Ciconidae*

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Few birds were seen at Lake Abijatta and Bilen Lodge

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Seen at a few locations firstly at Negelle and around Bilen Lodge

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

Saw around 20 sitting on a water tower on the way from Negele to Yebello

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Small numbers were seen around Yebello

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephppiorhynchus senegalensis*

Seen around Lake Basaka next to the lava fields

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Seen in great numbers through out the trip. Lake Awassa produced the up-close and personal encounters with large numbers of these bizarre-looking birds.

Ibises & Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia at most wetland sites and lakes.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout the tour.

Wattled Ibis (E) *Bostrychia carunculata*

Regularly recorded at all higher altitudes in Ethiopia

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*



Low numbers recorded at a couple of the Rift Valley Lakes.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Small numbers recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes during the tour.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Commonly observed at scattered localities throughout the tour.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

High numbers of twenty plus were recorded at Lake Abijatta.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Not too common during the tour, but recorded at scattered localities.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

A number of these enormous herons seen at Lake Zeeway

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A number were seen around Bilen Lodge

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

This impressive egret was found in low numbers at various wetlands and lakes.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Seen at Lake Awassa

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Small numbers seen at Lake's Awassa, Koka and Basaka

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

As above, this species was observed at the Rift Valley Lakes and other wetlands.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Seen at most lakes and wetland sites during the tour.

NOTE: This species has been split by the IOC into White-breasted Cormorant P. lucidus and Great Cormorant P. carbo.

Anhinga & Darter Anhingidae

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Infrequently seen at the Rift Valley Lakes.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

First seen at Sof Omar and then recorded fairly regularly after that.

Lesser Kestrel(V) *Falco naumanni*

Seen fairly frequently with small flocks perched on the telephone lines

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*



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

Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex*

Seen close to the Jemma River on the last day

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

A magnificent sighting in Awash NP.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Single bird was recorded on the first day.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

This bird was seen well on many occasions.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

A great sighting on the Sanetti Plateau

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A great sighting of this bird flying low level at Lake Abijatta.

Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

We watched this comical looking bird on the Bilen Plains

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Two birds were found at Lake Basaka close to Awash.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

First seen at the hot springs in Wondo Genet and again on the Jemma escarpment.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers recorded at scattered localities during the tour.

Scissor-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii*

A flock of 30 was seen at Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

This migrant was recorded in vast numbers throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: This species complex is a common debate as to whether there should be one, two or even three species valid. Common African forms are Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius and the nominate Black Kite M. migrans. The IOC does not split any of the forms.

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

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

Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*

We had fantastic sightings of this magnificent bird at various locations including Sanetti Plateau Debre Birhan Ankober Escarpment.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Small numbers seen during the tour around small villages and towns.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

Rueppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*

This good-looking vulture was recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Seen on Ankober escarpment

Lappet-faced Vulture (V) *Torgos tracheliotus*

Small numbers encountered in Awash National Park.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Several birds were seen at scattered sites during the tour.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Three birds were found on the tour with good views on the Bilen Plains near Awash.



- Black-chested Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*
Seen on the first day
- Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*
Seen on route to Awash
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*
Small numbers of these magnificent birds observed throughout Ethiopia.
- Western Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
Several birds were seen at various grassland and wetland localities throughout Ethiopia.
- Pallid Harrier (NT)** *Circus macrourus*
Small numbers but regularly observed throughout Ethiopia.
- Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*
Recorded at scattered localities during the tour.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*
A few birds were seen in the earlier part of the tour.
- Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
Regularly recorded with great views in Awash NP.
- Eastern Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus*
Regularly recorded in small numbers in the dry Acacia woodland in southern Ethiopia.
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
A single bird flew over on route from Negele to Yebello
- Shikra** *Accipiter badius*
Seen flying overhead whilst birding at Lake Zeeway
- Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*
We had brief views of this small accipiter on a few occasions whilst driving
- Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*
Seen in the Herenna Forrest
- Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
Small numbers, usually single birds, were seen at various localities during the tour.
- Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus*
Seen circling overhead in the Herenna forest
- Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*
Regularly recorded during the tour with peak numbers on our excursion into the Bale Mountains from Goba.
NOTE: The race B. archeri from Somalia is sometimes split off from the nominate B. augur. This split is not accepted by the IOC.
- Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*
We recorded this raptor twice in the earlier days of the tour.
- Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*
A single bird recorded on the first day near Lake Koka
- Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*
Regularly recorded through out the tour.
- Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*
Probably the most common large, brown raptor recorded on the tour.
- Asian Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*
One bird was recorded on the Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains NP.
- Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*
This majestic eagle was recorded during our day visit in the Bale Mountains NP. This race represents the only breeding population south of the Sahara.
- Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*
Fantastic views of this much sought after bird initial seen in the Juniper forest on route to Sanetti plateau



Wahlberg's Eagle*Aquila wahlbergi*

A single bird was found at Lake Zeeway

African Hawk Eagle*Aquila spilogaster*

Seen at Sof Omar.

Booted Eagle*Aquila pennatus*

Small numbers of this small eagle were seen during the tour. Bird flew right over us heading down to the Jemma valley

Martial Eagle*Polemaetus bellicosus*

Seen twice, best sighting flying over the Jemma River.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

Often seen perched along side the road

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

The Bilen Plains offered great views of this majestic species.

Kori Bustard*Ardeotis kori*

Small numbers of this massive bustard were recorded in the drier bushveld of southern Ethiopia.

White-bellied Bustard*Eupodotis senegalensis*

Incredible views of this attractive bustard were had on the tour, namely in the Yabello and Awash areas.

*NOTE: The White-bellied Bustard complex is up for splitting with the race E. barrowii of South Africa becoming an endemic species to the area. We recorded the nominate E. senegalensis on our tour. The IOC does accept this split.***Buff-crested Bustard***Eupodotis gindiana*

Single birds were found in the dry parts of southern Ethiopia and in the Awash region.

Hartlaub's Bustard*Lissotis hartlaubii*

This stunning bustard was observed during a game drive in Awash National Park.

Flufftails Sarothuridae**Buff-spotted Flufftail***Sarothurura elegans*

Was seen crossing the road in the Herenna Forest

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

Many of these confiding rails were observed in the Dinsho area of the Bale Mountains NP.

Black Crake*Amauromis flavirostris*

A few birds were seen in the wetland fringes of Lake Awassa.

African Rail*Rallus caerulescens*

A brief view was had at a small roadside vlei on the way to Lake Lagano from Yabello

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

An uncommon bird in Ethiopia, we observed it at Lake Cheleleka..

Lesser Moorhen*Gallinula angulata*

A good find in the flooded Acacia's close to Negele

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

Seen in good numbers at Lake Hora

Cranes Gruidae**Black Crowned-Crane (NT)***Baelearica pavonina*

We were fortunate to encounter these stunning birds at Lake Cheleleka on our first day.

Wattled Crane*Garus carunculata*

A few pairs were seen on the Sanetti Plateau.



Common Crane*Grus grus*

Large flocks we seen on the open grasslands surrounding Lake Abijata

Buttonquail Turnicidae**Kurrichane Buttonquail***Turnix sylvaticus*

Flushed in Awash NP

Stone-curlews & Thick-knees Burhinidae**Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

A scope view at Lake Koka and great views at Bilen Lodge

Water Thick-knee*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Found a small group of these birds on an island in the fast flowing Dowa River.

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

Found at scattered wetland sites during the tour.

Pied Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Recorded only once at Lake Abijata.

Plovers Charadriidae**Spur-winged Lapwing***Vanellus spinosus*

Regularly recorded at most wetland sites throughout the tour,

Black-winged Lapwing*Vanellus melanopterus*

Recorded on the roadside close to Negele

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

Good numbers seen in the drier habitats during the tour.

Spot-breasted Lapwing (E)*Vanellus melanocephalus*

Found on the Sanetti Plateau

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

Small numbers seen at Lake Abijata

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

These small plovers were seen along the shoreline of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

A few were found at Lake Abijatta and Lake Beseka.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

Recorded a few times around lake shores.

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

Several birds were seen in the wetlands of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae**Common Snipe***Gallinago gallinago*

A good number of birds were seen throughout the tour

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

Seen fling at Lake Abijata

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

Small numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites during the tour.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

More common than the above wader, it was also seen at most wetland sites during the tour.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Probably the most common shorebird of the tour, it was seen in good numbers at most wetland sites and water bodies.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Recorded in small numbers along the shoreline of various wetlands.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Commonly seen at wetland sites during the tour.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Recorded at Lake Abijata and Basaka.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A few of these Palaearctic waders were recorded at a couple of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

A fairly common wader recorded at most wetland sites.

Courasers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

Temminck's Couraser *Cursorius temminckii*

We found a good number of these delicate birds on the Sidamo Plains.

Three-banded Couraser *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

Two birds were flushed in the acacia woodland around Yebello

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

These striking wetland birds were seen at Lake Abijatta and Lake Zeeway.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes in small numbers.

Grey-hooded Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

Again, low numbers seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Seen in good numbers at various large water bodies.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

A fantastic find amongst other gulls at Lake Awassa

Heuglins Gull *Larus heuglini*

Seen at Lake Langano from Sabana Lodge.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

Small numbers were seen at most of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Seen at Lake Abijata.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Recorded in small numbers of the Rift Valley Lakes

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Only a few birds seen at Lake Koka and Lake Abijatta.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Hundreds of these beautiful sandgrouse were recorded in Awash National Park.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

This magnificent sandgrouse was observed at close quarters at Bilen Lodge

Pigeons & Doves *Collumbidae*



Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Infrequently seen around towns and villages	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Large numbers recorded at most sites in Ethiopia.	
White-collared Pigeon (NE)	<i>Columba albitorques</i>
Good numbers seen on the highland areas.	
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
A few birds flew overhead in Harena Forest.	
Dusky Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
Commonly recorded at higher elevation sites during the tour.	
White-winged Collared Dove (NE & NT)	<i>Streptopelia reichenowi</i>
We had good views of this species at the Dowa River	
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Regularly seen at many dry woodland sites throughout Ethiopia.	
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
This bird was seen on almost everyday of our tour in Ethiopia.	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Another dove species that was seen almost daily.	
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Small numbers were recorded daily throughout Ethiopia.	
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Small numbers of these elegant doves were observed at dry woodland sites during the tour.	
Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Lake Langano produced sightings of these wood-doves.	
Black-billed Wood Dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>
A single bird was seen at Sof Omar	
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Seen on the wing in the Herenna Forest	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
This dry country species was recorded at most arid sites especially common in the dry south.	
Bruce's Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
We discovered this wonderfully camouflaged pigeon in fruiting fig trees	

Cockatoos & Parrots *Psittacidae*

Black-winged Lovebird (NE)	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>
Fairly common and widespread we had fantastic views of this endemic.	
Red-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>
The dry country of the Negele and Yabello region produced sightings of this species.	
Yellow-fronted Parrot (E)	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>
Good views in between downpours at Wondo Genet.	

Turacos *Musophagidae*

White-cheeked Turaco (NE)	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>
Distance views in the rain initially at Wondo Genet and seen better other forest sites.	
Prince Ruspoli's Turaco (E & V)	<i>Tauraco ruspolii</i>
We had unbelievable views of the bird of the trip in the Genale region.	
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>
A few birds seen in the Yabello area as well as the Ankober Valley.	
White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>
Commonly recorded at many scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.	



Cuckoos & Coucals Cuculidae**White-browed Coucal***Centropus superciliosus*

Seen on route when heading for the Somali border.

NOTE: The southern race *C. burchelli* is often split from the northern *C. superciliosus*. This split is accepted by the IOC.

Great Spotted Cuckoo*Clamator glandarius*

Saw a number of birds on route from Negele to Yebello.

Levaillant's Cuckoo*Clamator levaillantii*

Uncommon and recorded only twice, once on route to Sof Omar.

Jacobin Cuckoo*Clamator jacobinus*

Seen on a number of occasions in the dry south.

Dideric Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

Seen around small villages with Weavers nest which it parasitizes.

Klaas' Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx klaas*

Seen feeding on some caterpillars in Awassa.

Common Cuckoo*Cuculus canorus*

An immature bird was seen in Awassa.

Owls Strigidae**Cape Eagle-Owl***Bubo Capensis*

This seldom-seen owl was seen well at a day roost en route to Goba.

Greyish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

Seen early morning on route to the Jemma Valley.

NOTE: The southern race *B. africanus* is larger and has distinctive yellow eyes while the northern *B. cinerascens* is smaller with dark eyes. This is now a commonly accepted split by most authorities including the IOC.

Verreaux's Eagle Owl*Bubo lacteus*

Seen in Wondo Genet and Yebello.

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

Seen in Yebello area after following the call in the evening.

Slender-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus clarus*

Spectacular views at Lake Langano.

Egyptian Nightjar*Caprimulgus aegyptius*

An absolute highlight, finding four or five of these fantastic birds close to Bilen Plains.

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

Several seen during our visit to Awash NP.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

A flock of about ten birds were seen in the Bale Mountains and singles in the Awash area.

Mottled Swift*Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Good close up views of this large swift around the Negele area.

Common Swift*Apus apus*

A flock flying low over the road close to Yebello.

Nyanza Swift*Apus niansae*

Fantastic sighting close to Ankober escarpment, birds were flying low over the agricultural fields.

Pallid Swift*Tachymarptis pallidus*

A large flock was seen on the way to Yebello.



Little Swift *Apus affinis*
Seen flying overhead at Lake Koka.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*
A few individuals flying in a mixed flock at Lake Koka

Mousebirds *Coliidae*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*
Commonly recorded, almost daily, at most sites throughout Ethiopia.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*
Small flocks recorded at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

Purple Roller *Coracias naevia*
Mostly single birds were found at scattered localities during the tour.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudata*
Widespread and common throughout the tour.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*
A fantastic bird commonly seen through out Ethiopia.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*
Low numbers of this roller was seen on tour.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*
We had a lovely sighting on the edge of Lake Awassa.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
Seen on the first day on the telephone lines next to the road

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*
Small numbers recorded at riverine and lakeshore Acacia habitat during our tour.

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*
A single bird was found along a well-vegetated stream near Wondo Genet.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*
We had two great sightings at Lake Langano a small water hole around Yebello.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*
Small numbers recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
Seen at the old fish market at Lake Zeeway

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*
This common kingfisher was found at most water bodies throughout the tour.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*
Small numbers recorded in the dry southern region and the Awash area.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus*
This stunning bee-eater was found at most high elevation sites on our tour.

NOTE: Races occurring include the nominate M. variegatus, M. bangweolensis and M. lafresnayi, which we recorded in Ethiopia. These splits are not commonly recognized and not accepted by the IOC.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*
Seen in Awash NP

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*



An absolutely fabulous bee-eater, it was observed at numerous sites with the highlight being at a wetland near Bishangari Lodge.

NOTE: The Northern Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicus and the Southern Carmine Bee-eater M. nubicoides are sometimes treated as one species. The IOC and most other authorities accept these splits.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

This good-looking bird, with a striking wing pattern, was observed almost daily.

NOTE: This species complex is always debated and distinctive races include the nominate Eurasian Hoopoe U. epops, African Hoopoe U. africana and Madagascar Hoopoe U. marginata. The IOC accepts all of these splits. The West African U. senegalensis is still treated as a subspecies.

Wood Hoopoes *Phoeniculidae*

Black-billed Woodhoopoe (NE)

Phoeniculus somaliensis

Small flocks were seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia in dry, riverine woodland in the south.

Black Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

Heard calling and seen at Lake Langano

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill

Rhinopomastus minor

Good views in the dry wadi at the Dowa River.

Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

Hemprich's Hornbill

Tockus hemprichii

First recorded at Lake Langano, it was also seen in the Jemma Valley.

African Grey Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

Low numbers were seen during our tour in the drier areas.

Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Commonly recorded at lower elevations throughout the tour.

NOTE: A large species complex with many possible species. The IOC lumps all of them under T. erythrorhynchus. Subspecies include the species we recorded Northern Red-billed Hornbill T. erythrorhynchus, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill T. ruahae, Western Red-billed Hornbill T. kempfi, Damara Red-billed Hornbill T. damarensis and Southern Red-billed Hornbill, T. rufirostris.

Northern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus flavirostris

This good-looking bird was found in small numbers in the drier parts of our tour.

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Tockus deckeni

Another hornbill of the dry country, it was seen in pairs and small groups at scattered localities.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

Ceratogymna brevis

Great views in the area around our hotel in Awassa.

Ground Hornbills *Bucorvidae*

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Observed at scattered localities during the tour, they were usually seen in small groups.

Toucans & Barbets *Ramphastidae*

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus

Recorded at scattered localities including Lake Koka and Lake Langano.

Red-fronted Barbet

Tricholaema diademata

First seen in the dry woodland of the Negele area it was also recorded at Lake Langano.

Black-throated Barbet

Tricholaema melanocephala

This dry country bird was observed in the Negele, Yabello and Awash regions.

Banded Barbet (NE)

Lybius undatus



This handsome endemic was seen in the mature Acacia woodland and large Fig trees of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

Small numbers of this attractive barbet were seen at various localities during the tour.

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

Seen at Lake Awassa in a large Sycamore Fig

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

A few were seen in the dry South near Yabello. These birds are closely associated with the brick-red termite mounds.

Yellow-breasted Barbet *Trachyphonus margaritatus*

Lovely views in Awash NP and seen again at Bilen Lodge

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Several birds were found in the dry south of Ethiopia and we observed a few pairs showing their characteristic tail wagging displays.

NOTE: The subspecies Usambiro Barbet T. usambiro is sometimes split as a species in its own right. The IOC does not accept this split. We recorded the nominate in Ethiopia.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

An adult male was seen in a bird party in a dry wadi close to Negele.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*

Seen at Lake Langano.

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Singles or pairs were recorded fairly frequently during the tour.

Abyssinian Woodpecker (E) *Dendropicos abyssinicus*

We enjoyed cracking views in open Juniper Forest at the base of the Bale Mountains.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Several birds were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus*

A single bird was seen in Negele and again near Lake Langano.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos gortae*

Small numbers found at Lake Awassa and Lake Langano.

NOTE: The nominate African Grey Woodpecker D. gortae is often split from Grey-headed Woodpecker D. spodocephalus. We recorded D. spodocephalus in Ethiopia. The IOC does not accept this split.

Wattle-eyes Platysteiridae

Grey-headed Batis *Batis orientalis*

Fairly common in the drier habitats in southern Ethiopia. Also seen in the Jemma Valley.

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Small numbers seen at scattered moister sites throughout Ethiopia.

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*

We encountered just one bird in the dry, scrubby habitat south-east of Negele.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea*

We saw a pair of these birds during our rain soaked expedition in Wondo Genet.

Helmitshrikes & Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*



A puncture-stop between Goba and Negele was quite fortuitous as we ended up in this beautiful dry riverbed with large Acacia trees teeming with birds. It was here that we found this stunning bushshrike

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Small numbers of this beautiful bird were seen at scattered woodland sites throughout Ethiopia.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Another gorgeous bird, we recorded this species in the dry country of Ethiopia.

Three-streaked Tchagra *Tchagra jamesi*

We had magnificent views in some dry scrub on the road from Negele to Bogol Manyo

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

The most common Puffback of the tour, it was observed in small numbers in dry woodland.

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii*

We witnessed this small Puffback in full display mode on the Negele-Bogol Manyo road.

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

A bird with a wide range of liquid calls, we found good numbers on the tour in the drier country especially around Negele and Yabello.

Red-naped Bushshrike (NE) *Laniarius ruficeps*

We were treated to unrivaled close-up views of this scarce and difficult to find near-endemic.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

More often heard than seen, it was recorded during our tour in small numbers.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Recorded fairly frequently throughout the tour.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Common at most drier country sites throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: This species complex is now widely split into Northern White-crowned Shrike E. rueppelli and Southern White-crowned Shrike E. anguitimens. The IOC accepts this split.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Seen early on the second morning at Lake Awassa.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Mostly individual birds were recorded at scattered dry country sites on the tour.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Seen in the open plains at Lake Abijata, race *L. pallidirostris*.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Seen mostly on the roadsides.

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus*

Small numbers of this striking fiscal were observed in the Yabello and Awash areas.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

This species was encountered regularly throughout the tour at most sites.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

This attractive shrike was first spotted in the Awash region.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

This palaeartic migrant was seen at Lake Langanu.

Figbirds & Orioles *Oriolidae*

Eurasian Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

Saw a female at Lake Koka



Ethiopian Oriole (NE)*Oriolus monacha*

This endemic was common at Wondo Genet and the Harenna Forest where it offered good views.

Black-headed Oriole*Oriolus larvatus*

Several were seen in drier areas in the south of the country around Negele and Yabello.

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

Recorded on most days of the tour from Goba to the Awash area.

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

This delightful species was seen on most days of the tour.

Crows & Jays *Corvidae***Stresemann's Bush-Crow (E & V)***Zavattariornis stresemanni*

Small family groups of this striking bird were encountered in the Yabello area. This species has no close affinities to any other bird and has an unusually restricted distribution in the very south of Ethiopia.

Red-billed Chough*Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

A few birds were seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

Cape Crow*Corvus capensis*

Fairly common and encountered regularly at higher altitude sites throughout Ethiopia.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

This widespread species was seen on most days of the tour.

Somali Crow (NE)*Corvus edithae*

First recorded at Goba, it was later seen in good numbers on the Negele-Bogol Manyo road and in the Yabello area.

Fan-tailed Raven (NE)*Corvus rhipidurus*

Seen daily.

Thick-billed Raven (NE)*Corvus crassirostris*

This corvid, with a massive bill, was recorded at Lake Awassa.

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

Fantastic views of a small group at Lake Langano.

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

Two birds were tracked down in the juniper forest near Goba. This near-endemic species can prove difficult to find on occasion.

Acacia Tit*Melaniparus thruppi*

The dry areas of Sof Omar, Negele and Yabello all produced sightings of this species.

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

Several birds were encountered south-east of Negele and Ankober Valley

Swallows *Hirundinidae***Black Saw-wing***Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Good numbers were observed around the forests of Wondo Genet and Herenna forest.



NOTE: There are many subspecies within this complex. Shari Saw-wing *P. chalybea*, Mangbettu Saw-wing *P. mangbettorum*, Petit's Saw-wing *P. petiti*, Ethiopian Saw-wing *P. oleaginea*, Brown Saw-wing *P. antinorii* and Eastern Saw-wing *P. orientalis* are all on occasions accepted splits from Black Saw-wing *P. pristopectera*. The IOC recognizes none of these potential splits however does split Mountain Saw-wing *p. fuliginosa* and Square-tailed saw-wing *P. nitens* into full species.

Grey-rumped Swallow*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Seen on the airstrip on the way to Sof Omar and at the wetland in the highlands between Yabello and Addis.

Brown-throated Martin*Riparia paludicola*

Were recorded on our first day at the Rift Valley Lakes.

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

This species was observed at scattered sites throughout the later part of the tour.

Banded Martin*Riparia cincta*

Seen at Lake Abijata.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in large numbers, almost daily during our tour.

Ethiopian Swallow*Hirundo aethiopica*

Seen at Lake Koka and around Negele

Wire-tailed Swallow*Hirundo smithii*

Seen on occasion close to or over water.

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

A small group of birds were observed en route from Negele to Yabello.

Eurasian Crag-Martin*Hirundo rupestris*

First seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

Rock Martin*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Seen through out the tour close to rocky hillsides and cliffs.

Common House Martin*Delichon urbica*

Seen occasionally through out the tour.

Lesser Striped-Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

Seen at Sof Omar.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

Two birds seen at Lake Zeeway.

Red-rumped Swallow*Hirundo daurica*

Good numbers in Awash NP.

Larks Alaudidae**Singing Bush Lark***Mirafra cantillans*

A few birds were seen in Awash NP showing off their characteristic parachute landing skills.

Red-winged Lark*Mirafra hypermetra*

Awash NP eventually produced sightings of this impressive lark.

Flappet Lark*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Seen in the Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

Foxy Lark*Calendulauda alopex*

A single bird seen south-east of Negele on the side of the road.

NOTE: This species is often treated as a race of the southern Fawn-coloured Lark *C. africanoides*. The IOC however splits them into two separate species.

Gillett's Lark (NE)*Mirafra gilletti*

We managed to find at least three or four of these near-endemic larks south-east of Negele.

Sidamo Lark (E & V)*Heteromirafra sidamoensis*

Fantastic close views were had of this extremely range restricted and boldly marked lark on the Liben Plains near Negele.

Greater Short-toed Lark*Calandrella brachydactyla*

Good sized flocks seen on Bilen plains.



Erlanger's Lark (NE)*Calandrella blanfordi*

Small numbers of these larks were seen at higher elevation grasslands in Ethiopia.

NOTE: This species is often treated as a race of Red-capped Lark C. cinerea. The IOC however accepts this split.

Somali Short-toed Lark*Calandrella brachydactyla*

Small flocks of this bird were observed on the Bilen Plains near Negele.

Thekla Lark*Galerida theklae*

Good numbers were seen at higher elevation grasslands.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

Were recorded on the Bilen Plains near and several more in Awash NP.

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix signata*

Half-a-dozen of these attractive birds were found in Awash NP

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops*

Recorded at Awassa

Singing Cisticola*Cisticola cantans*

This species was seen at Wondo Genet

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

Several birds were seen at scattered bushveld localities during the tour.

Ashy Cisticola*Cisticola cinereolus*

These uncommon cisticolas were seen in the scrubby vegetation in Awash NP.

Ethiopian Cisticola*Cisticola lugubris*

Small numbers seen at scattered high altitude grassland locations throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: This species complex is widely debated with up to five species recognized within the complex. The IOC accepts all five of these splits. The species include the nominate Rufous-winged Cisticola C. galactotes, the species we recorded Ethiopian Cisticola C. lugubris, Luapula Cisticola C. luapula, Coastal Cisticola C. haematocephala and Winding Cisticola C. marginatus.

Stout Cisticola*Cisticola robustus*

Seen in the tall grass land on the way from Wondo Genet to Goba.

Tiny Cisticola*Cisticola nanus*

This small cisticola was found in the drier regions of Negele.

Desert Cisticola*Cisticola aridulus*

Many birds were seen and heard in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola*Cisticola brunnescens*

On route from Wondo Genet to Goba produced a sighting of this diminutive bird.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

Pale Prinia*Prinia somalica*

The paler cousin of the above species, it was recorded in much drier habitat in the Negele and Yabello areas.

Buff-bellied Warbler*Phyllolais pulchella*

Small numbers seen in dry Acacia lowland sites.

Yellow-breasted Apalis*Apalis flavida*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites during the tour.

Red-fronted Apalis*Urorhipus rufifrons*

A few birds were seen in the dry scrubby Acacia bushes of southern Ethiopia and Awash National Park.

Grey-backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Seen almost daily at scattered woodland locations throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: This species is occasionally lumped with Green-backed Camaroptera C. brachyuran. The IOC however does accept this as a species in its own right.



Grey Wren-Warbler*Calamonastes simplex*

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites in and around Negele and Yabello.

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

This abundant bird was seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

*NOTE: This species is often lumped with Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor*, which has a yellow vent, Somali Bulbul *P. somaliensis* and Dodson's Bulbul *P. dodsoni*. The IOC accepts all four as full species.*

Somali Bulbul*Pycnonotus somaliensis*

Several birds seen in Awash National Park. See taxonomic notes above.

Dodson's Bulbul*Pycnonotus dodsoni*

This species was seen in the dry southern parts of Ethiopia. See taxonomic notes above.

Dark-capped Bulbul*Pycnonotus tricolor*

Small numbers were seen in the Goba area during our tour. See taxonomic notes above.

Northern Brownbul*Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Found at Sof Omar just before lunch.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae***Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala*

Heard and briefly seen at Zed's Pan on the way from Yabello to Lake Langan

Lesser Swamp-Warbler*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

A number of birds were seen at Lake Awassa

Sedge Warbler*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Eurasian Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Seen and heard in the reedbeds of Lake Awassa and Herenna Forest

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler*Hippolais pallida*

Recorded irregularly during the tour in small numbers.

*NOTE: The IOC splits this species into Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *H. pallida*, which we recorded and Western Olivaceous Warbler *H. opaca*.*

Icterine Warbler*Hippolais icterina*

Single bird encountered around Rift Valley Lakes.

Dark-capped Yellow Warbler*Chloroptera natalensis*

This species was observed on the first day at Lake Awassa

Brown Woodland Warbler*Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Seen in the Juniper Forest near Goba.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Seen fairly frequently throughout the tour.

Common Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita*

Small numbers of this common migrant seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela*Eremomela icteropygialis*

Seen at most dry country sites during the tour.

Northern Crombec*Sylvietta brachyura*

Seen only on the first day

Red-faced Crombec*Sylvietta whytii*

Seen around Negele, Yabello and Lake Langan

Somali Crombec*Sylvietta isabellina*

Recorded in the Negele and Yabello areas.

Eurasian Blackcap*Sylvia atricapilla*

Recorded irregularly during the tour.

Garden Warbler*Sylvia boran*

Was recorded on the first day around the Rift Valley Lakes and then again on the drive from Negele to Yebello

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites through out Ethiopia.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*

Seen in an Acacia at the edge Lake Awassa.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split into Eastern Orphean Warbler S. crassirostris and Western Orphean Warbler S. hortensis. The IOC does not accept this split.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Seen frequently through out the trip

Brown Parisoma *Parisoma lugens*

Seen in the gardens of our hotel in Wondo Genet while the distinctive subspecies Bale Parisoma was seen well with three birds recorded.

NOTE: This species is often split into two, Brown Parisoma P. lugens and Bale Parisoma P. griseiventris. The IOC does not accept this split.

Banded Parisoma *Parisoma boehmi*

Seen on the road that heads from Negele to the Somali border

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosus*

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout Ethiopia.

White-rumped Babbler (NE) *Turdoides leucopygius*

First seen on the road to Sof Omar.

Abyssinian Catbird (E) *Parophasma galinieri*

This extremely vocal bird was observed at close range in the Juniper Forest at the base of the Bale Mountains.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus*

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

Montane White-eye (NE) *Zosterops poliogaster*

This species was seen at most higher altitude sites during the tour..

Creepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*

We observed this cryptically camouflaged bird at Lake Awassa and again in the forests of Wondo Genet

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Seen at a few sites including the Rift Valley Lakes and the Awash area.

Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

The most common starling of the tour, it was seen nearly every day.

Rueppell's Glossy-Starling *Lamprotornis purpuropterus*

Fairly common and widespread

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius*

Our first sighting of this gorgeous bird was at Sof Omar, thereafter we encountered good numbers in the Yabello region.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

A regular roadside bird.



- Shelley's Starling** *Lamprotornis shelleyi*
 First seen heading from Goba to Negele.
- Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 The iridescence of the starling is incredible; we found the bird at Lake Awassa fish market.
- White-crowned Starling (NE)** *Spreo albicapillus*
 Found in the dry, southern region of Ethiopia around Negele and Yabello.
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*
 Several birds seen at scattered localities during the tour.
- Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
 Our first sighting was in the Hotel grounds in Lake Awassa
- Somali Starling** *Onychognathus blythii*
 Seen feeding on the flowers of the Giant Lobelia's
- Bristle-crowned Starling** *Onychognathus salvadorii*
 Almost missed this bird but was seen eventually in the lava fields close to Awash.
- White-billed Starling (NE)** *Onychognathus albirostris*
 The Jemma Escarpment produced several sightings of this near-endemic.
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
 Scattered through out Ethiopia most often seen on local livestock

Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

- Abyssinian Ground Thrush** *Zoothera piaggiae*
 We had great views at Wondo Genet.
- Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*
 Seen at all higher elevation grasslands.
- African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*
 Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with the initial sighting at Lake Awassa.
- African Bare-eyed Thrush** *Turdus tephronotus*
 We enjoyed good views of this species in Yabello area.
- Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*
 Seen at all higher elevation forests and woodlands.
- NOTE: A widely debated species complex with possibly seven distinct species occurring. Possible species include Olive Thrush T. olivaceus, Karoo Thrush T. smithi, Mountain Thrush T. abyssinicus, Swynnerton's Thrush T. swynnertoni, Somali Thrush T. ludoviciae, Taita Thrush T. helleri and Usambara Thrush T. roehli. The IOC splits Taita Thrush, Somali Thrush, Olive Thrush and Karoo Thrush as separate species.*

Chats & Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

- Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 A single bird was seen at Zeeway.
- Rueppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa*
 This species was usually seen in pair's at most higher altitude, forested sites.
- White-browed Robin Chat** *Cossypha semirufa*
 Seen behind our accommodation at Lake Awassa
- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata*
 After several attempts at locating a bird in a dense thicket, we eventually had good views of this beautiful bird.
- White-browed Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
 Low numbers observed in the drier parts of our route through Ethiopia.
- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*
 Single bird seen in the Acacia Scrub on the edge of the Bilen Plains.
- Black Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas podobe*



This scarce and under-recorded bird in Ethiopia was seen well close to Bilen Lodge.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Small numbers were seen at random localities during the tour.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Seen on the side of the road whilst traveling from Wondo Genet to Goba.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

The high altitude grassland sites on our route produced sightings of this common species.

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

Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Commonly recorded during our tour,

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

This common Palaearctic migrant was seen fairly regularly on the tour

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

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

Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca*

First seen on route from Wondo Genet to Goba

Abyssinian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugubris*

Was recorded at Lake Langano and Jemma Valley

Brown-tailed Rock Chat *Cercomela scotocerca*

First observed in the dry, rocky woodland near Sof Omar, it was also seen at the Dowa River

Sombre Rock Chat *Cercomela dubia*

Also seen in the lava fields close to Awash.

Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*

Seen in the lava fields close to Awash

Moorland Chat (NE) *Cercomela sordida*

Extremely common in the higher elevation grasslands.

Rueppell's Black Chat (NE) *Myrmecocichla melaena*

Several birds were seen along the Jemma Escarpment.

Mocking Cliff-Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Recorded near our hotel at Lake Langano and again in the Jemma Valley

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

A pair of these attractive endemics were encountered along the Jemma Escarpment.

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Seen between Negele and Yabello in the late afternoon

Little Rock-Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus*

Recorded at various sites during the tour with our initial sighting at Lake Hora

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

This attractive species was found at Lake Langano.

Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher (E) *Melaenornis chocolatinus*

It was also recorded around Wondo Genet, Goba and the Harenna Forest.

Northern Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

This dull, matte-black bird was observed at Lake Awassa and throughout southern Ethiopia.

African Grey Flycatcher *Bradornis microrhynchus*

A common species, seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Grey Flycatcher *Bradornis pumilus*

Seen in the Yabello and Negele areas

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Seen scattered through out the tour

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*



Small numbers seen in forested/suburban sites during the tour, with a sighting at the Officer's Club in Debre Zeit.

Sunbirds *Nectariniidae*

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis*

This species was seen well, great views in the Ankober Valley

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

Seen well at Sof Omar

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallica*

We had outstanding views of this beautiful sunbird in the Awash region.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri*

Inhabiting much drier areas than the above species, we recorded good numbers in the Negele/Yabello areas.

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze*

This higher altitude sunbird was seen most highland sites in Ethiopia.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

By far the most common sunbird species of the tour.

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis*

The dry woodland in the Negele and Yabello areas produced sightings of this species.

Black-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris nectarinioides*

Was found en route from Negele to Yabello. This is an extremely localized species in Ethiopia.

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus*

Was found near Sof Omar, with further sightings en route to Negele and in Awash NP.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Recorded regularly during the trip at most sites.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Common through out their untidy nests were seen in roadside Acacia

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*

A single bird was seen in the Anokober Valley.

Grey-capped Social-Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Good numbers recorded in the Yabello region.

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

As per the above species, we encountered these social birds in the Yabello region

Kenya Rufous Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus*

The Negele area yielded our first sighting of this attractive little bird.

NOTE: This species is up for a three way split with the race we recorded becoming Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi. Others include Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus and the nominate Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus.

Swainson's Sparrow (NE) *Passer swainsonii*

One of the most common birds of the tour, it was encountered almost daily at most sites.

NOTE: Another sparrow complex with multiple possible splits. There are five possible species in the complex and the IOC accepts every one.

Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata*

This species was observed in the Jemma Valley.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Petronia pyrgita*

Small numbers were seen at most dry country sites during the tour.

Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae*



- Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*
We found this social nester on route to Sof Omar
- White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli*
An attractive buffalo weaver, it was seen at most dry country sites.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes fronalis*
Seen at the bottom of the Jemma Valley, the 500th bird for the trip
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
This common weaver was seen at most higher altitude sites in Ethiopia.
- Little Weaver** *Ploceus luteolus*
Seen on the road at Lake Koka
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
First seen in at Lake Awassa in the early morning.
- Rueppell's Weaver** *Ploceus galbula*
Small numbers recorded at Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Langano.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*
Seen on route from Negele to Yebello.
- Vitelline Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus*
Small numbers seen at scattered dry country sites to the south of Addis Ababa.
- Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei*
Only observed in the dry region of Yabello in southern Ethiopia.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
Irregularly recorded at scattered sites during our tour of Ethiopia.
- Juba Weaver (NE)** *Ploceus dichrocephalus*
Another mega on the trip, we had good views of this scarce near-endemic between Negele and Yabello.
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus*
Seen in an just after a small village on the way from Negele to Yebello
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*
First saw a female at Lake Awassa
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*
Seen at in the vicinity of the Rift Valley Lakes and in the Awash region.
- Black-winged Red Bishop** *Euplectes hordeaceus*
Beautiful breeding male in the Jemma Valley
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
Half-a-dozen birds seen en route from Wondo Genet to Goba
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*
On the drive from Wondo Genet to Goba next to a small pan where we stopped.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
A number birds were observed at the Jemma Escarpment in full breeding plumage.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Cut-throat** *Amadina fasciata*
Seen around Yebello and Negele, we also had small flocks in Awash NP.
- Abyssinian Crimson-wing** *Crytophiza salvadorii*
This species was seen briefly by some participants in the Haremma Forest.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*
A widespread firefinch, it was regularly encountered at most lowland sites throughout Ethiopia.
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*
Was seen at Lake Cheleleka.
- Red-cheeked Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
These gorgeous waxbills were seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia.



Purple Grenadier*Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

Another stunning bird, it was observed in the Negele and Yabello areas.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill*Estrilda quartinia*

Firstly, two birds seen in the Juniper Forest at the foot of the Bale Mountains, then we had amazing sightings in the Haremma Forest.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill*Estrilda rhodopyga*

We had a number of good sightings of this bird.

Common Waxbill*Estrilda astrild*

Seen on the edge of the wetland at Lake Awassa.

Black-cheeked Waxbill*Estrilda chamosyna*

First seen on the way to Negele and then seen again at Lake Langano

African Quailfinch*Ortygospiza atricollis*

Seen at the Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

African Silverbill*Euodice cantans*

Were seen drinking in the puddle on the side of the road in Awash

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata*

Saw a small flock in the reeds at Lake Cheleleka

Black-and-white Mannikin*Spermestes bicolor*

This striking mannikin was recorded near the hot springs at Wondo Genet and again in the Haremma Forest.

NOTE: This species is often lumped with Red-backed Mannikin *S. nigriceps*. The IOC accepts this split.

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduinae**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

Had good sightings through out the tour.

Pin-tailed Whydah*Vidua macroura*

Seen on route to Goba in the grasslands where we stopped at the small village.

Straw-tailed Whydah*Vidua fischeri*

We saw one perched on the side of the road on the way back to Negele from Bogol Manyo and another was in the tree above the small waterhole Awash NP.

Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah*Vidua paradisaea*

We saw a few in Awash NP.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae**Western Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Seen almost daily through out Ethiopia.

Grey Wagtail*Motacilla cinerea*

Small numbers seen at various wetland sites.

Mountain Wagtail*Motacilla clara*

First one was seen in the bar at Wondo Genet, at the hotspots and at a small waterfall at the Jemma escarpment.

White Wagtail*Motacilla alba*

Small numbers were recorded on the first two day around the lakes

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

Seen on the Dowa River.

Abyssinian Longclaw (E & NT)*Macronyx flavicollis*

This beautiful bird was found on the high altitude grasslands near Dinsho, Bale Mountains NP.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Seen quite frequently first sighted on the way to Sof Omar.

Long-billed Pipit*Anthus similis*

Recorded on the from Negele to Yebello



Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

Recorded at Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

Seen in the dry wadi on the way back to Negele from the road to Somali border.

Red-throated Pipit*Anthus cervinus*

Small numbers seen at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

Finches *Fringillidae***Ethiopian Siskin (E)***Serinus nigriceps*

Many birds were seen in the Bale Mountains however first seen on route to Goba at the roadside pan.

African Citril (NE)*Serinus citrinelloides*

Many birds were seen in the fringe vegetation around Lake Awassa.

Reichenow's Seed-eater*Serinus reichenowi*

Recorded at scattered sites on the tour.

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

We found at least 4 birds in the Ankober Valley singing at the tops of trees on the steep slopes.

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

Our persistence paid off in finding this on at Sof Omar

Northern Grosbeak-Canary*Serinus donaldsoni*

This found a number of individuals of this uncommon bird in the dry bush on the Negele-Bogol Manyo road.

White-bellied Canary*Serinus dorsostriatus*

Several birds were seen on route to Negele.

Brown-rumped Seedeater (NE)*Serinus tristriatus*

A common suburban species, it was seen at higher altitude sites in Ethiopia.

Ankober Serin (E & En)*Serinus ankoberensis*

This endemic was seen at the Ankober Escarpment 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.

Streaky Seedeater*Serinus striolatus*

The higher altitude regions of Ethiopia produced sightings of this common seedeater species.

Buntings & Allies *Emberizidae***Ortolan Bunting***Emberiza hortulana*

Good views along the Jemma Escarpment.

House Bunting*Emberiza striolata*

Seen in the lava fields close to Awash.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*Emberiza tahapisi*

Several birds recorded in the Ghibe Gorge and the Jemma Valley.

Somali Bunting*Emberiza poliopleura*

The dry southern areas of Negele and Yabello produced daily sightings of this gem. Also seen in Awash NP.

MAMMALS (43 species)**Mammals:** nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. Kingdon *The Kingdon Fieldguide to African Mammals* (1997) Academic Press.

Baboons & Monkeys *Cercopithecidae***Guereza Colobus***Colobus guereza*

We had good views of this attractive animal at Lake Awassa and Harena Forest.

Olive (Anubis) Baboon*Papio anubis*

Encountered regularly in good numbers during the tour.

Gelada (E & V)*Theropithecus gelada*

This incredible beast was seen at the Ankober Escarpment. Great to see a group of 200 strong.

Grivet Monkey*Cercopithecus aethiops*

The northern cousin of the Vervet Monkey, they were first seen in the hotel grounds in Lake Awassa, followed by further sightings at scattered localities.

Hares *Leporidae***Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

We found small numbers of these creatures in the drier parts of Ethiopia.

NOTE: The subspecies which was encountered in Ethiopia is L. fagani which is often regarded as a different species; Abyssinian or Ethiopian Hare.

Starck's Hare*Lepus starcki*

A few were seen on the Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains NP.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel*Xerus rutilus*

First seen in the Sof Omar area, we later had quite good numbers in the Negele-Yabello region.

Striped Ground Squirrel*Xerus erythropus*

Seen around the Negele and Yabello area's

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

We found a few of these bizarre-looking animals on the Sanetti Plateau.

Blick's (Unstriped) Grass Rat*Arvicanthus blicki*

Good numbers of these rodents were seen during our day visit in the Bale Mountains NP.

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

Most sightings were near Goba and another close to Awash.

Black-backed Jackal*Canis mesomelas*

Seen around Yabello area on night drive

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

This is the rarest canid on Earth with a population estimated to be less than 500 individuals. We were fortunate to have numerous sightings of these magnificent animals.

Note: Latest genetic evidence indicates they are most closely related to the Eurasian Wolf (C. lupus).

Bat-eared Fox*Octocyon megalotis*

Seen on the night drive in Awash NP

Mongoose *Herpestidae***Ichneumon (Egyptian) Mongoose***Herpestes ichneumon*

Seen twice crossing the road

Slender Mongoose*Herpestes sanguinea*

Seen really well dark tip to the tail just after lunch on the way to Negele

Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale parvula*

Seen on route from Negele to Yabello

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumon albicauda*

Seen in the headlights of the car.



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

A number of Hyenas seen next to the roadside.

Genets & Civets *Viverridae***Genet sp***Genetta sp.*

Seen in the Yabello area and on a night drive in Awash but not identified to species level.

Cats *Felidae***African Wild Cat***Felis sylvestris*

A number were seen on night drive in Awash NP

Serval*Felis serval*

This beautiful cat was seen in the last afternoon on the way to Goba close to Bale NP headquarters.

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

Recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax*Heterohyrax brucei*

Were seen along the cliff face at Lake Langano.

Horses *Equidae***Grevy's Zebra***Equus grevyi*

Small herds were seen in the Bilen Plains area near Awash National Park.

Burchell's Zebra*Equus burchellii*

A lovely dazzle was seen in Yebello in the last afternoon.

Aardwolf *Protelina***Aardwolf***Proteles cristata*

Seen on night drive in Yebello and seen again in the morning on Bilen Plains

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

This beastly was often observed at numerous sites during the tour.

Desert Warthog*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

Seen in the more arid areas closer to the Somali border

Antelopes & Allies *Bovidae***Menelik's Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki*

A single animal was seen crossing the road as we drove through the Herenna Forest

Mountain Nyala (E)*Tragelaphus buxtoni*

We recorded a small herd including a large male with magnificent horns, in the Dinsho. These antelope are endemic to the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia.

Lesser Kudu*Tragelaphus imberis*

Half-a-dozen were seen in the dry woodlands of Awash National Park.

Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker*Sylvicapra grimmia*

Individuals recorded at scattered sites including the Negele and Yabello areas.

Oribi*Ourebia ourebi*

Single antelope was recorded in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*

A number of animals were found on the Sanetti Plateau.

Salt's Dikdik *Madoqua saltiana*

Seen in Sof Omar and in the Awash NP.

Guenther's Dikdik *Madoqua guentheri*

On the drive from Negele to Yebello 148 of these dainty antelopes was recorded

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

This antelope species was recorded in the Goba area of Bale Mountain NP.

Grant's Gazelle *Gazella granti*

A small herd were on the open plains on the road between Negele and Yabello.

Soemmerring's Gazelle (NE & T) *Gazella soemmerringi*

Several seen in Awash NP itself and on the Bilen Plains east of Awash.

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri*

Long distance views in Awash NP.

Swayne's Hartebeest *Alcelaphus (buselaphus) swaynei*

Over 90 animals recorded in the Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa*

This pale-coloured oryx was seen daily in Awash National Park. Large herds were also recorded on the Bilen Plains.

REPTILES

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

At least 30 of these ancient reptiles were seen in Lake Beseka near Awash.

Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone Pardelis*

We saw over 20 exceptionally large tortoises at Bilen Lodge.

Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia*

Seen at some of our accomadations.

Striped Skink *Mabuya striata*

Seen on one or two occasions on the tour.

Photography credits.

A special thanks to Barry Barnacle for allowing us to use his magnificent portfolio of photographs taken on tour. I am sure Tim and the rest of the team really appreciates it. All photographs by Barry Barnacle.

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