



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Ethiopian Endemics II

*1<sup>st</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009*



**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott**

### **Tour Summary**

An early start to the tour saw us leaving the capital, Addis Ababa after a welcome cup of fine Ethiopian Coffee, and heading south through the Great Rift Valley. Today we enjoyed magnificent scenery and a diverse array of habitats while visiting no less than five of the Rift Valley lakes. All of these lakes are so different and hemmed by a variety of habitats like from *Acacia* woodland and grassland savanna to wheat fields. Our first lakeside stop exposed us to a host of waterbirds including scarce White-backed and migrant Tufted Ducks and actively feeding Temminck's Stint, plus many woodland species in the surrounding scrub including dazzling Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Abyssinian White-eye and our first endemic, Ruppell's Weaver. You could feel the buzz of excitement in the air; there was so much to look at that we simply did not know where to look! Dragging ourselves away from our first lake we stopped for a delicious breakfast at another waterbody where yet again we were inundated with new sightings including an African Harrier Hawk on its nest, delightful Black-winged Lovebird, Black-billed Barbets and a *Jacaranda* tree full of sunbirds with Scarlet-chested, Tacazze and Beautiful all showing particularly well. Additional highlights for this first day included Black Crowned Crane, Bruce's Green Pigeon, rare Brown-

backed Honeybird, the umbrella feeding Black Heron, Northern Carmine Bee-eater and the striking African Pygmy Goose. The combination of different habitats and the fact that the birds are generally so confiding ensured a massive list of 167 species for the first day, what a start! This is certainly one of the best first days of a tour I have lead anywhere in Africa.

Our next site of import was the forested hills of Wondo Genet where we enjoyed our first taste of forest birding, picking up numerous endemics and enjoying many memorable sightings. Yellow-fronted Parrot, superb White-cheeked Turaco, rare Abyssinian Woodpecker, Ethiopian Oriole, bizarre Thick-billed Raven and Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher were notable endemics. Other specials seen during our walks in the area included lovely Narina Trogon, noisy Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Greater Honeyguide, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, smart Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Brown Woodland Warbler, elusive Spotted Creeper, huge Crowned Eagle, shy Lemon Dove and many family groups of striking Guereza Colobus Monkey.

From here we moved on to the fabulous Bale Mountains National Park with its high Sanetti Plateau, clear blue skies, Giant Lobelias and a host of endemics! We were rewarded with many great sightings including a covey of Moorland Francolin, several groups of Chestnut-naped Francolin, Blue-winged Goose, Ruddy Shelduck – Ethiopia has the only sub-Saharan population, Wattled Ibis, Pallid Harrier, Rouget's Rail, just one Spot-breasted Lapwing (whew!), flocks of White-collared Pigeon, a day roosting Cape Eagle-Owl, Alpine and rare African Black Swift (a new species for the country), Red-billed Chough – very localized in Africa, White-backed Tit after an extensive search, beautiful Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Ruppell's Robin Chat, Abyssinian Longclaw and Ethiopian Siskin.



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Traversing the moorlands we were rewarded with one of the great highlights of the tour - finding a pair of Simien Wolf with a pup, the rarest canid in the world! This is Ethiopia at it's best, what a way to spend a day!

Taking a break from high elevations of the Bale Mountains we visited the wooded valley of Sof Omar, an area of dry and hot bushveld and home to a different set of species including Kori Bustard, tiny Pearl-spotted Owlet, cute African Pygmy Kingfisher, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Pygmy Batis, a trio of bushshrikes, Grey-headed, Orange-breasted and Rosy-patched, sought-after Somali Crow, Bristle-crowned Starling, localized Brown-tailed Rock Chat and Grey Tit-Flycatcher.



We then began the long journey South again as we travelled to Negele with its wonderful selection of dry bushveld species. En route we passed through the large and lush Harena Forest with its giant *Podocarpus* trees picking up a superb Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, a pair of Sharpe's Starling at their nest and displaying male Emerald Cuckoo as we went. In the Negele area itself we explored several areas including the Genale area, Bogol Mayo Road and Liban Plains where we found an extraordinary selection of birds including the highly sought-after Ruspoli's Turaco, Black and Ayssinian Scimitarbill, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill – the first of 21 seen on the trip, a family group of Mouse-colored Penduline Tit, nomadic Temminck's Courser, striking Red-bellied Parrot, Black-

billed Wood Hoopoe, Black-throated Barbet, Pringle's Puffback, rare Red-naped Bushshrike, Taita Fiscal, Acacia Tit, highly localized Sidamo Lark, Somali Crombec, Banded Warbler, White-crowned Starling, Hunter's Sunbird, Northern Grosbeak Canary and rare endemic Salvadori's Seedeater.

A lengthy detour to Yabelo got us phenomenal views of Ruspoli's Turaco allowing for great photo opportunities. The Yabelo area with its superb Acacia and broad-leafed woodland lived up to its reputation with loads of great birds including the two area specials; Stresemann's Bush Crow and White-tailed Swallow. On our forays in the area we were treated to wonderful breakfasts in the field produced by our friendly drivers and thus the benefit of cool early mornings enabled us to find other specials including Bare-eyed Thrush, Buff-crested Bustard, Chestnut Sparrow, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Magpie Starling, Somali Courser and Vulturine Guinea fowl - a family group with many young. A night drive in the area gave us good views of Donaldson Smith's Nightjar and Three-banded Courser.

Moving back north we headed to Lake Langano, its climax Acacia Woodland and escarpment produced some of the best birding of the trip. We enjoyed staggering numbers of bushveld species here including the much sought-after Masked Shrike, endemic Abyssinian Wheatear, Red-throated Wryneck, White-winged Black Tit, Common Nightingale - unusually showed exceptionally well, Little and Blue Rock Thrush and Egyptian Vulture. A visit to the nearby shallow Lake Abiata with its expansive grasslands produced wonderful pink flocks of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Pallas's Gull, a flock of Caspian Plover including one individual in breeding plumage, a vagrant Red-necked Phalarope and Yellow-throated and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse.

From Lake Langano we traveled east to the Awash region. Here we enjoyed seeing the local Afar tribe dressed in their traditional garments with their huge herds of goats and camels. Awash NP was looking unusually lush having had recent rain and this meant the Awash Falls was quite spectacular



Yellow-breasted Barbet and Somali Bulbul.

with four sets of powerful cascades. We enjoyed several drives here that produced the elusive Hartlaub's Bustard, Singing Bush and Red-winged Larks, Ashy Cisticola, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah displaying, and cackling Eastern Plantain Eater. A dedicated search while in the area yielded yet another highlight of this great tour as we found a cryptic Egyptian Nightjar which showed well for all and is very rarely seen in Ethiopia. Other highlights included Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, African Silverbill, handsome Black-headed Lapwing,

Leaving Awash we drove to Debre Berhan. An afternoon drive in the area produced the magnificent Gelada Baboon and we were afforded great views of a family group of these impressive primates, one of the great mammals of Africa! This area also gave us stunning sightings of the endangered Ankober Serin, Erckel's Francolin, Bearded Vulture and the world's fastest flying bird, a superb Peregrine Falcon. A trip to the scenic and arid Jemma Valley was extremely productive with great sightings of Harwood's Francolin, Foxy Cisticola, Striolated Bunting, White-winged Cliff Chat, Ruppell's Black Chat, Bush Petronia and Cinereous Bunting - a rare find indeed.

From the Jemma Valley we traveled to Weliso via the Sululta Plains - which although rather dry produced great sightings of Common Crane, African Black Duck and Eurasian Teal. Our final destination was a gorge that we have made a point of birding on recent tours and it did not disappoint with remarkable sightings including Moustached Grass Warbler, Snowy-crowned Robin-

Chat and Green-backed Eremomela plus three very special endemics, Abyssinian Waxbill, Black-throated Firefinch and literally at the eleventh hour Lineated Pytilia, what a fitting finale to a fantastic tour! From here we headed back to Addis Ababa for our final dinner where we reflected upon the many numerous moments and great sightings of the tour and then departed on our return flights home.

## **BIRD SPECIES LIST (506 species)**

E = Endemic to Ethiopia, NE = Near-endemic to Ethiopia, *Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological Congress latest update 2.0), Birds of the World.*

### **Ostriches Struthionidae**

#### **Somali Ostrich**

*Struthio molybdophanes*

Three of these birds were seen scattered across the Bilen Plains near Awash NP.

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

### **Guineafowl Numididae**

#### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

Small numbers recorded at several sites including peak numbers of 40 near Awash.

*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*

We enjoyed superb views of a flock of twenty including chicks en route from Mega to Yabelo.

### **Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**

#### **Moorland Francolin (NE)**

*Scleroptila psilolaema*

Three were seen on the Sanetti Plateau of the Bale Mountains.

#### **Crested Francolin**

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

Small numbers found at various bushed areas at lower elevations. We enjoyed great views of 8 in Awash NP.

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

#### **Scaly Francolin**

*Pternistis squamatus*

Initially this species was only heard at Wondo Genet, however later we had good but brief views of an adult and chick in Harena Forest.

#### **Harwood's Francolin (E)**

*Pternistis harwoodi*

We had a remarkable sighting of a covey of five and later a further pair during our descent into the fabulous Jemma Valley. This is a very scarce and difficult endemic to locate in Ethiopia.

#### **Chestnut-naped Francolin (NE)**

*Pternistis castaneicollis*

Up to twenty were seen in a day on the Bale Mountains.

#### **Erckel's Francolin (NE)**

*Pternistis erckelii*

This vocal species was eventually spotted in the scrubby vegetation on the Ankober Escarpment and later during our descent into the Jemma Valley.

#### **Yellow-necked Spurfowl**

*Pternistis leucoscepus*

Recorded in the dry south near Mega

#### **Harlequin Quail**

*Coturnix delegorguei*

Three were flushed from the Bilen Plains near Awash NP.

### **Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**

#### **White-faced Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

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

<b>Fulvous Whistling Duck</b>	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Small groups were seen on Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Zeway	
<b>White-backed Duck</b>	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Small numbers were observed on the first day at Lake Chelekcheka	
<b>Spur-winged Goose</b>	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
A flock of twenty was seen at Lake Chelekcheka.	
<b>Blue-winged Goose (E)</b>	<i>Cyanochen cyanoptera</i>
Small numbers recorded at all higher lying areas in Ethiopia and on the Sanetti Plateau.	
<b>Egyptian Goose</b>	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia	
<b>Ruddy Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Two pairs were seen on the Sanetti plateau.	
<b>African Pygmy Goose</b>	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
We had fantastic, close-up views of these stunning birds at Lakes Awassa and Zeway.	
<b>African Black Duck</b>	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
We had good views of a pair on the Sululta Plains.	
<b>Yellow-billed Duck</b>	<i>Anas undulate</i>
Seen near Goba, Bale Mountain NP	
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Seen in good numbers at Lake Chelekcheka, Abijata and Zeway	
<b>Red-billed Teal</b>	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Wonderful views of twenty seen on the first day at Lake Chelekcheka	
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Seen in small numbers at Lake Chelekcheka and a single male on one of the alpine lakes in Bale Mountain NP	
<b>Garganey</b>	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Seen in small numbers on Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Zeway	
<b>Hottentot Teal</b>	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes	
<b>Southern Pochard</b>	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Only recorded on first day at Lake Chelekcheka	

### Grebes Podicipedidae

<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Recorded on Rift Valley Lakes with peak numbers at Lake Hora	
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
We had superb scope views of one at Lake Hora.	

### Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

<b>Greater Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopus roseus</i>
Good numbers were recorded at Lake Abiata.	
<i>NOTE: Clements now splits the Old World Greater Flamingo P. roseus from the New World Caribbean Flamingo P. ruber.</i>	
<b>Lesser Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Thousands were recorded at Lake Abijata.	

### Storks Ciconiidae

<b>Yellow-billed Stork</b>	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Recorded at several Rift Valley lakes	
<b>Abdim's Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
A total of six were seen near Lake Langanano.	
<b>Woolly-necked Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>

We had good views of one at the Jemma River.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

Common and recorded regularly throughout the tour

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We had a wonderful sighting of a pair at Lake Awassa.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Recorded in good numbers throughout Ethiopia especially near the major towns

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia at most wetland sites and lakes

*NOTE: The Malagasy T. bernieri is sometimes split off as Malagasy Sacred Ibis. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout the tour

**Wattled Ibis (E)** *Bostrychia carunculata*

Regularly recorded at all higher altitudes throughout Ethiopia

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

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

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

Small numbers recorded on some of the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Recorded on several Rift Valley Lakes

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers

*NOTE: This group is sometimes split into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret, B. ibis (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret, B. coromandus. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements*

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Small numbers were recorded at most lakes in Ethiopia

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

Seen in low numbers at Goba, Negele and Yabelo

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

Seen on most of the Rift Valley Lakes and on the Jemma River

**Western Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

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

*NOTE: The nominate Western Great Egret, A. alba is sometimes split from Eastern Great Egret A. modesta. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.*

**Yellow-billed Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Good views on several Rift Valley Lakes.

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*

Single birds were seen at the fish market in Awassa and again at Lake Zeway

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

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

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

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

Recorded almost daily throughout the tour

**Pelicans Pelecanidae**

- Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
 Seen on the Rift Valley Lakes and Lake Abijata  
**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*  
 Small numbers seen at Lake Awassa

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

- Reed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*  
 This species was observed at the Rift Valley Lakes and other wetlands.  
**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*  
 Seen at most of the Rift Valley Lakes

*NOTE: The resident white-breasted African subspecies P.lucidus is regarded by some authorities to be a distinct species; White-breasted Cormorant, split from Great Cormorant, P.carbo. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

**Anhingas Anhingidae**

- African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*  
 Small numbers seen at Lake Zeway and one at Gibe Gorge  
*NOTE: Darter has been split into 3 species, African Darter, A.rufa, Oriental Darter, A.melanogaster and Australasian Darter, A.novaehollandiae. Clements lumps all three as Darter, A.melanogaster*

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*  
 Small numbers recorded at scattered localities during the tour.  
*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 migrant was recorded in vast numbers throughout Ethiopia.  
*NOTE: Some authorities split the resident African sub-species Yellow-billed Kite, M.aegyptius from the Palearctic Black Kite, M.migrans. We observed both forms. Most authorities do not accept this split.*
- 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 a mountain pass near Debre Berhan.
- Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*  
 Seen in small numbers at Lake Langano
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*  
 Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*  
 Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia
- Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppellii*  
 Recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers
- White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*  
 One was seen during our drive from Negele to Yabelo, a leader only sighting.
- Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus*  
 Two were seen during our drive from Yabelo to Lake Langano.
- Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*  
 Recorded at scattered localities throughout the tour
- Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*  
 One seen at Gibe Gorge
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
 Seen at scattered localities including good views of several in Awash NP
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
 Seen at most grassy wetland areas around the Rift Valley and other Lakes
- Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*

Recorded near Yabelo, Senkele Hartebeest Reserve and in Awash NP

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

Recorded in Awash National Park

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

Recorded regularly at scattered localities throughout

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

Seen in the Rift Valley with good views of several 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*

We enjoyed stunning views of a melanistic bird en route from Awash to Nazret.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

We had great views of a pair during the drive from Negele to Yabelo.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

We had good views of one near Yabelo.

**Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*

We had great views of three near Debre Berhan.

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

A single bird was sighted on the Melka Gebdu track.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Small numbers, usually single birds, were seen at various localities during the tour.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the one we observed - Common Buzzard, B.buteo from the oriental Eastern Buzzard, B.japonicus. Clements does not as yet accept this split.*

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

We enjoyed a superb four sightings including stunning views of one near Nazret.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

Regularly recorded in all high altitude areas during the tour

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

Two were seen near Negele.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

Regularly recorded throughout the tour

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Several were recorded in the Bale Mountains NP.

**Eastern Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*

One adult was seen in Bale Mountains NP.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

One was seen well in Gibe Gorge.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Two adult birds were seen on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Great views of one at Wondo Genet

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We enjoyed great views of one in Harena Forest.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

We had good views of two near Yabelo.

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

Commonly seen perched along side the road throughout the bushveld areas

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

A juvenile was seen very well at Wondo Genet.

### **Falcons Falconidae**

**Pygmy Falcon**

*Polihierax semitorquatus*

First recorded at Sof Omar then again on the Bogol Mayo Road and in Awash NP.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Regularly recorded, almost daily, in small numbers throughout Ethiopia

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolus which occurs in Southern Africa.*

*Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

This species was sighted in the Bale Mountains National Park.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

Seen at a mountain pass en route to Debre Berhan

### Bustards Otididae

**Arabian Bustard** *Ardeotis arabs*

The Bilen Plains offered great views of this majestic species.

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*

We enjoyed great views of one en route from Sof Omar to Goba.

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Incredible views of this attractive bustard were had on the Mega Road close to Yabelo.

*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** *Lophotis gindiana*

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

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

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster*

Great views were had of a female in the Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve.

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

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

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*

Several birds were heard calling from a marsh, en route from Yabelo to Lake Langano.

**Rouget's Rail (E)** *Rougetius rougetii*

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

**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

We enjoyed good views of two at Lake Zeway.

**African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Seen well at Lake Awassa

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Common at the Rift Valley Lakes

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

Recorded in good numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes

### Cranes Gruidae

**Black Crowned Crane** *Balearica pavonina*

Recorded at Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Koka

**Common Crane** *Grus grus*

Good numbers were seen near Lake Chelekcheka with a further great sighting on the Sululta Plains.

### Stone-Curlews & Thick-Knees Burhinidae

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

A pair was seen at Lake Zeway.

### Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*  
Recorded at all the major Rift Valley Lakes
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
Recorded in good numbers at Lake Abijata

### Plovers Charadriidae

- Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus*  
Recorded at most wetland sites throughout the tour
- Black-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus tectus*  
We had amazing views of a pair on the Bilen Plains.
- Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus*  
Small flocks recorded at several scattered high altitude sites.
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*  
Recorded at most dry localities on tour with peak numbers near Negele
- Spot-breasted Lapwing (E)** *Vanellus melanocephalus*  
A single bird was seen en route to Goba, a very lucky find.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Recorded in small numbers at Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Zeway
- Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*  
Recorded at Lake Chelekcheka
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*  
Large numbers were seen at Lake Abiata
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*  
Recorded in small numbers at several Rift Valley Lakes
- Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*  
We had awesome views of eight including one in full breeding plumage at Lake Abiata.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*  
Several birds were seen in the wetlands of the Rift Valley Lakes.

### Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

- African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*  
Several birds were seen at one of the alpine lakes on the Senetti Plateau in Bale Mountain NP with scattered sightings elsewhere.
- Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*  
First seen at Lake Zeway with further sightings at Lake Abijata
- Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*  
A single bird was seen at the fish market at Lake Awassa.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Located at most of the Rift Valley Lakes and also seen in some flooded woodland in Awash area.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
Common and seen at most wetland sites during the tour
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*  
A common shorebird seen in good numbers at most wetland sites and water bodies
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
Recorded along most shorelines on the tour
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Another common shorebird recorded at most wetland sites on the tour

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

Recorded in large numbers at Lake Abijata

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

Small numbers of these Palearctic waders were recorded at a couple of the Rift Valley Lakes

**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

Three were found at Lake Abijata.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

Recorded in good numbers at most of the Rift Valley Lakes

**Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Somali Courser***Cursorius somalensis*

We had cracking views of five near Mega, a rare bird on our route.

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

We had superb views of four on the Liban Plains

**Three-banded Courser***Rhinoptilus cinctus*

Two birds were seen well on a night drive at Yabelo and a further one seen during the day near the Bilen Plains.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae****Black-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Recorded in good numbers on most of the Rift Valley Lakes

**Grey-hooded Gull***Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Seen in small numbers at Lakes Awassa and Abijata

**Pallas's Gull***Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*

We had wonderful views of three at Lake Abiata

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

We had good views of eight at Lake Awassa.

*NOTE: The birds we observed were all of the race Heuglin's Gull, L.heuglini. Clements splits this as a distinct species.***Gull-billed Tern***Gelochelidon nilotica*

Recorded at most of the Rift Valley Lakes

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybrida*

Recorded in good numbers at Lake Koka

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

Recorded in good numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes

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

Seen well near Lake Abiata and the Bilen Plains

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

This magnificent sandgrouse was observed at close quarters near the Bilen Plains.

*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.***Pigeons & Doves Columbidae****Common Pigeon***Columba livia*

Infrequently seen around towns and villages

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Large numbers recorded at most sites in Ethiopia, one of a few species seen daily.

**White-collared Pigeon (E)***Columba albitorques*

Commonly recorded in good numbers at most higher altitude sites in Ethiopia

**African Olive Pigeon***Columba arquatrix*

Recorded in the Harena Forest

<b>Lemon Dove</b>	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Good views were had of this shy species at Wondo Genet	
<b>European Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
We enjoyed great views of one en route from Awash to Nazret.	
<b>Dusky Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
Commonly recorded at higher elevation sites during the tour	
<b>Mourning Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Regularly seen at many dry woodland sites throughout Ethiopia	
<b>Red-eyed Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Seen on almost everyday of the tour	
<b>Ring-necked Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Recorded almost daily	
<b>Vinaceous Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Seen well at Gibe Gorge	
<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i>
Small numbers were recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia	
<b>Emerald-spotted Wood Dove</b>	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Small numbers of these elegant doves were observed at dry woodland sites during the tour	
<b>Blue-spotted Wood Dove</b>	<i>Turtur afer</i>
We enjoyed good views of several at Gibe Gorge.	
<b>Tambourine Dove</b>	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Three were seen at Wondo Genet.	
<b>Namaqua Dove</b>	<i>Oena capensis</i>
This dry country species was recorded at most arid sites and was especially common in the dry south.	
<b>Bruce's Green Pigeon</b>	<i>Treron waalia</i>
This pigeon was seen in fruiting fig trees on several days of the tour, including great views of one near Lake Zeway.	

### Parrots Psittacidae

<b>Black-winged Lovebird (NE)</b>	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>
Fairly common and widespread, we had fantastic views of this endemic at numerous sites.	
<b>Red-bellied Parrot</b>	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>
Seen at the dry country sites near Negele and Yabelo	
<b>Yellow-fronted Parrot (E)</b>	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>
We enjoyed excellent views at Wondo Genet.	

### Turacos Musophagidae

<b>White-cheeked Turaco (NE)</b>	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>
Seen well on a number of occasions in Wondo Genet	
<b>Ruspoli's Turaco (E)</b>	<i>Tauraco ruspolii</i>
Three birds were seen at close quarters for at least 10 minutes in the Genale region and later we were treated to great views of a further four during our drive from Negele to Yabelo.	
<b>Bare-faced Go-away-bird</b>	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>
A few birds were seen in the Yabelo area with a further sighting on the Melka Gebdu track.	
<b>White-bellied Go-away-bird</b>	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>
Common and recorded at scattered localities throughout Ethiopia	
<b>Eastern Plantain-eater</b>	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
Two birds were located along the riparian vegetation in Awash NP with a further sighting on the Melka Gebdu track.	

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

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

Seen in Awash NP and along the Melka Gebdu track

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

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

We enjoyed good views of an adult on the Mega road and a further juvenile in Senkele Sanctuary.

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*

We enjoyed great views of one near Lake Awassa

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

One male was scoped at close quarters in the Harena Forest.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*

We enjoyed superb scope views of two in the Harena Forest.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

We had cracking views of one en route from Awash to Nazret

**Barn Owls Tytonidae****Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

One was heard calling from our hotel at Goba

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

A magnificent day time sighting of this owl was had en route to Goba.

**Greyish Eagle-Owl** *Bubo cinerascens*

A single bird was seen briefly at Gibe Gorge.

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 fabulous pair was seen exceptionally well at Lake Langano.

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

This owl was seen on several occasions in the drier southern parts of Ethiopia.

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae****Egyptian Nightjar** *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

An absolute highlight, finding two of these birds close to Bilen Plains

**Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

Good views of this small nightjar on a night drive south of Yabelo.

**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*

Seen at Lake Langano

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

Superb views of several including one perched on a rock at Lake Langano

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

Several seen during our visit to Awash NP and while passing through Nazret

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*

We had good views of six in the Bale Mountains

**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

These huge swifts were seen briefly but well in the Yabelo area.

**Nyanza Swift** *Apus niansae*

A large flock of 200 was seen flying near the Jemma Valley

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*

We observed a small flock of four flying with Alpine Swifts in the Bale Mountains. Rockjumper Birding Tours discovered this species here in 2004, a new species for the country and this is still the only known site for the species in Ethiopia.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

We had good views of a pair at the Jemma River.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

Recorded on almost every day of the tour

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

Recorded in small groups at several sites including peak numbers of twenty in the Bilen area

### Trogons Trogonidae

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

We enjoyed great views of a female at Wondo Genet

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Purple Roller** *Coracias naevius*

Recorded in the drier localities of Negele and Yabelo

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus*

Widespread and common throughout the tour

*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. This is not yet accepted by Clements.*

**Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*

Recorded at many localities but the best views were had in the Awash area

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

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

We enjoyed great views of a pair along the Gibe River.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Good sightings were had of this small woodland kingfisher along the Bogol Mayo Road and at Lake Langano and Gibe Gorge.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*

Mainly seen in the wooded habitats surrounding the Rift Valley Lakes

**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*

Seen at several sites including good views of a pair at Sof Omar

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

Seen at the Rift Valley Lakes in scattered locations and again along the Melka Gebdu track

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

The most common kingfisher, seen at most wetland localities throughout the tour

### Bee-Eaters Meropidae

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

Recorded at scattered localities throughout the tour

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

This stunning bee-eater was found at most high elevation sites on our tour.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is considered by some authorities to be 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. This split is not yet accepted by Clements.*

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

Seen in good numbers throughout the tour with the highlight sighting being of one bird riding the back of a Beisa Oryx in Awash NP

### Hoopoes Upupidae

#### **Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

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

*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 Palearctic migrant form U. e. epops.*

### Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

#### **Black-billed Wood Hoopoe (NE)**

*Phoeniculus somaliensis*

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

#### **Black Scimitarbill**

*Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

A single bird was viewed well between Goba and Negele and a further one seen at Lake Langano.

#### **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**

*Rhinopomastus minor*

Seen on several occasions, first on the Bogol Mayo Road and again near Yabelo

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

#### **Hemprich's Hornbill**

*Tockus hemprichii*

A species preferring wooded escarpments, we recorded it many times including good views at Lake Langano where it joined us for breakfast.

#### **African Grey Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

Seen in small numbers at scattered drier localities with peak numbers in Awash NP

#### **Northern Red-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly recorded at lower elevations throughout the tour

*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.*

#### **Northern Yellow-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus flavirostris*

This bird was found in small numbers in the drier parts of our tour, first at Sof Omar and later near Bilen where it was seen eating sunbird nestlings.

#### **Von der Decken's Hornbill**

*Tockus deckeni*

Another hornbill of the dry country, first seen at Sof Omar with further sightings at Yabelo.

#### **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**

*Bycanistes brevis*

Awesome views of this huge hornbill were had at Awassa

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

#### **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

Great sightings of small groups of this huge bird were had at scattered localities on tour including superb views of a pair at Lake Langano.

### African Barbets Lybiidae

#### **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

Recorded in small numbers at several sites including good views at Sof Omar

#### **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Recorded in the forest at Wondo Genet

#### **Red-fronted Barbet**

*Tricholaema diademata*

Can be difficult to locate but seen in Yabelo and at Lake Langano

#### **Black-throated Barbet**

*Tricholaema melanocephala*

This dry country bird was observed in the Negele and Yabelo areas.

*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. Not as yet accepted by Clements.*

**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*

Fairly common and small numbers of this attractive barbet were first seen at Lake Hora.

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

This handsome species was seen at Wondo Genet

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

These birds are closely associated with the tall brick-red termite mounds in which they nest, seen en route Yabelo to Lake Langano.

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

Seen in the Bilen area and on the Melka Gebdu track

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

Seen regularly throughout our day in the Yabelo area, we also observed a few pairs showing their characteristic tail wagging displays.

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Brown-backed Honeybird***Prodotiscus regulus*

Our first sighting was of one near Lake Zeway, with further sightings of one on the drive from Goba to Negele and another on the Bogol Mayo Road. This is a rare species in Ethiopia.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

Seen on several occasions including scope views at Wondo Genet

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

We enjoyed good views of a sub-adult at Wondo Genet.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla*

A single bird was seen near Lake Awassa on our morning walk.

**Red-throated Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

A pair was located on our morning walk near Lake Awassa.

**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

Singles or pairs were recorded fairly frequently during the tour

**Abyssinian Woodpecker (E)***Dendropicos abyssinicus*

One of these endemic birds was seen well at Wondo Genet.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

This common African species was seen on a number of occasions in dry bushveld.

**Bearded Woodpecker***Dendropicos namaquus*

A female was seen in dry acacia woodland at Lake Langano.

**African Grey Woodpecker***Dendropicos goertae*

Fairly common and seen at a number of wooded sites.

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

**Wattle-Eyes & Batises Platysteiridae****Grey-headed Batis***Batis orientalis*

Fairly common in the drier habitats in southern Ethiopia, we enjoyed good views of a pair on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Western Black-headed Batis***Batis erlangeri*

Recorded at most moister areas, ie. Rift Valley Lakes and at Gibe Gorge

*NOTE: This species has been split into Western Black-headed Batis, B. erlangeri the one we observed and Eastern Black-headed Batis B. minor which occurs SE Kenya and E Tanzania.*

**Pygmy Batis***Batis perkeo*

Recorded at Sof Omar and along the Bogol Mayo Road.

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

Recorded at Wondo Genet and Lake Langanu

### Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*

Seen during the drive from Goba to Negele and again in the Yabelo area

### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*

We enjoyed great views of one at Sof Omar.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

One seen well at Som Omar

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

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

*NOTE: Tsavo Bushshrike R. c. cathemagmenus of S Kenya may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Three-streaked Tchagra** *Tchagra jamesi*

One was seen along the Bogol Mayo Road

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*

Seen well at Lake Langanu and along the Melka Gebdu track

*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.*

**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 had good views of this little puffback on the Bogol Mayo 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 Yabelo.

**Red-naped Bushshrike (NE)** *Laniarius ruficeps*

We were treated to unrivaled close-up views of this scarce and difficult to find near-endemic on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Recorded at scattered localities throughout the tour

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

Recorded fairly frequently throughout the tour

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Northern Brubru occurs in Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.*

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

**Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*

Two birds were seen in the forest at Wondo Genet.

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*

A female was seen during the drive from Negele to Yabelo.

**Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga phoenicea*

Recorded in the forest at Wondo Genet

### Shrikes Laniidae

**Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Common at most drier country sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

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

NOTE: Red-tailed Shrike, *L.phoenicuroides* is sometimes split from the nominate Isabelline Shrike, *L.isabellinus* both occur in Ethiopia however we only recorded the latter. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

**Steppe Grey Shrike** *Lanius pallidirostris*

Seen in the open plains at Awash NP

NOTE: Some authorities split Southern Grey Shrike into 3 species Southern Grey Shrike *L.meridionalis* of Europe & North Africa and the migrant Steppe Shrike *L. pallidirostris* of south west Asia and north east Africa which is the form we recorded in Ethiopia during our tour and finally Chinese Grey Shrike *L.sphenocercus* of China. Clements does not yet recognize these splits.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides*

Seen commonly in the Rift Valley Lakes region

**Taita Fiscal** *Lanius dorsalis*

We enjoyed great views of three along the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Somali Fiscal** *Lanius somalicus*

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

**Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

Recorded at most of the dry localities throughout the tour

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

This handsome shrike was recorded in Awash NP.

**Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*

This Palaearctic migrant was seen at Lake Langanano and near Awash NP.

### Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

**Ethiopian Oriole (E)** *Oriolus monacha*

This endemic was common at Wondo Genet and in the Hareenna Forest.

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

Recorded at Yabelo

### Drongos Dicruridae

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

Recorded in most localities on the tour

### Monarchs Monarchidae

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

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

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.

### Crows & Jays Corvidae

**Stresemann's Bush Crow (E)** *Zavattariornis stresemanni*

Small family groups of this striking bird were encountered in the Yabelo 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** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Whilst enjoying lunch on the Sanetti Plateau an adult and juvenile flew in and landed nearby.

**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 near Goba, it was later seen in small numbers on the Bogol Mayo Road.

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

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

Commonly recorded on most days of the tour

**Thick-billed Raven (E)** *Corvus crassirostris*

This bizarre looking corvid was recorded on most days in the vicinity of the Rift Valley Lakes

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

We had a superb sighting of one at Lake Langano.

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

**White-backed Black Tit (E)** *Parus leuconotus*

Three birds were tracked down in the juniper forest near Goba.

**Acacia Tit** *Parus thruppi*

The dry area of Sof Omar produced sightings of this species.

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

Several family groups were recorded in the Negele area.

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

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

**Red-winged Lark** *Mirafra hypermetra*

At least six of these large larks were seen perched, vocalizing and flying at Awash NP.

**Foxy Lark** *Calendulauda alopex*

Located in small numbers at Yabelo and Awash NP.

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

**Sidamo Lark (E)** *Heteromirafra sidamoensis*

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

**Erlanger's Lark (E)** *Calandrella erlangeri*

Small numbers of these larks were seen at higher elevations near 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. Long live the days of splitting!*

**Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae*

Good numbers were seen at higher elevation grasslands.

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

Were recorded large numbers on the Bilen Plains and several in Awash NP.

**Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix signatus*

We enjoyed superb sightings of six near Bilen.

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

Seen daily at Wondo Genet

**Somali Bulbul (NE)** *Pycnonotus somaliensis*

Several birds were seen in Awash NP and along the Melka Gebdu track 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) Clements does not yet accept these splits.*

**Dodson's Bulbul (NE)** *Pycnonotus dodsoni*

This species was seen in the dry southern parts of Ethiopia.

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Small numbers were recorded daily in the Goba area during our tour.

**Northern Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus strepitans*  
Recorded at Sof Omar and near Yabelo

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera*

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

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

**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Seen at a wetland between Yabelo and Langano

**Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

Recorded at the Rift Valley Lakes

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Large numbers seen at Lake Abijata

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in large numbers, almost daily during our tour

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

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

Seen at several sites with good views at Lake Koka and Gibe Gorge

*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.*

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

Six birds were seen at close quarters on the mega road and a pair scoped near Yabelo

**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Small numbers were seen well in the Jemma Valley

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

We had great views of a flock at Wondo Genet

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

At least 50 birds were recorded at Gibe Gorge.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

Seen at several sites including good views of several at Gibe Gorge

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

A dozen birds were seen feeding over fields near Awassa and a further five seen at Lake Zeway

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

Recorded in small numbers on the Sululta Plains

*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.*

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

**Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Seen in the forest at Wondo Genet and in the Junipers near Goba

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One seen in the Junipers near Goba

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

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

### Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

One was seen in the vegetation at Lake Awassa.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Recorded at Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Awassa

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

Seen in small numbers at Lake Langano

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

### Grassbirds and Allies Megaluridae

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

We heard several calling at Lake Chelekcheka and saw one briefly at a wetland en route from Yabelo to Langano.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Seen well in the Juniper forest near Goba

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

We had good views of three at Gibe Gorge

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

Two birds were recorded in the Jemma Valley

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*

Seen at several sites including good views in the Yabelo area

**Boran Cisticola (NE)** *Cisticola bodessa*

A localized species which we saw well on the Melka Gebdu Track

**Ashy Cisticola** *Cisticola cinereolus*

Up to six were seen in the scrubby vegetation in Awash NP.

**Ethiopian Cisticola (E)** *Cisticola lugubris*

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

*NOTE: Several authorities have split this widespread African species into 5 full species. Races include marginatus, haematocephala, luapula, nominate galactotes and lugubris. The race occurring in Ethiopia is lugubris and is split as Ethiopia cisticola. Clements does not recognize any of these races as full species.*

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

We enjoyed a great sighting of two in Gibe Gorge.

**Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nana*

This tiny cisticola was seen on the Bogol Mayo Road

**Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes*

Two were seen well along the Jemma River.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

One was seen in Awash NP

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

We had good views of two in Awash NP

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

One was seen very well on the Liben Plains.

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

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

**Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*

Small groups were seen on the Bogol Mayo Road

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

Good numbers seen in *Acacia* trees at several sites including Lake Langano.

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

Small numbers seen at several dry lowland sites including the Bogol Mayo Road

*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 Yabelo 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-fronted Apalis** *Urorhipis rufifrons*

We had good views of two along the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Seen almost daily at scattered woodland locations throughout Ethiopia

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is likely to be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of *C. brevicauda*, or Gray-backed Camaroptera from the nominate Green-backed Camaroptera. The subspecies we saw throughout 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.*

**Grey Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex*

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

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

Seen at most dry country sites during the tour

**Green-backed Eremomela** *Eremomela canescens*

A family group was seen well at Gibe Gorge.

### Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*

Great views of a single bird at Gibe Gorge

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

Seen at Sof Omar and around Negele

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

Seen at several sites including near Lake Zeway

**Somali Crombec (NE)** *Sylvietta isabellina*

Two were seen along the Bogol Mayo Road

### Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

**African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

One seen briefly on the forest walk at Wondo Genet

**Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout Ethiopia

**White-rumped Babbler (NE)** *Turdoides leucopygia*

First seen on the forest walk at Wondo Genet with many further sightings

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

**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.

### Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Seen well on a number of occasions at Wondo Genet

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Recorded at Lake Awassa and on the Bogol Mayo Road

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Seen near Negele and Yabelo

**Brown Warbler** *Sylvia lugens*

En route from Yabelo to Lake Langano we managed to locate a pair in an *Acacia abyssinica*

*NOTE: We also observed Bale Warbler *P. griseiventris* in scrub on top of the Bale Mountains. Clements does not recognize this split*

**Banded Warbler** *Sylvia boehmi*

We enjoyed superb views of several on the Bogol Mayo Road

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**Abyssinian White-eye***Zosterops abyssinicus*

We had good sightings of four at Lake Chelekcheka

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

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

Seen in good numbers en route from Goba to Negele

**Montane White-eye (NE)***Zosterops poliogastrus*

This species was seen at higher altitude sites around Wondo Genet and Goba.

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

**Treecreepers Certhiidae****Spotted Creeper***Salpornis spilonotus*

We had great sightings of this cryptically camouflaged bird near Lake Awassa and at Wondo Genet

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

Recorded on four occasions in the vicinity of the Rift Valley Lakes

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

The most abundant starling species on the trip with sightings almost daily

**Rüppell's Starling***Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

A common species in Ethiopia with good sightings at Lake Langano

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

Our first sighting of this gorgeous bird was en route from Goba to Negele, thereafter we encountered good numbers in the Yabelo region.

**Superb Starling***Lamprotornis superbus*

Common and abundant throughout

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

First seen en route from Goba to Negele, then seen in good numbers around Yabelo

**White-crowned Starling (NE)***Lamprotornis albicapillus*

Found in good numbers in the dry, southern region of Ethiopia around Negele and Yabelo

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

Seen well at Lake Awassa and Lake Langano

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

Several birds seen at scattered localities during the tour, first seen at Wondo Genet

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

Recorded in the Harena Forest in good numbers

**Somali Starling***Onychognathus blythii*

A large flock was seen near the Ankober escarpment

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

We enjoyed great sightings of this species at Sof Omar

**White-billed Starling (E)***Onychognathus albirostris*

Two were seen at the Ankober escarpment

**Sharpe's Starling***Poeoptera sharpii*

Good views of several at Wondo Genet with a further sighting of a pair at their nest in Harena Forest

**Magpie Starling***Speculipastor bicolor*

We recorded a pair in the Yabelo area.

**Oxpeckers Buphagidae****Red-billed Oxpecker***Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Recorded in scattered localities throughout Ethiopia predominantly on livestock

### Thrushes Turdidae

#### **Abyssinian Ground Thrush**

*Zoothera piaggiae*

Seen exceptionally well near Goba.

#### **Groundscraper Thrush**

*Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

Seen 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.*

#### **African Thrush**

*Turdus pelios*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia with the initial sighting at Lake Awassa

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

*Turdus tephronotus*

A fantastic sighting of a pair was had in the Yabelo area

#### **Abyssinian Thrush**

*Turdus abyssinicus*

Seen at all higher elevation forests and woodlands with good sightings near Goba

*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. abyssinicus is recognized as distinct within this confusing complex and occurs from S Somalia to N Tanzania. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush T. helleri.*

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

#### **Common Nightingale**

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

Several were heard at Sof Omar and one seen very well at Lake Langano.

#### **Rüppell's Robin-Chat (NE)**

*Cossypha semirufa*

This species was usually seen in pair's at most higher altitude, forested sites with good sightings near Goba

#### **White-browed Robin-Chat**

*Cossypha heuglini*

We had good views of a pair en route to Sof Omar.

#### **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat**

*Cossypha niveicapilla*

We enjoyed good views of one at Gibe Gorge.

#### **Spotted Palm Thrush**

*Cichladusa guttata*

We had superb views of two near Yabelo.

#### **White-browed Scrub Robin**

*Erythropygia leucophrys*

Recorded regularly in the drier parts of our route through Ethiopia

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

#### **Common Redstart**

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Small numbers were seen at random localities during the tour.

#### **Whinchat**

*Saxicola rubetra*

One was seen very well at Gibe Gorge

#### **Siberian Stonechat**

*Saxicola maurus*

One of these migrants was seen in a field near Awassa.

*Note: Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

#### **African Stonechat**

*Saxicola torquatus*

Three of the black-and-white form was seen en route from Sof Omar to Goba.

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

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

*Oenanthe bottae*

Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands

*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.*

<b>Isabelline Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
One was seen well on the Bilen Plains.	
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
This common Palearctic migrant was seen fairly regularly on the tour	
<i>NOTE: The North-West African race may be split off as Black-throated Wheatear O. seebohmi. The Palearctic migrant forms which we recorded would remain within the nominate group.</i>	
<b>Pied Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
Seen regularly throughout the tour	
<b>Abyssinian Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe lugubris</i>
First seen at Lake Langano with further sightings on the Melka Gebdu track and in the Jemma Valley	
<i>NOTE: Two distinctive morphs occur, we saw both the white-bellied and black-bellied morphs.</i>	
<b>Familiar Chat</b>	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
Recorded only at Gibe Gorge	
<b>Brown-tailed Rock Chat</b>	<i>Cercomela scotocerca</i>
Good views were had of one at Sof Omar.	
<b>Sombre Rock Chat (NE)</b>	<i>Cercomela dubia</i>
Recorded at the larva flows near Awash	
<b>Blackstart</b>	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
At least three were seen near Awash at the larva flows.	
<b>Moorland Chat (NE)</b>	<i>Pinarochroa sordida</i>
A common chat of the high altitude grasslands	
<b>Rüppell's Black Chat (E)</b>	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>
First seen on the Melka Gebdu track with further sightings on the Jemma escarpment	
<b>White-fronted Black Chat</b>	<i>Pentholaea albifrons</i>
A single bird was seen on the last day of the Lalibela Cultural Extension.	
<b>Mocking Cliff Chat</b>	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
We enjoyed superb views of several daily during our stay at Lake Langano	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>White-winged Cliff Chat (E)</b>	<i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i>
Our first sighting of this attractive endemic was at Wondo Genet with further sightings in the Jemma Valley	
<b>Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
We had good views of three near Yabelo	
<b>Little Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>
Recorded at various sites during the tour with our initial sighting at Wondo Genet	
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
We had wonderful views of several at Lake Langano and in the Jemma Valley	
<b>Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher (E)</b>	<i>Dioptornis chocolatinus</i>
Recorded around Wondo Genet and Goba	
<b>Northern Black Flycatcher</b>	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Recorded in small numbers daily near Negele and Yabelo	
<b>Ethiopian Grey Flycatcher (E)</b>	<i>Bradornis pumilus</i>
A common species, seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.	
<i>NOTE: This is a recent split from African Grey Flycatcher, B. microrhynchus. Clements does not yet accept this split.</i>	
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
We had great views of one near Lake Awassa	
<b>African Dusky Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Small numbers seen at Wondo Genet and near Goba	
<b>Grey Tit-Flycatcher</b>	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Recorded only at Sof Omar	

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

**Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes orientalis*

This species was first seen at its nest near Sof Omar with further sightings on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

Seen well at Sof Omar and en route from Negele to Yabelo

**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 including good views at Lake Hora

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

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

**Tacazze Sunbird***Nectarinia tacazze*

This higher altitude sunbird was seen at most highland sites in Ethiopia with best views in Bale Mountains.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris pulchellus*

Recorded at scattered localities throughout the tour with great views at Lake Langano

**Marico Sunbird***Cinnyris mariquensis*

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

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

**Purple-banded Sunbird***Cinnyris bifasciatus*

We had superb views of one during the drive from Goba to Negele and another near Yabelo.

**Shining Sunbird***Cinnyris habessinicus*

First sighting was at Sof Omar, with further sightings in the Awash area.

**Variable Sunbird***Cinnyris venustus*

The yellow-bellied race, C.v.fazoglensis was recorded regularly at Wondo Genet with further sightings of the white-bellied race, C.v.albiventris along the Bogol Mayo Road.

*NOTE: This complex may be split. We recorded both the yellow and white-bellied races. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.*

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

Common throughout, their untidy nests were often seen in acacia trees along the roadside.

**Grey-capped Social Weaver***Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Good numbers recorded in the Yabelo region.

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

Good numbers recorded in the Yabelo region.

**Kenya Sparrow***Passer rufocinctus*

Up to ten were located on the Mega road.

*NOTE: Clements has recently split the Rufous Sparrow complex 4 ways. Great Rufous Sparrow, P.motitensis, Kenyan Rufous Sparrow, P. rufocinctus, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow, P. cordofunicus and Shelley's Rufous Sparrow. P.shelleyi. We observed the latter species however IOC lumps this with Kenya Sparrow.*

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

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

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

**Chestnut Sparrow***Passer eminibey*

We enjoyed fantastic views of thirty of these nomadic birds along the Mega road.

**Bush Petronia***Gymnoris dentata*

Recorded in the Jemma Valley and at Gibe Gorge

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

Small numbers seen at most dry country sites during the tour

**Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae****Red-billed Buffalo Weaver***Bubalornis niger*

Recorded in small numbers near Negele

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

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

This stunning species was recorded at most dry country sites.

**Thick-billed Weaver***Amblyospiza albifrons*

Only recorded at Wondo Genet

**Baglafaecht Weaver***Ploceus baglafaecht*

This common weaver was seen at most higher altitude sites in Ethiopia.

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

**Little Weaver***Ploceus luteolus*

A single bird was seen at Lake Awassa.

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

Seen at Lake Chelekcheka and Lake Awassa

**Rüppell's Weaver***Ploceus galbula*

Small numbers recorded at Lake Chelekcheka, Lake Langano and in Awash.

**Lesser Masked Weaver***Ploceus intermedius*

First seen at Lake Hora with further sightings of large numbers in the Bilen area

**Vitelline Masked Weaver***Ploceus vitellinus*

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

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

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

Only observed in the dry region of Yabelo in southern Ethiopia

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

This common African species was irregularly recorded at scattered sites during our tour of Ethiopia.

**Red-headed Weaver***Anaplectes melanotis*

First seen at Wondo Genet, then Sofa Omar, Negele and Gibe Gorge

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

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

Seen in flocks at Lake Langano and in the Awash region.

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

A flock of twenty was seen in Gibe Gorge

**Northern Red Bishop***Euplectes franciscanus*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites

**Yellow Bishop***Euplectes capensis*

Large flocks of non-breeding birds were seen near Debre Berhan.

**Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae****Red-billed Pytilia (E)***Pytilia lineata*

Great views were had of a female at Gibe Gorge, this species is a difficult endemic to locate.

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

We had great views of a male along the Melka Gebdu track.

**Cut-throat Finch***Amadina fasciata*

Seen around Yebello and Negele, we also had small flocks in Awash NP.

**Green Twinspot***Mandingoa nitidula*

We heard one calling at Wondo Genet.

**Red-faced Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza reichenovii*

We recorded three birds in Harena Forest, a new species for the country, a great find by Chuck.

**Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

We had superb views of a male at Gibe Gorge, a rare find this far East.

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

A widespread firefinch, it was regularly encountered at most lowland sites throughout Ethiopia.

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata*

One was seen at Wondo Genet with further sightings of a pair at Gibe Gorge.

**Black-throated Firefinch (NE)** *Lagonosticta larvata*

This thinly distributed near endemic showed very well in the mixed acacia scrub and grassland at Gibe Gorge.

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Commonly seen at many sites throughout Ethiopia

**Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

This beautiful bird was seen in Negele and Yabelo.

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

We enjoyed a good sighting of two at Wondo Genet

**Abyssinian Waxbill (NE)** *Estrilda ochrogaster*

A single bird was seen at Gibe Gorge.

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

Our first sighting was of thirty birds feeding on *Panicum* seeds en route from Goba to Sof Omar with further sightings on the Melka Gebdu track.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

We enjoyed good views of small flocks at Wondo Genet

**Black-faced Quail-Finch** *Ortygospiza atricollis*

We heard one during the drive from Sof Omar to Goba

**African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*

A flock of ten was seen near the Bilen Plains.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*

Irregular scattered records throughout the tour.

**Black-and-white Mannikin** *Lonchura bicolor*

One bird was seen at Wondo Genet.

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*

Good sightings were had throughout the tour.

*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.*

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

This common African species was seen around Lake Awassa

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

One was seen briefly in Awash NP

**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea*

We enjoyed good views of one male in Awash NP.

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Seen almost daily throughout the tour

*NOTE: Some authorities have recently split the YellowWagtail complex into 2 full species.*

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were seen at Wondo Genet with a further sighting of one on the Sululta Plains.

<b>Mountain Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla clara</i>
Three birds were seen on the rivers at Wondo Genet and a further pair on the Melka Gebdu track.	
<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Small numbers were recorded, predominantly in the vicinity of the Rift Valley Lakes.	
<b>African Pied Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
One was seen at Lake Koka and a further two on the Jemma River.	
<b>Abyssinian Longclaw (E)</b>	<i>Macronyx flavicollis</i>
One was located in the Bale Mountains NP.	
<b>African Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Two were seen in the Senkelle Sanctuary and a further two on the Sululta Plains.	
<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
We enjoyed great views of several near the Bilen Plains.	
<b>Long-billed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus similis</i>
First seen at Lake Langano with a further sighting on the Melka Gebdu track	
<b>Plain-backed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Recorded on the Liben Plains and at Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
We had good views of two at our breakfast stop en route from Negele to Yabelo.	
<b>Red-throated Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
Small numbers were seen daily in the Bale Mountains NP.	

### Finches Fringillidae

<b>Yellow-crowned Canary</b>	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>
We enjoyed superb scope views of several in Harena Forest.	
<b>Ethiopian Siskin (E)</b>	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>
Recorded in good numbers in high altitude grasslands near Goba	
<b>African Citril (NE)</b>	<i>Crithagra citrinelloides</i>
Several birds were seen on our first day at Lake Chelekcheka.	
<i>NOTE: This complex is now treated as 3 full species, Southern Citril, S. hypostictus, the central Western Citril S. frontalis and the nominate African/Abyssinian Citril S. citrinelloides which is the form which we recorded during our tour.</i>	
<b>Yellow-rumped Seedeater (NE)</b>	<i>Crithagra xanthopygia</i>
Seen well in dry acacia scrub in the Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge	
<b>Reichenow's Seedeater</b>	<i>Crithagra reichenowi</i>
Recorded at several sites, we had good views of ten during the drive from Goba to Sof Omar.	
<b>Yellow-throated Seedeater (E)</b>	<i>Crithagra flavigula</i>
We had good looks at five birds on the Melka Gebdu track.	
<b>Salvadori's Seedeater (E)</b>	<i>Crithagra xantholaema</i>
We enjoyed great views of one on the Bogol Mayo Road.	
<b>Yellow-fronted Canary</b>	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Small groups were seen in mixed flocks at Gibe Gorge.	
<b>Northern Grosbeak-Canary (NE)</b>	<i>Crithagra donaldsoni</i>
Three birds showed well, perched on <i>Acacia</i> trees whilst vocalizing along the Bogol Mayo Road.	
<b>White-bellied Canary</b>	<i>Crithagra dorsostrata</i>
We enjoyed good views of several in the Yabelo area.	
<b>Brown-rumped Seedeater (NE)</b>	<i>Crithagra tristriata</i>
A common suburban species, it was seen at higher altitude sites in Ethiopia.	
<b>Ankober Serin</b>	<i>Crithagra ankoberensis</i>
We had great views of this elusive species near Debre Berhan.	
<b>Streaky Seedeater</b>	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>
The higher altitude regions of Ethiopia produced sightings of this common seedeater species.	
<i>NOTE: Clements recognizes the Tanzanian race S. whytii as a full species Yellow-browed Seed-eater.</i>	

**Buntings & Allies Emberizidae****Cinereous Bunting***Emberiza cineracea*

We had fantastic views of two birds in the Jemma Valley, a rare migrant this far south and a very lucky find.

**Ortolan Bunting***Emberiza hortulana*

Good views of at least ten along the Jemma Escarpment.

**Striolated Bunting***Emberiza striolata*

We enjoyed great views of four in the Jemma Valley.

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

Several birds were recorded in the Jemma Valley and at Gibe Gorge.

**Somali Bunting***Emberiza poliopleura*

The dry southern areas of Negele and Yabelo produced daily sightings, also seen in Awash NP.

**MAMMALS**

**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, Harenna Forest and Gibe Gorge.

**Sacred (Hamadryas) Baboon***Papio hamadryas*

A troop of twenty was seen running across the road en route from Sof Omar to Goba.

**Olive (Anubis) Baboon***Papio anubis*

Encountered at many sites throughout Ethiopia, including great views at the Awash Falls

**Gelada***Theropithecus gelada*

We enjoyed phenomenal views of this incredible baboon at the Ankober and Jemma Escarpments

**Grivet Monkey***Cercopithecus aethiops*

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

**Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

We had good views of two during the drive from Goba to Negele.

**Galagos Galagonidae****Somali Galago***Galago gallarum*

Two of these nocturnal primates were seen on a night excursion from Yabelo.

**Hares & Rabbits Leporidae****Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

Seen 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*

Four seen on the Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains

**Squirrels Sciuridae****Unstriped Ground Squirrel***Xerus rutilus*

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

**Gambian Sun Squirrel***Heliosciurus gambianus*

One was seen in the forest at Wondo Genet.

**Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae**

**Giant Root Rat***Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

One of these large rodents was seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

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

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

**Dogs & Allies Canidae****Common (Golden) Jackal***Canis aureus*

One was seen by Paul in the Bilen area.

**Ethiopian Wolf (E)***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, highlight a pair with one pup.

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

**Mongoose Herpestriidae****White-tailed Mongoose***Ichneumia albicauda*

Two were seen on a night excursion at Lake Langano.

**Hyaenas Hyaenidae****Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

One was seen in the Yabelo area and another near Debre Berhan.

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

We enjoyed a fabulous sighting of one near Mega.

**Serval***Felis serval*

One was seen near the road en route to Goba.

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

Recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour

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

One was seen on the Melka Gebdu track.

**Hippopotamus Hippopotamidae****Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibious*

Three were located in the Gibe River at Gibe Gorge.

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

Observed at numerous sites during the tour

**Desert Warthog***Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

Seen in the more arid areas closer to the Somali border, i.e. Bilen Plains

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

We enjoyed numerous sightings in the Bale Mountains.

**Mountain Nyala (E)***Tragelaphus buxtoni*

At least twenty were seen in Bale Mountains NP.

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

One was seen during the drive from Sof Omar to Goba.

**Oribi***Ourebia ourebi*

One of these uncommon and shy antelope was seen in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve.

**Klipspringer** *Oreotragus oreotragus*

We had fantastic views of one in the Bale Mountains.

**Salt's Dikdik** *Madoqua saltiana*

Seen in Sof Omar and in the Awash NP.

**Mountain Reedbuck** *Redunca fulvorufula*

Seen close to Goba and in Bale Mountains NP

**Grant's Gazelle** *Gazella granti*

A small herd was on the open plains near Mega.

**Soemmerring's Gazelle (NE)** *Gazella soemmerringi*

Small numbers were seen in Awash NP.

**Swayne's Hartebeest** *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] swaynei*

A superb total of 81 were seen in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Reserve.

**Beisa Oryx** *Oryx beisa*

Seen in Awash NP and on Bilen Plains

## REPTILES

**Leopard Tortoise** *Geochelone pardalis*

Three large adults were seen near Awash NP.

**Kenya Dwarf Gecko** *Lygodactylus keniensis*

One was seen at our lunch stop on the Bogol Mayo Road.

**Striped Skink** *Mabuya striata*

One was seen near Yabelo.

**Blue-headed Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis*

One was seen near Lake Zeway.

**Chameleon sp.**

We had great views of one during the drive from Negele to Yabelo.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*

Seen in small numbers at the Jemma River and Gibe Gorge

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