



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Ethiopia Knox

18th December 2009 to 3rd January 2010



Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Markus Lilje

Tour Summary



As we headed south from a still-sleeping Addis Ababa to begin our Ethiopian adventure, and descended into Africa's Great Rift Valley, the sky gradually lightened to reveal our surroundings. This first day of the tour is always quite incredible as we make our way down a string of beautiful lakes that line the valley floor, each with its own character and suite of species. We managed to clock up a good number of waterbirds that included a wide variety of ducks, including huge flocks of Fulvous and White-faced Whistling Ducks, and the lovely African

Pygmy Goose. Storks that included the abundant and very relaxed Marabou were another feature of the lakes, as were pelicans, Black Crowned and Common Cranes, shorebirds, herons (including the

very interesting Black Heron), Hamerkop and kingfishers. The woodlands and *Acacia* thickets surrounding the lakes that we explored particularly well around Lake Awassa also teemed with birds that included the endemic Black-winged Lovebird, Thick-billed Raven, Eurasian and Red-throated Wrynecks, Blue-headed Coucal, numerous striking African Fish Eagles and the amazing Abyssinian Ground Hornbill.

From Lake Awassa, we then moved onwards and arrived at Wondo Genet in time for lunch, before embarking on a short walk around the hot spring for our first taste of Ethiopian forest birding. Memorable sightings of our two nights spent here included the spectacular White-checked Turaco, Double-toothed Barbet, a number of Yellow-fronted Parrot, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Narina Trogon, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Half-collared Kingfisher, Western Banded Snake Eagle, the vocal Ethiopian Oriole and endemic Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, among many others.



Unfortunately, as we witnessed in numerous areas around the country, the expanding local population is putting enormous pressure on the natural vegetation, which in turn is having a noticeable impact on the number and variety of species that, till now, can easily be found around this area.

We then moved to our next destination and one of the tour's major highlights, the famous Bale Mountains to the east, covering some uncommon highland habitats around the Sanetti Plateau, as well as the very extensive Hareenna forest. During the long drive through open agricultural land and scenic mountains, we already managed to find a good number of the higher-altitude targets for the area that included the remarkable Rouget's Rail, very smart Spot-breasted Lapwing, Ethiopian Siskin, Red-billed Chough, White-collared Pigeon and Blue-winged Goose. The headquarters of the park are located near the town of Dinsho where we spent some time looking for other big targets. Our time there was extremely productive, with Abyssinian Owl, African Wood Owl and White-backed Black Tit all showing very well. This area also provided some great mammal viewing, and we had species like the incredibly range-restricted endemic Mountain Nyala, Menelick's Bushbuck and Bohor Reedbuck.

From our base in Goba, we explored two totally different regions – the Sanetti Plateau and the area around the caves at Sof Omar. The conservation area in the Bale Mountains covers over 2 400 km² and spans a range of altitudes from 1 500m to 4 377m and represents Africa's largest area of Afro-alpine habitat. Our first birding stop for the morning was at a patch of beautiful Juniper and *Hygenea* forest that held Cinnamon Bracken and Brown Woodland Warblers and the endemic



Abyssinian Catbird. As we made our way up to the highest all-weather road in Africa, heather and scrub-covered slopes gave way to the plateau littered with its bizarre Giant Lobelias. The Sanetti plateau, at over 4000m, plays host to a very small number of species due to the harshness of the environment, but the rarity of many of the birds and animals here makes up for what it lacks in numbers. After quite a lot of driving and searching, we recorded a few of the critically endangered Ethiopian Wolves going about their business in their search for rodents. Other species on and near the plateau were Golden and Eastern Imperial Eagles, Ruddy Shelduck,

Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolins, Brown Warbler, Wattled Crane and Thekla Lark, and the very strange-looking Giant Mole Rat. We also headed down into the vast Haremma forest for a few hours, adding a few species that we were unlikely to find elsewhere. On the following day we headed down on the road to Sof Omar, which descends hundreds of meters into some very dry woodland. Here we were able to locate new species that included a number of hornbills, Pygmy Batis, Bristle-crowned Starling, the rare and localised Salvadori's Seedeater, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Northern Crombec and the distinctive local sub-species of Red-headed Weaver. On the road back to Goba we picked up a few more good birds such as Somali Crow, Abdim's Stork, Siberian Stonechat, a large flock of Lesser Kestrel and Pallid Harrier.

A resort on the shoreline of Lake Langano is where we spent the next three nights, allowing plenty of time to explore a variety of the surrounding habitats. Birding the dry woodland and the base of the little escarpment near our lodge proved very productive, serving up great views of Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Masked Shrike, Little Rock Thrush, Black Scimitarbill, Hemprich's Hornbill, Red-bellied Parrot and Striped Kingfisher. Around the two remarkably different lakes of Abijata and Shalla, we recorded other interesting birds including



Black-bellied Bustard, Purple Roller and the amazing spectacle of tens-of-thousands of mainly Lesser Flamingo walking slowly along the shallow shoreline. The forests and lake edge on the other side of the lake gave us birds like Green Malkoha, Green Twinspot, White-cheeked Turaco, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, amazing views of Lemon and Tambourine Doves, Lesser Jacana, Crimson-rumped Waxbill and African Snipe, as well as the only Hippos we encountered during the trip. Nocturnal mammals we managed to find here included Spotted Hyena, African Civet and Bat-eared Fox.

Next it was off to the famous plains of Awash in the north-eastern section of the Great Rift Valley. The area consists of very dry plains and *Acacia* woodland, as well as an area of dense palms surrounding the very interesting Filwoha hotsprings, hosting many of the more arid species. Over 2 days in the national park, based at a new lodge right beside the Awash Falls themselves, we managed to find many of the sought-after species of the area that included Arabian, Hartlaub's, White-bellied, Buff-crested and Kori Bustards on a single day, as well as Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark,



Singing Bush Lark, a variety of shrikes that included Somali Fiscal and the Chinese migrant Steppe Grey Shrike, as well as African Silverbill and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse. The area also plays host to a number of good mammals including Soemerring's Gazelle, Lesser Kudu, Beisa Oryx, Black-backed Jackal and Abyssinian Hare. To the north the open Bilen plains and woodlands – the land of the Afar tribesmen that still live their often nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles in this region - held Somali Ostrich, Nile Valley Sunbird, Three-banded

Courser, Black Scrub Robin, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, as well as numerous gorgeous Northern Carmine Bee-eaters. White-tailed Mongoose, the bizarre Gerenuk and Salt's Dikdik were some of the special mammals we saw well in this area.

We recorded few birds, including the scarce endemic Sombre Rock Chat, Blackstart and Blue Rock Thrush, on the day we spent driving between Awash and Gemasa Geden, further to the north. An early departure from here, to Alem Ketema in the Jemma Valley, was essential in order to be at our



site for the endemic Harwood's Francolin when it's at its most vocal. After some work by local boys, we all managed to get really good views of this tricky species. Other notable birds we recorded on this day included White-billed Starling, Abyssinian Wheatear, Striolated and Cinnamon-breasted Buntings, White-winged Cliff Chat and Rüppell's Black Chat. After breakfast we headed down towards the Jemma River, one of the Nile's major tributaries, where we recorded Speckle-fronted Weaver, Senegal Thick-knee, had wonderful views of Fox Kestrel and a really surprising Red-winged Pytilia. Heading back to our accommodations,

we then encountered our only Geladas of the tour, and enjoyed brief views of a large male and a number of other members of the troop before they disappeared over the edge of the valley's cliffs.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip with a large number of birds and many endemics encountered, not to mention the mammals and the cultural aspects of the tour that are hard to miss as one travels through this amazing country. Our tour showed again why Ethiopia is an essential birding and wildlife destination in Africa!

BIRD SPECIES LIST (440 species seen)

E = Endemic to Ethiopia, **NE** = Near-endemic to Ethiopia. *Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC: Gill, F. and Wright, M. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Version 2.3. www.worldbirdnames.org.*

Ostrich Struthionidae

Somali Ostrich

Struthio molybdophanes

A few of these birds were seen scattered across the Bilen Plains north of Awash.

NOTE: This species is not accepted by Clements, it is lumped with Common Ostrich as Ostrich S. camelus.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Regularly recorded throughout the latter half of the Ethiopia tour.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Moorland Francolin (NE)

Scleroptila psilolaema

We were fortunate with these very difficult birds, getting 3 sighting on our Sanetti plateau day.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

After hearing at Sof Omar, views were had near Lake Langano and in Awash NP.

Scaly Francolin

Pternistis squamatus

A single bird was seen quite well in dense undergrowth in Wondo Genet.

Harwood's Francolin (E)

Pternistis harwoodi

We had a great views on the ground and in flight near the top of the Jemma Valley. This is a scarce and difficult endemic to locate in Ethiopia.

Chestnut-naped Francolin (NE)*Pternistis castaneicollis*

Single birds as well as small groups with chicks were seen on the Bale Mountains.

Erckel's Francolin (NE)*Pternistis erckelii*

This vocal species was heard over extended periods in the Jemma Valley, unfortunately we were unable to locate it in its scrubby habitat.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl*Pternistis leucoscepus*

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

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

Large numbers were seen on the Rift Valley Lakes on the first three tour days.

Fulvous Whistling Duck*Dendrocygna bicolor*

Good numbers were seen on Lake Ziway on day 1 of the tour.

White-backed Duck*Thalassornis leuconotus*

Small numbers were observed on the first 3 days, mainly at Lake Awassa's floating vegetation.

Spur-winged Goose*Plectropterus gambensis*

Most of these birds were seen around the Rift Valley Lakes, including along Lake Langanos shore.

Knob-billed (Comb) Goose*Sarkidornis melanotos*

This often scarce and nomadic bird was seen flying over at the Debre Zeit Lake in good numbers.

Blue-winged Goose (E)*Cyanochen cyanoptera*

Small numbers recorded at all higher lying areas: in the Bale Mountains and near Debre Birhan.

Egyptian Goose*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

Ruddy Shelduck*Tadorna ferruginea*

Around 6 birds were seen on the Sanetti plateau.

African Pygmy Goose*Nettapus auritus*

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

Cape Teal*Anas capensis*

Seen among thousands of flamingos on the day we visited Lake Abijata.

African Black Duck*Anas sparsa*

A pair was seen very well near the Bale Mountains park headquarters and on the last day.

Yellow-billed Duck*Anas undulata*

Seen in small numbers at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Northern Shoveler*Anas clypeata*

Seen in good numbers at waterbodies throughout, one of the most frequently encountered ducks.

Red-billed Teal (Duck)*Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen on the first day on the Rift Valley Lakes.

Northern Pintail*Anas acuta*

Seen in small numbers at Lake Chelekleka, also recorded on one of the lakes in Bale Mountain NP.

Garganey*Anas querquedula*

Seen in small numbers on Lake Chelekleka and the waterbody at Bilen Lodge.

Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal*Anas crecca*

Recorded only at the waterbodies near the Bilen Lodge.

Hottentot Teal*Anas hottentota*

Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes and a pair later near Bilen.

Southern Pochard*Netta erythrophthalma*

Only recorded on first day at Lake Chelekleka and a single male on Lake Awassa.

Tufted Duck*Aythya fuligula*

A single distant male was seen on Lake Chelekleka.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Recorded on Rift Valley Lakes and one bird in Bale Mountains NP.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopus roseus

Seen around the Rift Valley in small numbers as well as around Lake Baseka and the Filwoha Hot Springs in Awash NP.

Lesser Flamingo

Phoeniconaias minor

Tens of thousands (normally a total of 2-300 000) were seen at Lake Abijata, a few at other locations in the Rift Valley and Lake Baseka.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Recorded at a number of wetlands throughout the tour.

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

A single bird was seen in flight, just after taking off very near the Jemma River.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

Returning from Sof Omar we had 6 birds in flight over extensive wheatfields.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Recorded at a few scattered locations during the tour.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

This stunning species was seen in small numbers around the Rift Valley Lakes

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

Recorded in very good numbers throughout the tour especially near the major towns.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia at most wetland sites and lakes.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Malagasy Sacred Ibis T. bernieri as Sacred Ibis T. aethiopicus.

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout the tour.

Wattled Ibis (E)

Bostrychia carunculata

This common endemic was regularly recorded at all higher altitudes throughout Ethiopia

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

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

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

Small numbers recorded on some of the Rift Valley Lakes and Lake Baseka.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Striated Heron

Butorides striata

A few birds were seen at the Awash Falls and the Filwoha Hot Springs.

Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

Recorded on Rift Valley Lakes and on the Jemma River.

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

NOTE: Clements does not accept this split and lumps Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda with the above species as Cattle Egret B. ibis.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Good numbers were recorded at most waterbodies in Ethiopia

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

Seen in low numbers at Koka Dam, Lake Abijata and Bilen.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

The world's largest heron was seen on most of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Birds were seen at Lake Langano and in the Bilen reedbeds.

Western Great Egret *Ardea alba*

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

NOTE: Clements does not accept this split and lumps Eastern Great Egret E. modesta with the above species as Great Egret B. alba.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A few birds were seen on Rift Valley Lakes on Day 1.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

Single birds were seen at Lake Awassa and again at Lake Baseka.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

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 Baseka.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Small numbers seen at Lakes around the Rift Valley as well as Lake Baseka.

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: Clements lumps this species with Great Cormorant P. carbo.

Anhingas Anhingidae**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

Infrequently seen in small numbers at the Rift Valley Lakes and on the Jemma River.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Oriental and Australasian Darters (A. melanogaster and A. novaehollandiae) as Darter A. melanogaster.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-winged(shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

Small numbers recorded at scattered localities during the tour.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

This migrant was recorded in good numbers throughout Ethiopia.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Regularly recorded in good numbers around the Rift Valley Lakes and other waterbodies.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus*

A single bird was seen very well near the town of Debre Birhan.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Best views of these birds were enjoyed near Bilen Lodge, with others seen around Awash NP.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia, often around town.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Regularly recorded almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*

Recorded on day 1 in the Rift Valley and again near Awash and in the Jemma Valley.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

2 young birds were seen well on our descent into the Jemma Valley.

White-headed Vulture *Aegyptius occipitalis*

Stunning close views of 2 birds along the side of the road as we were making our way to Addis on the final day.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Aegyptius tracheliotus*

2 birds were seen in flight north of the Bilen Plains area.

Beudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Decent extended views were had of this very rare bird in Ethiopia, as it hovered above the road near Lake Baseka.

Black-chested(breasted) Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

A single bird was seen well on the drive from Awash NP to the Bilen Lodge.

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

A single bird was seen very well at the Wondo Genet forest.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Surprisingly only a single bird was seen near the Bilen Lodge, north of Awash NP.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Seen at a number of grassy wetland areas around the Rift Valley and over wheatfields as we returned from Sof Omar.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Recorded on a number of days, one of the better views was had at the Sof Omar wheatfields.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Another Harrier that we had great views of over wheatfields, also seen on 2 other days.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*

Recorded very well near Bishangari Lodge and near Lake Shalla.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Seen quite regularly at scattered locations throughout the tour.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

The first bird was seen near Lake Awassa, others recorded near Bilen Lodge.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Birds were seen on two consecutive days around Lake Langano.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

A female was seen well at Lake Awassa before we had fantastic views of a male at Wondo Genet.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

A single bird was briefly seen in the Jemma Valley, it flew before everyone had scope views.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*

A single bird was seen well as it flew over us near Lake Awassa.

Common (Eurasian) Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Recorded only on one day at Sof Omar.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Regularly recorded during the tour, largest numbers in the Bale Mountains.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

A few birds were seen on the first day and again during our time around Awash NP and Bilen.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Recorded in Bale Mountain NP and around the Jemma Valley, both areas at higher altitude.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

A single juvenile, showing the pale inner primaries was seen well in the Bale Mountain NP.

NOTE: Clements just calls this species Imperial Eagle.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

We had good views of at least one Golden Eagle on the Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountain NP.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Aquila wahlbergi*

First seen over the Harena Forest and again on two occasions around Awash.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

Good views were had near Koka dam and again in the Jemma Valley – both flight views.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii*

We enjoyed extended open views of this bird feeding on prey, close to our lodge near the Bilen Plains.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

A young bird was seen well on two consecutive days near the Bilen Lodge.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Recorded perched near the road on three days of the tour.

Falcons Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

A few birds were seen every day around the Awash NP and Bilen areas.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Good numbers seen on the days we had around Goba and the areas we visited from there.

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

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

Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex*

A pair of these stunningly distinctive birds were seen in the Jemma Valley – first perched and later in flight.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

This species was sighted on a number of occasions on the tour, great views on some occasions.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Single birds were recorded on three days of the tour, including one flying over at Lake Langano.

Bustards Otidae

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs*

Awash National Park was great for this often difficult species, recorded on three consecutive days.

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

The first sighting was a little unusual as we saw 3 heads sticking out of extensive wheatfields near Sof Omar, more later in Awash NP and Bilen Plains.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Incredible views of 3 of these attractive bustards were had in open woodlands in Awash NP.

NOTE: Clements lumps this northern form with the Southern African endemic Barrow's Korhaan E. barrowi.

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana*

Single birds were found on three consecutive days in and near Awash NP.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

Great views were had of a single male in the small 'reserve' around the Abijata/ Shalla Lake entrance – the only area in the region that still has longer grass.

Hartlaub's Bustard *Lissotis hartlaubii*

This Bustard was observed during a game drive on two consecutive days in Awash NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

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*

Seen well among the reeds on Lake Awassa on the second morning of the tour.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common at the Rift Valley Lakes on the first three days only.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Recorded at Rift Valley Lakes and a few other waterbodies.

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

Recorded at Koka Dam on both occasions we passed there.

Wattled Crane*Grus carunculata*

A pair was seen well on the Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains NP.

Common Crane*Grus grus*

Hundreds were seen leaving their roost at Lake Chelekkeka, others were seen around Debre Berhan.

Stone-Curlews & Thick-Knees Burhinidae**Senegal Thick-knee***Burhinus senegalensis*

Largest numbers were seen at the Filwoha Hotsprings, others along the Awash and Jemma rivers.

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

Recorded at all the major Rift Valley Lakes and some other waterbodies.

Pied Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Recorded in huge numbers on Lake Abijata among thousands of flamingos.

Plovers Charadriidae**Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus spinosus*

Recorded at most wetland sites throughout the tour.

Black-winged Lapwing*Vanellus melanopterus*

First recorded about 20 birds on the way to Goba and again returning from Sof Omar.

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

Recorded at dry, open woodland localities on tour, the first near Lake Shalla.

Spot-breasted Lapwing*Vanellus melanocephalus*

This very smart endemic was seen near Dinsho as well as on the Sanetti Plateau, both in the Bale Mountains NP.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

On eor two birds were seen along the Lake Langanu shoreline.

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

Recorded on the shores of some of the Rift Valley Lakes, including Zeway and Langanu.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

A common Plover at Lakes Langanu, Abijata and near Bilen Lodge.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

A single bird was recorded at Lake Zeway. 2 more later along the Jemma River.

Jacanas Jacanidae**Lesser Jacana***Microparra capensis*

A single one of these sought-after birds was seen very well on floaing vegetation on Lake Langanu.

African Jacana*Actophilornis africanus*

Several birds were seen, mainly in the wetlands around the Rift Valley Lakes.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae**African Snipe***Gallinago nigripennis*

A few birds were seen at Lake Zeway, near Dinsho and at Lake Langanu.

Common Snipe*Gallinago gallinago*

Located at a number of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

First seen at Lake Chelekcheka and again at Lake Abijata and Ziway.

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*

More common than the above species and was 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 at Lakes Chelekleka, Abijata and Basaka.

Temminck's Stint*Calidris temminckii*

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

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

Small numbers at Lakes Chelekcheka and Abijata.

Pectoral Sandpiper*Calidris melanotos*

This extremely rare vagrant was a surprise bonus in shallow water around Lake Zeway.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

Recorded in good numbers at most of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Three-banded Courser***Rhinoptilus cinctus*

Two birds were seen well on a night drive at Yabello.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Grey-hooded Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

Seen in small numbers at Lakes Awassa, Abijata and Ziway

Common Black-headed Gull*Larus ridibundus*

Recorded in good numbers on most of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Lesser Black-backed Gull*Larus fuscus*

Seen at Lake Abijata.

Gull-billed Tern*Sterna nilotica*

Recorded at most of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

Recorded on some of the Rift Valley Lakes.

White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

Recorded in good numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

Seen well on numerous occasions especially in Awash NP.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

This magnificent sandgrouse was observed at close quarters at 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****Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Large numbers recorded at most sites in Ethiopia.

- White-collared Pigeon (E)** *Columba albitorques*
Commonly recorded in good numbers at most higher altitude sites in Ethiopia.
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*
Recorded at Wondo Gennet, the juniper forests of Bale Mountain NP and in the Harena Forest.
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*
Good views were had of this shy species at Wondo Genet and again in the Harena Forest.
- Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*
Commonly recorded at higher elevation sites during the tour.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
Regularly seen at many dry woodland sites throughout Ethiopia.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Seen on almost everyday of the tour.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*
Recorded almost daily.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Small numbers were recorded daily throughout Ethiopia.
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*
Small numbers of these elegant doves were observed at dry woodland sites during the tour.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*
Recorded at Negele, Melka Gebdu and Jemma Valley.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
Only flyby views were had of this shy forest species at Wondo Genet and the Harena Forest.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
This dry country species was recorded at most arid sites especially common in the dry south.
- Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*
This pigeon was seen in fruiting fig trees on our first day and again in Gibe Gorge.

Cockatoos & Parrots Psittacidae

- Black-winged Lovebird (E)** *Agapornis taranta*
Fairly common and widespread we had fantastic views of this endemic
- Red-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris*
At all the dry country sites we had sightings of this parrot, Sof Omar, Negele, Yabello and Awash.
- Yellow-fronted Parrot (E)** *Poicephalus flavifrons*
Recorded at Wondo Genet, Bale Mountain NP in the Juniper Forests and at Yabello.

Turacos Musophagidae

- White-cheeked Turaco (NE)** *Tauraco leucotis*
Seen well on a number of occasions in Wondo Genet, the juniper forests in Bale Mountain NP and in Harena Forest.
- Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*
A few birds seen in the Yabello area as well as Lake Langano.
- White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster*
Recorded at scattered localities throughout Ethiopia.
- Eastern Plantain-eater** *Crinifer zonurus*
Two birds were located along the riparian vegetation in Gibe Gorge.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)** *Ceuthmochares australis*
This bird is virtually unknown in Ethiopia with very few confirmed records. After hearing the bird in the forest near Lake Langano it came in and showed well after we played its call.
- Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus*
A pair of these huge Coucals was seen at Lake Awassa.

White-browed Coucal*Centropus superciliosus*

Seen in Sof Omar, on the Dawa River and in Awash NP.

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

Seen in the Afar Territories and again on the Melka Gebdu Track.

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

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

Greyish Eagle-Owl*Bubo cinerascens*

A single bird was seen well at Lake Langano.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

All sightings took place in the day, first at Sof Omar and again a pair at Lake Langano.

African Wood Owl*Strix woodfordii*

All sightings took place in the day, first at Sof Omar and again a pair at Lake Langano.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

This owl was seen daily in the drier southern parts of Ethiopia.

Abyssinian Owl*Asio abyssinicus*

This owl was seen daily in the drier southern parts of Ethiopia.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Freckled Nightjar***Caprimulgus tristigma*

Seen well on a rock whilst vocalizing at Lake Langano.

Slender-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus clarus*

Satisfying flyby views of 2 birds at Lake Langano.

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

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

Nyanza Swift*Apus niansae*

These huge swifts were first seen at Lake Chelekcheka and again at Yabello.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

At least ten birds were seen flying over head at Gibe Gorge.

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

Recorded on almost every day of the tour.

Blue-naped Mousebird*Urocolius macrourus*

Recorded in small groups on the Dawa River in Yabello and in the Awash area.

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

Recorded in many of the drier localities visited in Ethiopia

Rollers Coraciidae**Purple Roller***Coracias naevius*

Recorded in many of the drier localities visited in Ethiopia

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.

- Abyssinian Roller** *Coracias abyssinicus*
Recorded at many localities but the best views were had in the Awash area.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
Recorded on the morning forest walk at Wondo Genet.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*
A single bird was seen on the Dawa River walk.
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
Good sightings were had of this small woodland kingfisher on the Bogol Mayo Road, 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 Lake Chelekcheka, Melka Gebdu Track and on the Jemma River.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*
Seen at the Rift Valley Lakes in scattered locations and again in some flooded woodland in Awash.
- Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata*
The first sighting was at the hot springs in Wondo Genet and again on the river on 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 variegates*
This stunning bee-eater was found at most high elevation sites on our tour.
NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is considered by several authorities to form a distinct species, called Abyssinian Bee-eater, based on size, coloration and habitat differences, combined with an isolated population in the Highlands of Ethiopia and the Boma Hills in Sudan. It would therefore be an Ethiopian near-endemic if full species status is awarded. This enigmatic race has in the past been lumped with Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater M. oreobates.
- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*
Seen on two days of the tour – near Dinsho and again near our accommodation in Awash NP.
- Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*
A big surprise for the trip, 3 birds were seen well in flight near Lake Langano.
- Northern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicus*
Seen in good numbers throughout the tour with the highlight sightings being of these birds riding the backs of Arabian Bustards on Bilen Plains.

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 4th 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.
- Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor*

Seen on three occasions, first on the Bogol Mayo Road, on the Dawa River and again in Yabello.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Hemprich's Hornbill

Tockus hemprichii

Recorded first on the route from Sof Omar to Goba and great views were enjoyed at Lake Langano, also later in the Debre Berhan and Jemma Valley areas.

African Grey Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

Seen in low numbers at scattered drier localities throughout Ethiopia, mainly Awash NP.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Commonly recorded at lower elevations throughout the tour, from Lake Langano to Bilen Lodge.

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

First views in Sof Omar, later in Awash NP and around Bilen in drier areas.

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Tockus deckeni

Another hornbill of the dry country, it was mainly seen in pairs from the Sof Omar day until we left Lake Langano.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

Bycanistes brevis

Awesome views of this huge hornbill were had on the first 5 days, at Awassa and particularly around Wondo Genet and again in the Bishangari Lodge forests.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Great sightings of 2 or 3 small groups of this huge bird were recorded on the first day, around the Koka Dam and Lake Zeway areas, also near Bishangari Lodge.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus

Recorded in low numbers at Awassa, Sof Omar and Awash NP.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

Recorded in the forest at Wondo Genet and at Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.

Red-fronted Barbet

Tricholaema diademata

Difficult to locate but seen at the of dry-country sites at Sof Omar and Lake Langano.

Black-throated Barbet

Tricholaema melanocephala

This dry country bird was observed in the Awash NP and Bilen regions.

Banded Barbet (E)

Lybius undatus

This handsome endemic was seen well on a few days in the mature Acacia woodland and large Fig trees of the Rift Valley Lakes.

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

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

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

Good views were enjoyed at both Wondo Genet and Bishangari Lodge.

Yellow-breasted Barbet

Trachyphonus margaritatus

Seen in the Afar territories around Bilen Lodge and in Awash NP.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Green-backed Honeyguide

Prodotiscus zambesiae

A very tricky bird that was seen very well in the garden of our Lake Awash accommodation.

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

A single bird was seen in Sof Omar.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide

Indicator variegatus

A single bird was seen at close range in large *Acacias* at Sof Omar, we heard it again at Bishangari.

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

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

Red-throated Wryneck*Jynx ruficollis*

A single bird was seen on the same brach as the above bird, allowing great comparisons, later more were seen very well around Lake Langano.

Nubian Woodpecker*Campethera nubica*

A few birds were seen around Lake Awassa, Lake Langano and Awash NP.

Abyssinian Woodpecker (E)*Dendropicos abyssinicus*

A pair of these endemic birds were seen only very briefly at Wondo Genet, despite much effort we were not able to improve the views we got.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

Seen first at Sof Omar, with more sightings of this widespread small woodpecker 3 other days.

Bearded Woodpecker*Dendropicos namaquus*

This was quite a common species around Lake Langano, one of Africa's larger woodpeckers.

African Grey Woodpecker*Dendropicos goertae*

First seen at Lake Awassa and Wondo Genet, again at the various locations around Lake Langano.

NOTE: Clements considers Gray-headed Woodpecker *D. spodocephalus* to be a distinct species.

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

Fairly common in the drier habitats around the Lakes Awassa and Langano, with a further sighting near Bilen Lodge.

Western Black-headed Batis*Batis minor*

Small numbers near Lake Awassa and Lake Langano.

Pygmy Batis*Batis perkeo*

A few birds were seen on the day we had at Sof Omar.

Brown-throated Wattle-eye*Platysteira cyanea*

We recorded great views at Wondo Genet as well as at Bishangari Lodge.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae**White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

Good numbers of these very smart flock birds were at Sof Omar, Lake Langano and Awash NP.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Grey-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

A single bird was recorded at the Sof Omar, more seen near Lake Langano.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

A single beautiful bird was seen well but briefly as we drove away from the Filwoha hot springs.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike*Rhodophoneus cruentus*

Another gorgeous bird, we recorded this species in the dry country of the east and north-east of our itinerary in Ethiopia.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus*

Small numbers seen at scattered sites around Lake Langano as well as in Awash NP.

Northern Puffback*Dryoscopus gambensis*

The only Puffback of the tour, it was observed in small numbers in moister woodland in Wondo Genet, Bishangari Lodge and the Awash River.

Slate-coloured 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 Awash NP.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

Recorded quite commonly at scattered locations during the tour.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Great views of this lovely, distinctive species were mainly enjoyed around Lake Langanu.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

A single male, sporting the distinctive yellow shoulder-patch was seen well at Bishangari Lodge.

Shrikes Laniidae

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Common at most drier country sites throughout the tour.

Isabelline (Rufous-tailed) Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

We had a few scattered sightings of these grey-brown headed birds at scattered dry country sites.

NOTE: Clements does not recognize the L. isabellinus and L. phoenicuroides (the next species) split and lumps them under Rufous-tailed Shrike L. isabellinus.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

Mostly individual birds were recorded in the Jemma Valley area, with single sightings elsewhere.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Seen well in the open plains at Awash NP.

NOTE: Clements does not recognize the split between L. meridionalis and L. pallidorostris (the next species) and lumps them as Southern Gray Shrike L. meridionalis.

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidorostris*

Two single and distinctive birds were seen well at Awash NP.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Seen commonly in the Rift Valley Lakes region, where they often occur in small groups.

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus*

3 birds were recorded in Awash NP, where they perched on small *Acacia* bushes.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Recorded commonly at most of the areas we visited throughout the tour.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

A single bird was seen near Lake Baseka, a few more were seen in the Jemma Valley.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

This Palearctic migrant was seen well at Lake Langanu and again in Awash NP.

Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

Ethiopian (Dark-headed) Oriole (E) *Oriolus monacha*

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

(African) Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

Recorded on day one and again at Sof Omar and in the woodlad around Lake Langanu.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

One of the more common and widespread species, recorded in most localities on the tour.

Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

This delightful species was seen on every day of the first half of the tour.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

A single bird was seen very well on the way to the bale Mountains, near Dinsho.

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 many days at scattered locations of the tour.

Somali Crow (NE) *Corvus edithae*

We had big numbers of these relatively range-restricted on the way back from our Sof Omar day.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

Commonly recorded on around half the days of the tour, first views near Wondo Genet.

Thick-billed Raven (E) *Corvus crassirostris*

This outrageous bird was seen very well at Lake Awassa as well as at other sites during the tour's first week.

Tits & Chickadees Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Parus leucomelas*

Recorded in small groups on two of the days we had around Lake Langanu.

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

Around 8 birds were seen in two flocks in the forest near Dinsho, the Bale mountain headquarters.

Acacia Tit *Parus thruppi*

Seen only on the day we had at Som Omar in the dry *Acacia* woodland.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus*

A pair of these tiny birds came in with a mob in *Acacia* woodland near the Filwoha hot springs.

Larks Alaudidae

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*

A single bird was seen quite well in very open woodland of Awash NP.

Gillett's Lark (NE) *Mirafra gilletti*

A single bird was recorded in Awash NP.

Erlanger's Lark (E) *Calandrella erlangeri*

Around 10 birds were seen very well at higher elevations on the way to the Bale Mountains NP.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Good numbers were seen at higher elevation grasslands, Bale Mountains NP had biggest numbers.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

These were recorded on the Bilen Plains after we had great views in Awash NP. These birds are normally in drier areas further to the north-east and have not been recorded by Rockjumper on the Ethiopia tours before this season.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

This abundant bird was seen almost daily throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Clements does not treat them as distinct, and lumps this species with Somali P. somaliensis, Dodson's P. dodsoni and Dark-capped Bulbuls P. tricolor.

Somali Bulbul *Pycnonotus somaliensis*

Several birds seen in Awash areas.

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Small numbers were seen in the Goba area during our tour.

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Recorded at Sof Omar and in the forest around the Bishangari Lodge.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Good numbers were observed around the forests of Wondo Genet and the Harena 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*.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Recorded commonly around the Rift Valley Lakes.

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Recorded on a few days around Lake Langano and Awash National Park.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Recorded in large numbers, almost daily during our tour.

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

A single bird was seen well and at close quarters as it flew around the Koka Dam area.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Seen on first day of the tour and again around Awash Falls NP and Bilen areas..

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Recorded around the Rift Valley, Wondo Genet, Sof Omar and in the Jemma Valley.

Common House Martin (House-Martin) *Delichon urbicum*

A few birds were spotted amongst a mixed aerial feeding flock near the Awash Falls.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

This widespread African species was seen at Wondo Genet during our morning walk there.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Recorded near Wondo Genet and around Awash NP and Bilen Lodge.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

This smart little bird was seen on two days: in the forest at Wondo Genet and the Goba Junipers.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Recorded in some drier woodland around Bilen and the Jemma Valley.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Seen well near our accommodation at Awassa Lake.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Recorded very well in sparse reeds around the edges of Lake Awassa.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

As with the above species, there were some around Lake Awassa.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

Recorded on one day in Awash NP.

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae

Little Rush (African Bush) Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

2 birds were seen well in reedbeds at the edge of Lake Langano.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

A single bird was seen near the Juniper forest near Goba, where it was calling openly.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Recorded at Awassa, where we had a single bird.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Recorded on the first day and again around Lake Langano.

Boran Cisticola (NE) *Cisticola bodessa*

A single bird was seen near Lake Abijata.

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus*

A few of these uncommon cisticolas were seen in very dry woodland: Awash NP and Bilen area.

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

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

NOTE: Clements does not recognize any of the 5 species that Winding Cisticola is often split into, the above species is lumped with C. galactotes.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen on the way to the Bale Mountains, in some open fields.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

A few birds were seen very well on the plains at Awash NP.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Small numbers seen at scattered locations throughout Ethiopia.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Good numbers were seen in *Acacia* trees at most lower woodland sites.

Red-fronted Apalis *Urorhipis rufifrons*

Recorded in small groups in the Afar Territories and in Awash NP.

Grey(Green)-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Seen almost daily at scattered woodland locations throughout Ethiopia.

NOTE: Clements does not accept the split of Grey-backed Cisticola from Green-backed Cisticola C. brachyura.

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*

A number of these birds were seen during our time in the north-east around Bilen area.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Seen at a number of dry country sites during the tour, mainly around Lake Langano.

Family uncertain Incertidae Sedis

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyuran*

Recorded in small numbers at a number of dry habitat locations on the tour.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Recorded on all the days we had in the woodland around Lake Langano.

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

Scaly Chatterer (NE) *Turdoides aylmeri*

Was seen very briefly at Sof Omar, a very shy and elusive species.

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa*

Small numbers seen at various sites throughout Ethiopia, mainly around Lake Langano.

White-rumped Babbler (NE) *Turdoides leucopygia*

Quite commonly encountered around Lake Awassa, Wondo Genet, Sof Omar and Lake Langano.

Abyssinian Catbird (E) *Parophasma galinieri*

This extremely vocal bird was observed on two consecutive days, at Dinsho and the Goba junipers.

Syviid Babblers Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Recorded at scattered localities during the tour, mainly in the lush vegetation near the lakes.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Biggest numbers were seen around Lake Langano and Awash NP, where we had them every day.

Common (Greater) Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

A single bird was seen very well at our Lake Langano accommodation.

Menetries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*

We had two separate sightings of single birds, one in Awash NP and one at Bilen, this is often a scarce bird to find and we were lucky to get very good views of both male and female birds.

Brown Warbler *Sylvia lugens*

We found 3 birds in the low scrub near the Sanetti plateau. The birds were of the distinctive and restricted race that is sometimes split as Bale Parisoma.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

- Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus*
This dry-country species was seen on the first 2 days and again in the Jemma valley.
- Montane White-eye (NE)** *Zosterops poliogastrus*
This species was seen at higher altitude sites around Wondo Genet and Goba.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

- Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis spilonotus*
Birds were seen on two consecutive days, first a bird on a nest at Awassa, another at Wondo Genet.

Starlings Sturnidae

- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*
Recorded on three occasions in the vicinity of the Rift Valley Lakes.
- Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
The most abundant starling species on the trip with sightings almost daily, except at high altitude.
- Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
A common large starling in Ethiopia.
- Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*
Common to abundant throughout.
- 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, biggest numbers at Wondo Genet.
- Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
2 birds were seen briefly along the escarpment of the Jemma Valley.
- Bristle-crowned Starling** *Onychognathus salvadorii*
Great sightings of this interesting bird were enjoyed at Sof Omar.
- White-billed Starling (E)** *Onychognathus albirostris*
The Jemma Escarpment produced six of these near-endemic birds.
- Sharpe's Starling** *Pholia sharpie*
Great views of this often tricky bird were enjoyed around Wondo Genet on both days there.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
Recorded in scattered localities throughout Ethiopia, predominantly on livestock.

Thrushes Turdidae

- Abyssinian Ground Thrush** *Zoothera piaggiae*
Seen well on three occasions: in Wondo Genet and in the Harenna Forest.
- Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*
Seen at all higher elevation grasslands, biggest numbers on the way to Goba.
- African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*
Small numbers were scattered throughout Ethiopia, the initial sighting at Lake Awassa.
- Abyssinian (Olive) Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*
Very common in the junipers below the Sanetti plateau and widespread in other high-lying forest.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae

- Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Seen on 3 days: Sof Omar, Lake Langano and in Awash NP.

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa*

We had lovely views of this striking species in the Juniper forest above Goba.

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

This species was seen well at lake Awassa and again near Sof Omar.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*

An uncommon bird in Ethiopia that we recorded in the forest near Bishangari Lodge.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Surprisingly only recorded on two days around Awash NP and the Bilen plains.

Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe*

A very sought-after bird that was seen well near Bilen Lodge.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Small numbers of this migrant were seen at random locations during the tour.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

A single bird was viewed just before we reached Awash on day 1, another was seen near Sof Omar.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with African Stonechat S. torquatus (below), Eurasian Stonechat S. rubicola and the above species under Stonechat T. torquatus.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Low numbers recorded at high altitude grassland sites on our route.

Red-breasted Wheatear *Oenanthe bottae*

Regularly seen in higher elevation grasslands.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Very common during the second half of the tour in drier open woodland.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

This common Palaearctic migrant was seen fairly regularly on the tour

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Seen regularly throughout the tour, particularly the second half.

Abyssinian (Mourning) Wheatear *Oenanthe lugubris*

First seen at Lake Langano then at Melka Gebdu and in the Jemma Valley.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Mourning Wheatear O. lugens and Arabian Wheatear O. lugentoides as Mourning Wheatear O. lugens.

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*

A handful of birds were seen in the Jemma Valley.

Brown-tailed Rock Chat *Cercomela scotocerca*

Good views were had of birds at Sof Omar and again near the Jemma River.

Sombre Rock Chat (NE) *Cercomela dubia*

We were fortunate to find a single bird showing very well on black lava near Lake Baseka.

Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*

Near Awash at the lava fields on 2 days.

Moorland Chat (NE) *Cercomela sordida*

A common chat of the high altitude grasslands, good numbers around Bale mountains.

Rüppell's Black Chat (E) *Myrmecocichla melaena*

A small number of these endemic birds were seen well on the Jemma escarpment.

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Recorded at Yabello, Lake Langano, in the Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge.

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

Another endemic that was really seen well on the way down into the Jemma Valley.

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Recorded on 3 days around the Awash NP region.

Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus*

Very good views were had of this bird on a few days around Lake Langano where it was common.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Good views at Lake Baseka and on the Jemma escarpment.

- Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher (E)** *Dioptrornis chocolatinus*
It was recorded around Wondo Genet, Goba and the Harena Forest during the first week.
- Northern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis edolioides*
Recorded regularly at drier areas/localities throughout, mainly near Lakes Awassa and Langano.
- Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*
A few birds were seen well near the hot springs in Awash NP.
- Ethiopian (African) Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis pumilus*
A common species, seen at scattered dry country sites, biggest numbers around lake Langano.
- Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*
A single bird showed well in the gardens we birded around Lake Awassa.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*
Common during the first week of the tour in denser forest habitats.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
Best views were had at the Bishangari Lodge at Lake Langano.
- Nile Valley Sunbird** *Hedydipna metallica*
This bird was very common in flowering *Acacia* trees north of the Bilen Plains.
- (Eastern) Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*
Small numbers seen at the forest of Wondo Genet.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout Ethiopia, seen on the first 3 days.
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze*
This higher altitude sunbird was seen mainly at highland sites during the first week.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*
Recorded commonly in non-breeding plumage at scattered localities throughout the tour.
- Marico (Mariqua) Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*
The dry woodland around Lake Langano produced 2 or 3 sightings of this bird.
- Shining Sunbird** *Cinnyris habessinicus*
First sighting was at Sof Omar, this great bird was then seen exceptionally well around Awash NP and the Bilen Plains area.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*
Recorded regularly during the trip, including at Wondo Genet and the Jemma Valley.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*
Common throughout, their untidy nests noticed along roadside in acacia trees.
- Swainson's Sparrow (NE)** *Passer swainsonii*
One of the most common birds of the tour, it was encountered almost daily at most sites.
- Bush Petronia** *Gymnoris dentate*
Recorded in the Jemma Valley only, where it was fairly common.
- Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Gymnoris pyrgita*
Small numbers were seen at most dry country sites during the second half of the tour.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*
Recorded towards the end of the tour in the Awash and Jemma Valley areas.
- White-headed Buffalo Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli*
As the above species in drier areas, with additional sightings around Lake Langano.
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
Nice views of a few birds in the trees and shrubs in the Jemma Valley.
- Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*

We had good views of a few birds feeding in the forests at Wondo Genet.

Baglafecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafecht*

This common weaver was quite common during the first week at higher altitudes.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Recorded on 5 days in Ethiopia, including around Lake Langano.

Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*

Small numbers were seen regularly around our lodge at Lake Langano, including good males.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

This species was seen on a single day at the hot springs in Awash NP.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Irregularly recorded at scattered sites including around Lake Langano and Awash area.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis*

First seen in secondary forest at Wondo Genet and again in drier woodland around Sof Omar.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

A small number of birds was seen near the Bishangari Lodge at Lake Langano.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

We had great views of 2 breeding-plumage birds on the way to Sof Omar.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

We recorded a large flock of birds in non-breeding plumage on the way from Goba to Lake Langano in scrubby habitat along the roadside.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

A few birds were seen near Bishangari Lodge, where they showed yellow shoulders and white in their non-breeding plumage.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

A few birds in partial breeding plumage were recorded in the Jemma Valley.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-billed Pytilia (E) *Pytilia lineate*

A single bird was a very welcome surprise find at the Jemma River during lunch.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Brief views were had of two birds in the *Acacia* woodland in Awash NP.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

We had great views of this well-named seedeater at Lake Awassa and near Lake Langano.

Green(-backed) Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*

Unbelievable views of 2 birds were enjoyed at the forest near Bishangari Lodge.

Abyssinian Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza salvadorii*

A single bird was seen well along the roadside in Harenna forest, beyond the Sanetti plateau.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

A widespread and common firefinch around the country, it was regularly seen throughout Ethiopia.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricate*

A few birds were seen well but briefly in Wondo Genet.

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*

Seen at Sof Omar.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Common and widespread during the tour throughout Ethiopia.

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

This beautiful bird was seen in the woodlands of Awash NP.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

A small flock of these birds presented themselves in a reedbed at Lake Langano.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Most sightings were around Lake Awassa and Wondo Genet.

African Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

3 birds were seen on the way to Goba, including some amazing scope views of one bird.

African Silverbill *Lonchura cantans*

Very good views were enjoyed of a flock of 8 birds on two days in Awash NP, a single bird was later seen near the Jemma river.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

Irregular scattered records throughout the tour, including birds at lake Awassa and Wondo Genet.

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeate*

Good sightings were had near the Lake langano shoreline and in the Jemma Valley.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Seen around Lake Awassa and Wondo Genet.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Seen almost daily throughout the tour.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

A few birds were seen well at Wondo Genet and near Bishangari Lodge.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

Biggest numbers were seen around Wondo Genet, with extra sightings around Lake Langano.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Small numbers were recorded, predominantly in Awash NP and around the Rift Valley Lakes.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

A few birds were seen well on our final day of birding around the Jemma river.

Abyssinian Longclaw (E) *Macronyx flavicollis*

On the last day we found around 6 birds in the fields on the way back to Addis Ababa.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Recorded twice at sites in the Rift Valley.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

This arid-area bird was recorded twice in the Awash region.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

A single bird was seen in open habitat near the village at Wondo Genet.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Seen well on one day at Wondo Genet.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Small numbers were seen well at scattered locations around Goba and Lake Langano.

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*

We had a great view of a few birds near the Dinsho headquarters of Bale Mountains NP.

Ethiopian (Abyssinian) Siskin (E) *Serinus nigriceps*

Recorded in good numbers in high altitude grassland, mainly around the Bale mountains.

African Citril (NE) *Crithagra citrinelloides*

Common during the first few days around Wondo Genet and the Rift Valley lakes.

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi*

Recorded in a small flock at Koka Dam on the first morning.

Salvadori's Seedeater (E) *Crithagra xantholaema*

This very special bird was seen well on the road down into the arid Sof Omar valley.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Small groups were seen in the Jemma Valley.

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata*

Good views were had of these birds around Lake langano and in riverine thickets at Awash NP.

Brown-rumped Seedeater (NE) *Crithagra tristriata*

A common suburban and higher-altitude species.

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*

The higher altitude regions of the first week in Ethiopia produced sightings of this seedeater.

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

Good views of a few birds were first enjoyed on the way to Goba, more were seen later along the Jemma Escarpment.

Striolated (House) Bunting *Emberiza striolata*

A few birds were seen very well in the Jemma Valley.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

First birds were seen in dry scrubby habitat near Lake Shalla, more recorded later along the Jemma escarpment.

Somali Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura*

Pairs of these gorgeous birds were seen well on two days 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, Wondo Genet, Harenna Forest and in the riverine woodland at Awash NP.

Sacred (Hamadryas) Baboon *Papio hamadryas*

We did well with this often tricky animal and enjoyed great views on a few occasions – the best being of a huge troop near the hot springs at Awash NP.

Olive (Anubis) Baboon *Papio anubis*

Encountered at many sites throughout Ethiopia.

Gelada (E) *Theropithecus gelada*

This incredible baboon was seen briefly at the Jemma Escarpments

Grivet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

The northern cousin of the Vervet Monkey – often treated as a subspecies, they were first seen in the hotel grounds at Lake Awassa, followed by numerous further sightings at scattered localities.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

A few of these primates showed well at Lake Langano and Awash.

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae**Abyssinian Hare** *Lepus habessinicus*

Seen in the drier parts of Ethiopia.

NOTE: The hares in Africa are constantly under taxonomic review, currently the species we recorded was the above, generally now regarded as separate from Cape Hare L. capensis.

Starck's Hare (E) *Lepus starcki*

This well-marked hare was seen very well on the Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains.

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

A few were seen well in dry sandy areas around our Bilen Lodge.

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*

Seen in forest sites at Lake Awassa, Wondo Genet and Bishangari Lodge.

Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae**Giant Root Rat***Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

This bizarre endemic was seen well peeping out of their burrows 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*

A single animal was seen well on a nightdrive at our Lake Langano accommodation.

Black-backed Jackal*Canis mesomelas*

A pair was seen very well in Awash NP, later a single animal was seen near Bilen Lodge.

Ethiopian Wolf (E)*Canis simensis*

This is the rarest canid on Earth with a population estimated to be less than 500 individuals. We found and watched 3 individuals after much searching in their Sanetti Plateau habitat.

Bat-eared Fox*Otocyon megalotis*

3 of these insectivores were surprisingly seen on a walk at the lodge grounds of Lake Langano.

Mongoose Herpestidae**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

We found 2 of these little carnivores in the Bilen Plains area.

White-tailed Mongoose*Ichneumia albicauda*

A very large nocturnal mongoose that was seen very well at Lake Langano and again at Bilen.

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

This large predator is quite common around Ethiopia, we had a single animal near our Lake Langano Lodge and heard numerous calls from the surrounding plains at Bilen Lodge.

Genets and Civets Viverridae**African Civet***Civettictis civetta*

Single distinctive animals were seen in Lake Langano and Awash NP areas.

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

These strange animals were recorded near Dinsho, at the Abijata/Shala viewpoint and then we had very dark individuals on the extremely dark lava flows near Lake Baseka.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax*Heterohyrax brucei*

This species was seen along the cliff face at Sof Omar and in the Jemma Valley.

Hippopotamus Hippopotamidae**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibious*

A few animals were seen after their loud snorts were heard near Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.

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

Very common and recorded daily during the latter half of the trip.

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

We had a few great views of this endemic race in the area around the Dinsh headquarters of Bale Mountains NP.

- Mountain Nyala (E)** *Tragelaphus buxtoni*
Another very special endemic to Ethiopia, where we had it in Bale Mountains NP.
- Lesser Kudu** *Tragelaphus imberbis*
A shy and uncommon antelope of the drier areas – we had a few in Awash NP.
- Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker** *Sylvicapra grimmia*
Very few individuals were seen in Wondo Genet and Sof Omar.
- Salt's Dik-dik** *Madoqua saltiana*
A common small mammal species around Awash and Bilen in the north-east.
- Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca*
Around 10 animals were seen in 2 or 3 little groups around Bale Mountains NP headquarters.
- Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*
A few of these bulky, water-dependant anelope were seen at the springs in Awash NP.
- Grant's Gazelle** *Gazella granti*
A small herd were seen in a region that is now enclosed to protect the last area that still has grass in the reserve near the Lakes of Abijata and Shalla.
- Soemmerring's Gazelle (NE)** *Gazella soemmerringi*
Several were seen on three consecutive days in Awash NP and on the Bilen Plains to the north.
- Gerenuk** *Litocranius walleri*
A few of these strangely stretched animals were seen around the Bilen area.
- Beisa Oryx** *Oryx beisa*
Another large antelope that was seen in and around Awash NP and on the Bilen Plains.

Reptiles

- Leopard Tortoise** *Geochelone pardalis*
A few of these chelonians, that reach enormous proportions in Ethiopia, were seen around Awash and Bilen Plains.
- Striped Skink** *Mabuya striata*
A very widespread species that was recorded on 3 or 3 days of the tour.
- Blue-headed Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis*
A single big animal was seen around Sof Omar.
- Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*
This amazing animal was seen on a few days around Lake Langano, in Awash NP and Jemma river.

Photography credits as they occur in the text: Spot-breasted Lapwing, Black-winged Lovebird, Ethiopian Wolf, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Palms at Filwoha hot springs, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, White-winged Cliff Chat all by Markus Lilje

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