



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Ethiopia III

5th to 23rd January 2010



Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader Markus Lilje

Tour Summary

Our Ethiopian adventure began as we headed south from a still-sleeping Addis Ababa and descended into Africa's Great Rift Valley. This day 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 the wonderful African Pygmy Goose, storks, including the abundant and very relaxed Marabou, pelicans, shorebirds, herons, Hamerkop and kingfishers. The woodlands and



thickets, dominated by *Acacia*, surrounding these lakes did not get outdone either, and teemed with birds such as the dazzling white-morph African Paradise Flycatcher, endemic Black-winged Lovebird, Thick-billed Raven, Blue-headed Coucal, Booted Eagle, numerous striking African Fish Eagle, Black Crowned Crane and the amazing Abyssinian Ground Hornbill. The local fish market also came up with the goods at Lake Awassa with Allen's Gallinule, Western Reef Heron and the endemic Banded Barbet.

We then moved onwards and arrived at Wondo Genet in time for lunch, before venturing into the hills for our first taste of Ethiopian forest birding. Memorable sightings of our time spent here included White-checked Turaco, Tambourine Dove, Double-toothed Barbet, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, a group of Yellow-fronted Parrot, Narina Trogon, Western Banded Snake Eagle, the vocal Ethiopian Oriole, endemic Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher and the majestic Crowned Eagle. As we saw in numerous areas around the country, the expanding local populations are putting enormous pressure on the natural vegetation, which is having a noticeable impact on the number and variety of species that can normally be found with ease.

From the denser vegetation around Wondo Genet, we moved to our next destination and one of the tour's highlights, the famous Bale Mountains to the east. During the long drive through open agricultural land and 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 Cough, Blue-winged Goose and White-backed Black Tit. As we drove through a small corner of the national park, we also had some great mammal sightings such as the incredibly range-restricted Mountain Nyala, of which we had a few great views, as well as Warthog and even a great view of a Serval looking for its rodent food!



From our base in Goba, we explored two totally different regions –the area around the caves at Sof Omar and the Sanetti Plateau. The road to Sof Omar descends a few hundred meters into some very



dry woodland, where we were able to locate new species that included a number of hornbills, Grey-headed Batis, Bristle-crowned Starling, the rare and localised Salvadori's Seedeater, Northern Crombec and the distinctive local sub-species of Red-headed Weaver. Thereafter we also spent some time in the spectacular and extensive underground caverns - the Sof Omar cave system, an extraordinary natural phenomenon carved through the relatively soft rock by the Web River. This underground world is an important Islamic shrine that was named after the Sheikh Sof Omar. On the road back to Goba we picked up a few more good birds like Somali Crow, the impressive Kori Bustard and Pallid Harrier. 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 quality of the species made up for what it lacked in numbers. We recorded 7 of the critically endangered Ethiopian Wolves, and could even watch as one stalked and eventually caught a Giant Mole Rat. Other species on and near the plateau were Golden, Verreaux's and Martial Eagles, Bearded Vulture, Ruddy Shelduck, Chestnut-naped Francolin, Wattled Crane and Thekla Lark.



We spent some time in the Haremma forest on the way to our 2 nights at Negele and had good views of some tricky seedeaters, including Abyssinian Crimsonwing, Black-and-white Mannikin and Yellow-bellied Waxbill. Notable sightings during the rest of the day, as we made our way through some absolutely stunning *Acacia* woodland, included Klaas's Cuckoo, Spotted Palm Thrush, White-crested Helmetshrike, Purple Grenadier, Red-and-Yellow Barbet, and both Shelley's and Golden-breasted Starlings, with the undisputed highlight of the day being the very localised and endemic Ruspoli's Turaco that was finally (and relievingly!) seen in the 11th hour.

We were up and out early the next day as we headed south-east out of Negele towards the Somali/Kenya border, an area that passes through some really productive woodland. Our first stop was for the very rare Sidamo Lark that was then spotted by John soon after we started on the walk to look for it. Other good birds on this open plain area included great views of Caspian Plover, including one individual in breeding plumage, and the ever-popular Temminck's Courser. In the dry savanna further to the south-east, which we birded for the rest of the day, we then had a good number of the specials for the area, including Somali Bunting, Red-naped Bushshrike, Banded Parisoma, Pringle's Puffback, White-crowned Starling, Northern Grosbeak Canary, Pale Prinia, Three-streaked Tchagra, Pygmy Batis and Taita Fiscal among many others.

From Negele we headed west to Yabello, on a wide loop that cuts through the south of Ethiopia and its very bird-rich woodlands. The birding was done mainly along the roadside as well as near the Dawa River, where we enjoyed our breakfast. Birds we recorded included Magpie Starling, Rufous Chatterer, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Bare-eyed Thrush, White-winged Collared Dove and the bizarre Stresemann's Bush Crow. As we neared the town of Yabello, we then also added Vulturine Guineafowl, Straw-tailed Whydah, elegant

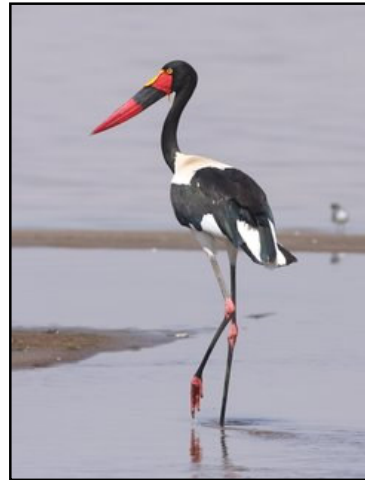


White-tailed Swallow, Grey-capped and Black-capped Social Weavers, as well as a very energetic Senegal Bushbaby. A full day around the town of



Yabello also produced a number of special birds to offer, with D'Arnaud's Barbet, Foxy Lark, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Black-cheeked Waxbill, Banded Parisoma and White-bellied Bustard being particularly memorable.

A resort on the shoreline of Lake Langano is where we spent the next two nights, back in the Rift Valley, where we were surrounded by rocky slopes with tall savanna and mixed scrub, as well as more luxuriant forest on the Lake's opposite banks around a lodge that we visited for a day. Exploring these habitats proved very productive, serving up great views of Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Masked Shrike, Little Rock Thrush, Red-throated Wryneck at its nest, Red-bellied Parrot and Striped Kingfisher in the drier areas around our lodge. The forests and lake edge on the other side of the lake got us birds like Green Malkoha, Green Twinspot, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Lemon Dove, Black Cuckooshrike, Lesser Jacana, a fantastic Saddle-billed Stork and African Snipe, plus the only Hippos we encountered during the trip.

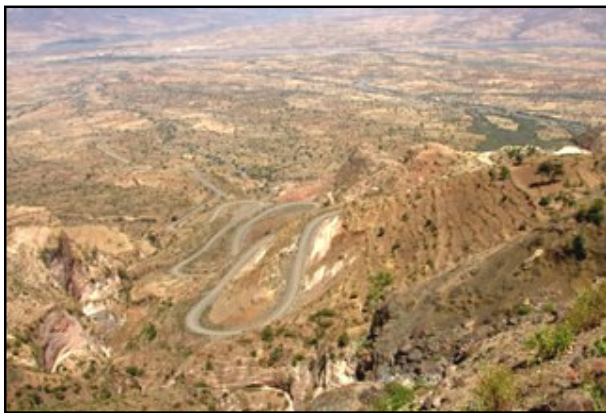


Gibe Gorge, to the west of the country's capital, provided the next target area for our birding, where we were based at a very comfortable hotel in the small but busy town of Weliso for one night. Foxy Cisticola, Black-crowned Tchagra, Scaly Francolin, Yellow-rumped Seed-eater and Abyssinian Waxbill were some of the birds we first saw on the slopes of the very large open valley. As we then made our way back up the side of the gorge towards our accommodation, we added Vinaceous Dove, Yellow-fronted Canary, and then had some great views of the impressive Moustached Grass Warbler in its preferred long-grass habitat.

It was then 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 hot springs, hosting many of the more arid species. Over 2 days in the national park, based at a new lodge at 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 and Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks, Red-winged and Singing Bush Larks, a variety of shrikes, including Somali Fiscal and the Chinese migrant Steppe Grey Shrike, as well as Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse. The area also plays host to a number of good mammals such as Soemerring's Gazelle, Lesser Kudu, Beisa Oryx, Bat-eared Fox, Black-backed Jackal and Abyssinian Hare. To the north the open Bilen plains and woodlands – the land of the Afar tribal group that still live their nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyles in this region - held Somali Ostrich, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Nile Valley Sunbird, Black Scrub Robin, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, as well as a flock of numerous gorgeous Northern Carmine Bee-eaters. White-tailed Mongoose, the bizarre Gerenuk, Salt's Dikdik and Spotted Hyaena were some of the special mammals we saw very well here.



We recorded few birds, including 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 is at its most vocal. Not only did we get views of this tough bird after using the help of some locals, we also found Erckel's Francolin, another endemic in a similar area. Other notable species included White-billed Starling, Abyssinian Wheatear, Striolated and Cinnamon-breasted Buntings, White-winged Cliff Chat and Rüppell's Black Chat. After breakfast we headed toward the Jemma River, one of the Nile's major tributaries, and recorded Speckle-fronted Weaver had wonderful views of Fox Kestrel and Giant Kingfisher. Heading

back to our accommodations we then encountered our only Geladas of the tour and enjoyed great views of a large male and a number of other members of the troop.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and, with a large number of endemics encountered, one that showed again why Ethiopia is an essential destination in Africa!

BIRD SPECIES LIST (469 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

Seen on Bilen Plains.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Common Ostrich S. camelus as Ostrich S. camelus.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Vulturine Guineafowl

Acryllium vulturinum

Recorded between Negele and Yabello.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

Scaly Francolin

Pternistis squamatus

Seen around Lake Langano and Ghibe Gorge.

Harwood's Francolin (E)

Pternistis harwoodi

One bird seen well in Jemma Valley.

Chestnut-naped Francolin (NE)

Pternistis castaneicollis

Seen well in Bale Mountains NP.

Erckel's Francolin (NE)

Pternistis erckelii

Single bird showed well in Jemma Valley.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl

Pternistis leucoscepus

Recorded on two days in dry country.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Large numbers on the Rift Valley Lakes.

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus

A few on Lake Awassa.

Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Blue-winged Goose (E)	<i>Cyanochen cyanoptera</i>
Endemic of Ethiopian highlands, mainly Bale Mountains.	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Two pairs on the Sanetti plateau.	
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Amazing views on Lake Awassa.	
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Red-billed Teal (Duck)	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Seen on the first day on the Rift Valley Lakes.	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Seen in small numbers at scattered sites.	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
On Rift Valley Lakes.	
Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
At Bilen Lodge.	
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes.	
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
On two days on Rift Valley Lakes.	
Ferruginous Duck (Pochard)	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Single distant birds on 2 days around Debre Zeit.	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
First day at Lake Chelecheka.	
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
First day at Lake Chelecheka.	

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
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Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Biggest numbers on day 1.	
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
A dozen seen in rural areas around day 1 lakes.	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Seen on 3 days – best views at Bishangari, Lake Langano.	
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
NOTE: Clements calls this species Sacred Ibis and regards Malagasy Sacred Ibis <i>T. bernieri</i> as a race.	
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Wattled Ibis (E)	<i>Bostrychia carunculata</i>
Common highland endemic of Ethiopia.	

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>

Only recorded on 2 days at the start of the tour.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Awash NP hot springs.	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda as Cattle Egret E. ibis.	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Best view at Lake Langano	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Western Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Eastern Great Egret E. modesta as Cattle Egret E. alba.	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Reef Heron	<i>Egretta gularis</i>
A single bird was seen Lake Awassa.	

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
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Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Longtailed) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
White-breasted (Great) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Great Cormorant P. carbo.	

Anhingas Anhingidae

[African] Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Small number on Rift Valley Lakes.	
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Australasian Darter A. novaehollandiae and Oriental Darter A. melanogaster as Darter A. melanogaster.	

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Small numbers in open woodland and agriculture.	
Scissor-tailed Kite	<i>Chelictinia riocourii</i>
A single bird seen over open fields on day 1.	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
First views on the Sanetti Plateau, then a stunning adult in Jemma Valley and juveniles near Gemasa Geden.	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Seen on 5 tour days, including a number of sightings around Awash.	

Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
Small numbers – mainly near Jemma Valley.	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
2 juveniles in Jemma Valley.	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Aegypius occipitalis</i>
Seen on 2 days in south-eastern Ethiopia.	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Aegypius tracheliotus</i>
Bogol Manyo and Awash NP.	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
2 birds near Lake Baseka and Awash NP.	
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Best view near Hareenna forest.	
[Western] Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
Single bird in Wondo Genet.	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Mainly females, a great male near Goba.	
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
3 separate melanistic birds seen on the tour.	
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Best views of birds at Wondo Genet.	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Seen on two days, either side of Yabello.	
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Single bird seen in flight east of Yabello.	
Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
A single bird seen in flight at Wondo Genet.	
Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
Single bird seen well on the way to Goba.	
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps this, the nominate race with Forest Buzzard B. trizonatus.</i>	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
A single bird was seen in flight on day 1.	
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Seen very well on the Sanetti Plateau.	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Seen in mountainous terrain on 3 days.	
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>
Single bird near Wondo Genet.	
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus spilogaster</i>
Single bird seen between Negele and Yabello.	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Seen well near a military airport on day 1 and again in the Jemma Valley.	

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus ayresii</i>
Single bird seen in flight on day 1.	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
A bird surprised us flying at 4000m above the Sanetti Plateau.	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Crowned (Hawk-)Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
A single bird seen at Wondo Genet.	

Falcons Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Common around Awash NP.	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Good numbers seen near Goba.	
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Rock Kestrel F. ruficollis from southern Africa.</i>	
Fox Kestrel	<i>Falco alopex</i>
A stunning pair seen in the Jemma Valley.	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>

Bustards Otidae

Arabian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>
Great views in Awash and more on Bilen plains.	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
In wheatfields near Goba and Awash NP.	
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Great views in Awash NP.	
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Barrow's Korhaan E. barrowii.</i>	
Buff-crested Bustard	<i>Lophotis gindiana</i>
Hartlaub's Bustard	<i>Lissotis hartlaubii</i>
Seen on 2 days in Awash NP.	

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Rouget's Rail (E)	<i>Rougetius rougetii</i>
Highland endemic, recorded in Bale Mountains NP.	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African (Purple) Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
At the Lake Awassa fish market.	
<i>NOTE: Clements does not accept this as a full species and lumps it with the nominate Purple Swamphen P. porphyrio.</i>	
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
Single bird seen well at Lake Awassa.	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>

Cranes Gruidae

Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>
Recorded at Rift Valley lakes and in flight near Weliso.	
Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
A pair on the Sanetti Plateau.	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
Hundreds at and flying over Lake Chelekcheka, scattered elsewhere.	

Stone-Curlews & Thick-Knees Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*
Most around Lake Langano.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Single bird near Bilen Lodge.

Plovers Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*
Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus*
Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
Spot-breasted Lapwing *Vanellus melanocephalus*
Common as we entered Bale Mountains NP, near Dinsho headquarters.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Common around Rift Valley Lake shores.
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Abundant at Lake Zeway, day 1.
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*
Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*
4 birds including one in breeding plumage on Liben Plains near Negele.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*
2 birds seen on Lake Langano.
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*
Seen at Lake Langano.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Recorded near Bishangaro Lodge, Lake Langano.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
A single bird between Gemasa Geden and Addis Ababa.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Small numbers at Rift Valley Lakes and Bilen Lodge.
Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*
6 birds seen well south of Negele.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS Laridae

Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Grey-hooded Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
1 at Lake Awassa, more around Lake Langano later.	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Single bird at Lake Langano.	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
Drier country, mainly around Awash NP.	
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>
Bilen Lodge produced 2 birds.	

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
White-collared Pigeon (E)	<i>Columba albitorques</i>
Common highland endemic.	
African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Single bird in Harena forest.	
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Good views around Lake Langano.	
Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
White-winged Collared Dove (NE)	<i>Streptopelia reichenowi</i>
3 birds seen well at the Dawa river in southern Ethiopia.	
(African) Mourning [Collared] Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
Recorded in Gibe Gorge only.	
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Recorded at Wondo Genet and around Lake Langano.	
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Best views at Wondo Genet.	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
Great views at Wondo Genet and Awash NP.	

Cockatoos & Parrots Psittacidae

Black-winged Lovebird (E)	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>
Fairly common and widespread endemic.	
Red-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>
Yellow-fronted Parrot (E)	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>
After much work 5 birds were seen, some scoped.	

Turacos Musophagidae

White-cheeked Turaco (NE)	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>
Seen well in Wondo Genet, near Goba and at Bishangari Lodge.	
(Prince) Ruspoli's Turaco (E)	<i>Tauraco ruspolii</i>
2 birds were seen well after we almost threw in the towel, north of Negele.	

Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>
Seen in the Rift Valley around Lake Langano.	
White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>
Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
4 birds seen well along the Awash River.	

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
A single bird at Lake Awassa.	
Green Malkoha	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
Almost unknown in Ethiopia, we had good views near Bishangari Lodge.	
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
A male seen on the way to Negele from Goba.	

Owls Strigidae

Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
Great views near Dinsho and a surprise on the way to Addis from Gemasa Geden.	
Greyish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
A single bird on night-drive in Awash NP.	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Single bird seen well at Lake Langano.	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
1 bird at the Dawa river.	

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>
Common around Awash NP and Bilen plains.	

Swifts Apodidae

African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Abundant around the Filwoha hot spring, Awash NP.	

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
Recorded in small groups in drier <i>Acacia</i> savannah areas.	

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Seen well in Wondo Genet and Lake Langano.	

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Birds at Lake Awassa and Bishangari Lodge.	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>

Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Mainly in wooded habitats near the Rift Valley Lakes.	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
A single bird showed well in the Jemma Valley.	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
Blue-breasted Bee-eater	<i>Merops variegates</i>
This stunning bird was seen on 7 days of the tour.	
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>
Another cracking bird that was pleasantly common throughout, except in the south.	

Hoopoes Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
This good-looking bird, with a striking wing pattern, was observed almost daily.	
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with African Hoopoe <i>U. africana</i> .	

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe (NE)	<i>Phoeniculus somaliensis</i>
Small flocks seen at scattered sites, including a bird with a rare red-billed individual.	
Black Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
Seen around Yabello and Lake Langano.	
Abyssinian Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Hemprich's Hornbill	<i>Tockus hemprichii</i>
Best views around Lake Langano.	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
[Northern] Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
NOTE: Clements lumps the whole Red-billed Hornbill complex under <i>T. erythrorhynchus</i> . IOC splits this group into 5 full species.	
Northern (Eastern) Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>
Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
We had a number of great views of these special birds throughout the tour.	

African Barbets Lybiidae

Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Single bird in forest at Wondo Genet.	
Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>
Black-throated Barbet	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>
Banded Barbet (E)	<i>Lybius undatus</i>
This endemic was best seen at its nest near Lake Awassa.	
Black-billed Barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>
Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
Recorded at Wondo Genet and Bishangaro Lodge.	

Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>
3 birds seen on a single day as we made our way to Negele in the south.	
Yellow-breasted Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>
Single bird seen well at Bilen Lodge.	
D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>
Common around Yabello's woodlands.	

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Seen on both days at Wondo Genet.	
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Single bird seen at Bishangaro Lodge.	

Woodpeckers Picidae

Red-throated (Rufous-necked) Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Birds were seen well at Lake Langano.	
Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>
Singles recorded on 3 days of the tour.	
Abyssinian Woodpecker (E)	<i>Dendropicos abyssinicus</i>
Dissappointingly brief glimpse of a bird flying out of the tree we were scanning at Wondo Genet.	
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
[African] Grey Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos goertae</i>
<i>NOTE: Clements splits Gray-headed Woodpecker D. spodocephalus from this species; we saw Gray-headed Woodpecker D. goertae.</i>	

Wattle-Eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

Grey-headed Batis	<i>Batis orientalis</i>
A few sightings in southern Ethiopia.	
Western Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis minor</i>
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Eastern Black-headed Batis B. minor as Black-headed Batis B. minor.</i>	
Pygmy Batis	<i>Batis perkeo</i>
Recorded mainly in southern Ethiopia.	
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
A sighting in Wondo Genet and Bishangari Lodge.	

Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Stunning bird seen near Genale, Yabello and Awash NP.	

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Birds seen well around Yabello and Lake Langano.	
Orange-(Suphur-)breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
As above, we had birds near Yabello and Lake Langano.	
Rosy-patched Bushshrike	<i>Rhodophoneus cruentus</i>
Three-streaked Tchagra	<i>Tchagra jamesi</i>
Single birds around Negele region.	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
Pringle's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus pringlii</i>
A few seen nicely on the Bogol Manyo road.	

Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>
Red-naped Bushshrike (NE)	<i>Laniarius ruficeps</i>
On eof these special birds was seen on the Bogol Manyo road.	
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>
Two birds seen in Harena forest.	
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Birds were seen well in Wondo Genet and again at Bishangari Lodge.	
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
A single male in Wondo Genet.	

Shrikes Laniidae

[Northern]White-crowned(rumped) Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
With a grey cap – seen on a number of occasions.	
Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>
This bird was seen a few times – sporting the rufous cap and tail.	
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps the above 2 species as Rufous-tailed Shrike L. isabellinus.</i>	
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Seen in the open plains at Awash NP.	
Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidorostris</i>
Single birds seen on 2 days, Awash NP.	
<i>NOTE: Clements lumps the above two species under Southern Gray Shrike L. meridionalis.</i>	
Grey-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>
Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius somalicus</i>
Scarce in the far south around Negele.	
Somali Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>
Fairly common around Awash NP.	
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Singles seen in Awash NP and Jemma.	
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
Stunning migrant around Lake Langano.	

Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

Ethiopian (Dark-headed) Oriole (E)	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>
A common endemic at forest sites.	
(African) Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
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Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
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Crows & Jays Corvidae

Stresemann's Bush Crow (E)	<i>Zavattariornis stresemanni</i>
Very sought-after endemic around Yabello – showed really well a few times.	
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>

Few birds around Bale Mountains NP.

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Somali Crow (NE) *Corvus edithae*

Recorded in the drier east and south-eastern areas.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

Thick-billed Raven (E) *Corvus crassirostris*

This freakish-looking bird was seen very well around Lake Awassa and Weliso.

Tits & Chickadees Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Parus leucomelas*

Recorded a few times around Lake Langano.

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

A lovely endemic recorded at Dinsho – the Bale Mountains headquarters near Goba.

Acacia Tit *Parus thruppi*

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus*

Larks Alaudidae

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*

Finally we had good views in Awash NP.

Red-winged Lark *Mirafra hypermetra*

A single birds seen dashing between grass clumps in Awash NP.

Gillett's Lark (NE) *Mirafra gilletti*

4 birds in Awash NP.

Sidamo Lark (E) *Heteromirafra sidamoensis*

Great views of this rare bird after John spotted it on the Liben Plains near Negele.

Foxy Lark *Mirafra alopex*

2 birds showed well near Yabello.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Around 6 in a large mixed-species lark flock in the Bilen Plains.

Erlanger's Lark (E) *Calandrella erlangeri*

This endemic was seen near Weliso and Gemasa Geden.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

A large flock seen on the Bilen Plains.

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus*

Single flock of around 20 seen well in Awash NP.

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

Birds seen well in Awash NP.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Clements does not treat them as distinct and lumps this with the following 3 species as Common Bulbul P. barbatus.

Somali Bulbul *Pycnonotus somaliensis*

Around Awash NP and Bilen.

Dodson's Bulbul *Pycnonotus dodsoni*

Around Negele and Yabello in the south.

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Small numbers in the Goba area.

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans*
Recorded at Sof Omar and near Negele.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Good numbers, mainly around Wondo Genet.

NOTE: A very complex group – we recorded one of the forms, the Brown Sawwing *P. p. antinorii*.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

Best views on the wires south of Negele.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

White-tailed Swallow (E) *Hirundo megaensis*

A few birds seen well in the area around Yabello, to which they are restricted.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

A few birds around Weliso/Gibe Gorge.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Recorded at Gibe Gorge and Jemma Valley.

NOTE: Clements lumps two other species with this bird – Sri Lanka Swallow *C. hyperythra* and West African Swallow *C. domicella*.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Viewed at Wondo Genet and the Junipers near Goba.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Best seen at a nest, Lake Awassa.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Recorded in flooded sedges at Lake Awassa

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Recorded at the lake in Debre Zeit.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Seen well at Lake Awassa.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Two birds were seen well in scrub around the Goba junipers.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

A single bird seen at breakfast in Debre Zeit.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Ethiopian Cisticola (E) *Cisticola lugubris*

NOTE: This is one of 5 species that Clements lumps under Winding Cisticola *C. galactotes*.

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nana*

Seen on the Bogol Manyo Road.

Foxy Cisticola *Cisticola troglodytes*

Seen well in Gibe Gorge.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

Seen very well in Awash NP.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens*

Single bird seen on the Liben plains south of Negele.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica*

Seen on 2 days around Negele in southern Ethiopia.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

Red-fronted Apalis (Warbler) *Urorhipis rufifrons*

A few seen well on the Bogol Manyo road.

Grey(Green)-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Green-backed Camaroptera C. brachyuran.

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Family uncertain Incertidae Sedis

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

Great views of a single bird on route to Gibe Gorge.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyuran*

Recorded in dry habitats at Sof Omar and Bogol Manyo.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Somali Crombec (NE) *Sylvietta isabellina*

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

Single bird feeding in Wondo Genet secondary forest.

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa*

White-rumped Babbler (NE) *Turdoides leucopygia*

Best views at our hotel at Lake Awassa.

Abyssinian Catbird (E) *Parophasma galinieri*

Very vocal bird – seen on two days near Goba in Bale Mountains.

Syviid Babblers Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Menetries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*

Brief views of these scarce birds in Awash NP.

Brown Warbler *Sylvia lugens*

Seen in *Acacia abyssinica* at Wondo Genet.

Banded Warbler *Sylvia boehmi*

Seen in small numbers in the south around Yabello woodland.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

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

Montane White-eye (NE) *Zosterops poliogastrus*

Seen in junipers around Goba and in Hareenna forest.

NOTE: Clements lumps this with two extra-limital species: Kikuyu White-eye *Z. kikuyensis* and Taita White-eye *Z. Silvanus* from Kenya.

Treecreepers Certhiidae

Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*
3 birds showed well around Wondo Genet.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*
Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius*

Seen very well around Negele and Yabello.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

Shelley's Starling *Lamprotornis shelleyi*

White-crowned Starling (NE) *Spreo albicapillus*

Good numbers in southern region of Ethiopia around Negele and Yabello.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

We were fortunate to get good views at Wondo Genet and in Hareenna Forest.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii*

Great views at Sof Omar and Yabello.

White-billed Starling (E) *Onychognathus albirostris*

Good numbers of this endemic in Jemma Valley area.

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpie*

Views at Wondo Genet and Bishangari.

Magpie Starling *Speculipastor bicolor*

Around 10 birds between Negele and Yabello.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Thrushes Turdidae

Abyssinian Ground Thrush *Zoothera piaggiae*

2 birds seen well in Wondo Genet.

Groundscraper Thrush *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

African Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus*

Recorded on 3 days in southern Ethiopia.

Abyssinian (Olive) Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with 4 others under Olive Thrush *T. olivaceus*.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa*

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Seen in forest at Lake Langano.

Spotted Palm Thrush *Cichladusa guttata*

A few birds seen in southern Ethiopia.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Erythropygia leucophrys*

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Erythropygia galactotes*

Seen twice around the Bilen Plains.

Black Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas podobe</i>
After some work this bird was seen well in the Bilen area.	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
A single bird seen well between Goba and Sof Omar.	
[African] Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
2 seen near the Bale Mountains NP.	
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Siberian Stonechat <i>S. maurus</i> , Eurasian Stonechat <i>S. rubicola</i> and the above species under Stonechat <i>T. torquatus</i> .	
Red-breasted (Botta's) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe bottae</i>
NOTE: The Botta's Wheatear <i>O. b. bottae</i> , is sometimes recognised as a full species.	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Single stunning male at Lake Awassa.	
Abyssinian (Mourning) Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris</i>
First seen at Lake Langanu then at Melka Gebdu and in the Jemma Valley.	
NOTE: Clements does not accept this split and lumps this bird with Arabian Wheatear <i>O. lugentoides</i> under Mourning Wheatear <i>O. lugens</i> .	
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
3 birds in Gibe Gorge.	
Brown-tailed Rock Chat	<i>Cercomela scotocerca</i>
Good views at Sof Omar.	
Blackstart	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
1 bird near Awash NP on the lava fields.	
Moorland Chat (NE)	<i>Cercomela sordida</i>
Common at high altitude.	
Rüppell's [Black] Chat (E)	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>
Seen very well on the Jemma escarpment.	
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris</i>
White-winged Cliff Chat (E)	<i>Thamnodia semirufa</i>
Great views in the Jemma Valley after views near Weliso.	
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
Little Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>
Common around Lake Langanu.	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Mainly on the Jemma escarpment.	
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher (E)	<i>Dioptrornis chocolatinus</i>
Fairly common in denser woodland and forest sites.	
Northern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>
Ethiopian (African) Grey Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pumilus</i>
A common species, seen at scattered dry country sites throughout Ethiopia.	
NOTE: Clements lumps this species with African Grey Flycatcher as African Gray Flycatcher <i>B. microrhynchus</i> .	
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Eastern (Kenya) Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes orientalis</i>
Seen around the Negele/Yabello area.	
Nile Valley Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>
Great views at Bilen Lodge.	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>

Mainly around the Rift Valley lakes.

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri*

Seen around the Negele/Yabello area.

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze*

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis*

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus*

Seen in good numbers around Bilen Lodge.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Grey-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

Good numbers in the Yabello region.

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

A few birds around Yabello.

Kenya (Shelley's Rufous) Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus*

Seen around Negele and Yabello.

NOTE: Clements splits the species we recorded from the above species as Shelley's Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi.

Swainson's Sparrow (NE) *Passer swainsonii*

Chestnut Sparrow (NE) *Passer eminibey*

A few seen around Yabello.

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentate*

Recorded in the Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita*

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

A dozen in the Jemma Valley.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

2 birds seen near Genale.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Best views at Lake Awassa.

Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula*

Common around Lake Langano.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

2 birds at Lake Langano.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Mainly in southern Ethiopia.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*

Seen near the Liben Plains in the south.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis*

Recorded around Sof Omar and lake Langano.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Non-breeding birds at Lake Chelekcheka and Bilen Lodge.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

A few non-breeding birds near Gemasa Geden.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

A few seen in the scrub of the Jemma Escarpment.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Seen in the Bilen area.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

Green(-backed) Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*

5 birds seen quite well at the Bishangari Lodge.

Abyssinian Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza salvadorii*

A single bird seen very well in Harena forest.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricate*

2 seen in Wondo Genet.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Estrilda quartinia*

A few seen well in Harena forest.

Abyssinian Waxbill (NE) *Estrilda ochrogaster*

About 6 birds seen in Gibe Gorge.

NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Fawn-breasted Waxbill E. paludicola.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Great views at Lake Awassa and Wondo Genet.

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

A single bird seen west of Yabello.

African Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

A few seen in flight near Weliso.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

A flock seen in Wondo Genet.

Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor*

Around 15 birds in the Harena forest.

Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeate*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Single male seen well in Harena forest.

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri*

A male with breeding colours, but no long tail, seen near Yabello.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

A few at Wondo Genet.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

Great views at Wondo Genet.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

2 seen in the Jemma Valley.

Abyssinian Longclaw (E) *Macronyx flavicollis*

2 located on the way to Addis Ababa on the last day.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Long-billed Pipit 2 seen in the Jemma Valley.	<i>Anthus similes</i>
Plain-backed Pipit 2 on the Liben Plains.	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Tree Pipit 3 birds seen in Gibe Gorge.	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Red-throated Pipit Common, mainly at higher altitude.	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>

Finches Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Canary 2 birds in the junipers at Goba.	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>
Ethiopian (Abyssinian) Siskin (E) Good numbers at higher altitudes.	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>
African Citril (NE) Good numbers on 6 days.	<i>Crithagra citrinelloides</i>
Yellow-rumped Seedeater (Serin) A few seen well in Gibe Gorge.	<i>Crithagra xanthopygia</i>
Reichenow's Seedeater	<i>Crithagra reichenowi</i>
Salvadori's Seedeater (Serin) (E) A few at Sof Omar – sought-after endemic.	<i>Crithagra xantholaema</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary A single bird in Gibe Gorge.	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Northern Grosbeak-Canary (NE) Good views south of Negele.	<i>Crithagra donaldsoni</i>
White-bellied Canary Great views around Lake Langano.	<i>Crithagra dorsostriata</i>
Brown-rumped Seedeater (NE)	<i>Crithagra tristriata</i>
Streaky Seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>

Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

Ortolan Bunting Finally got views between Gemasa Geden and Addis Ababa.	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
Striolated (House) Bunting Seen in the lava fields close to Awash and on the Jemma escarpment. <i>NOTE: Clements lumps this species with House Bunting E. sahari as House Bunting E. striolata.</i>	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting Several recorded in the Jemma Valley.	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Somali Bunting Most birds seen around Negele and Yabello.	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>

MAMMALS

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

Bats Chiroptera

Yellow-winged Bat Seen twice – Bogol Manyo road and near Yabello.	<i>Lavia frons</i>
Ethiopian Eppauletted Fruit Bat A small group at Lake Awassa.	<i>Epomorphorus gambianus</i>

Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Guereza Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>
Sacred (Hamadryas) Baboon	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>
Fantastic sightings of troops, best at Filwoha hotspots, Awash NP.	
Olive (Anubis) Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
Gelada	<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>
This incredible baboon was seen at the Jemma Escarpment.	
Grivet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>

Galagos Galagonidae

Senegal Galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>
Seen well in the late afternoon near Yabello.	

Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

Abyssinian Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis habessinicus</i>
Seen in the drier parts of Ethiopia.	
<i>NOTE: The subspecies which was encountered in is often treated as part of the Cape Hare complex.</i>	
Starck's Hare	<i>Lepus starcki</i>
Common on the Sanetti Plateau.	

Squirrels Sciuridae

Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>
A few sightings in drier woodland.	
Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>
Forests at Wando Genet and Bishangari Lodge.	

Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae

Giant Root Rat	<i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>
A number of these strange, large rodents were seen on the Sanetti Plateau.	
Blick's (Unstriped) Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis blicki</i>
Good numbers in Bale Mountains.	

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Common (Golden) Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Near Yabello and in Awash NP.	
Ethiopian Wolf (E)	<i>Canis simensis</i>
The rarest canid on Earth, seen very well on the Sanetti Plateau.	
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
3 special animals seen in Awash NP.	

Mongoose Herpestriidae

Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
10 or so in a group near Yabello	
White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>
Good views at Lake Langano and Bilen Lodge.	

Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
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3 seen well near the Bilen Lodge.

Genets and Civets Viverridae

African Civet

Civettictis civetta

Exceptional views of 3 at Lake Langano.

Cats Felidae

African Wild Cat

Felis sylvestris

Great views in Awash NP.

Serval

Felis serval

Seen well near Dinsho – Bale Mountains.

Hyraxes Procavidae

Ethiopian Rock Hyrax (NE)

Procavia habessinica

Recorded near Dinsho and in the Jemma Valley.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax

Heterohyrax brucei

Seen at Sof Omar and near the Dawa river.

Hippopotamus Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibious

A few seen distantly in Lake Langano.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus

Desert Warthog

Phacochoerus aethiopicus

Single animal ran over the Bogol Manyo road.

Antelope & Allies Bovidae

Menelik's Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki

2 seen in Harenna forest.

Mountain Nyala (E)

Tragelaphus buxtoni

Very special and restricted endemic, in Bale Mountains NP.

Lesser Kudu

Tragelaphus imberbis

3 days in Awash NP and north.

Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

Harenna forest and Yabello areas.

Salt's Dik-dik

Madoqua saltiana

Common around Awash NP/ Bilen area.

Guenther's Dik-dik

Madoqua guentheri

Sof Omar and around Negele and Yabello.

Defassa Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa

2 animals seen at the hot springs in Awash NP.

Grant's Gazelle

Gazella granti

Small herd seen well in the south near Mega.

Soemmerring's Gazelle (NE)

Gazella soemmerringi

Common in Awash NP and Bilen.

Gerenuk

Litocranius walleri

5 near Mega, more near Bilen Lodge.

Beisa Oryx

Oryx beisa

Seen in Awash NP and on Bilen Plains.

Reptiles

Leopard Tortoise

Geochelone pardalis

Huge animals around Awash NP and Bilen.

Nile Monitor

Varanus niloticus

Good views near Bishangari Lodge.

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus

Seen in Awash NP and in the Jemma Valley.

Photography credits: In order of appearance - Black-winged Lovebird, African Pygmy Goose, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Sof Omar caves, Giant Lobelias on the Sanetti plateau, Rosy-patched Bush Shrike, Stresemann's Bush Crow, Saddle-billed Stork, Arabian Bustard, Northern Carmine Bee-eater and Road into the Jemma Valley, all taken by Markus Lilje.

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