



ETHIOPIA TOUR REPORT

28th Nov to 14th Dec 2014

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Somali Ostrich
- Abdim's Stork
- African Pygmy Goose
- Lammergeier
- Secretarybird
- Verreaux's Eagle
- Martial Eagle
- Crowned Eagle
- Vulturine Guineafowl
- Harwood's Francolin
- Moorland Francolin
- Rouget's Rail
- Wattled Crane
- Arabian Bustard
- Hartlaub's Bustard
- Heuglin's Courser
- Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse
- African White-winged Dove
- Yellow-fronted Parrot
- Ruspoli's Turaco
- Abyssinian Owl
- Northern White-faced Owl
- Cape Eagle Owl
- Northern White-faced Owl
- Cape Eagle Owl
- Star-spotted Nightjar
- Half-collared Kingfisher
- Narina Trogon
- Northern Carmine Bee-eater
- Yellow-breasted Barbet
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide
- Sidamo Lark
- White-tailed Swallow
- Abyssinian Longclaw
- Abyssinian Ground-Thrush
- Bare-eyed Thrush
- Abyssinian Wheatear
- African Spotted Creeper
- Nile Valley Sunbird
- Steppe Grey Shrike
- Grey-headed Bush-Shrike
- Abyssinian Oriole
- Stresemann's Bushcrow
- Red-naped Bush-shrike
- Golden-breasted Starling
- Spotted Hyena

SUMMARY:

Ethiopia is a magical birding destination with a huge number of potential birds & we recorded 469 species and 34 endemics during our journey. We began at Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley with Harwood's Francolin, Abyssinian Wheatear, and some Yellow-rumped Seedeaters. Moving south we visited some of the African Rift Valley lakes that were literally teeming with birds and had some incredible close views, with Spotted Creeper being one of our best finds. The scenic Bale Mountains were superb with Cape Eagle Owl, Abyssinian and African Wood Owls, Moorland Francolin and many close Rouget's Rails being our favourites. Heading further south we visited the Liben Plain where Sidamo Lark was found quickly before getting to the far south at Yabello. Several parties of the extremely localised Stresemann's Bushcrow were found along with many other great birds. We then returned north to wonderful Bishangari Lodge and ended our time at Awash where we were treated to a very close Arabian Bustard with a Northern Carmine Bee-eater riding on its back that provided an outstanding finale to a wonderful tour.

Days 1 - 2 28th – 29th November

Following a direct, overnight flight from London to Addis Ababa we arrived about half an hour early at 7am. So after clearing immigration and getting our baggage we met our local guide, Girum, and loaded our luggage into our 3 Toyota Landcruisers. Whilst I returned to the terminal to wait for Mike who was flying in from California the rest of the group notched up quite a few goodies around the airport including **Dusky Turtle Dove, Thick-billed Raven, Grey-backed Fiscal, Greater Blue-eared**



The endemic **Wattled Ibis**

Glossy Starling, African Citril, Tacazze Sunbird and Swainson's Sparrow amongst others. Once Mike had arrived we drove to the Ghion Hotel for breakfast and coffee (oh yes!!) and then a quick look in the gardens proved worthwhile as we saw a pair of **Ruppell's Robin-Chats, Abyssinian Slaty** and **African Dusky Flycatchers, Speckled Mousebirds, Montane White-eye**, and both **Brown-rumped** and **Streaky Seedeaters**. Leaving here we met up with Tony who had arrived earlier from Ireland and then set off through the chaotic traffic and up onto the Sululta Plain.

Our first stop was excellent as we had our first endemic **Wattled Ibis, Blue-winged Goose, White-collared Pigeon, and Ethiopian Siskin**. Some pools were full of water and held several **Yellow-billed Ducks** and at least 2 **Hottentot Teals, Black Stork, African Sacred Ibis** and **Black-headed Heron**, whilst waders present included a confiding **Temminck's Stint**, several **Ruff, Black-winged Stilt, Wood** and **Green Sandpipers** and a large flock of **Spur-winged Lapwings**. Best of all were several views of **African Snipe**, which seemed to outnumber the **Common Snipes** that were also present here. Walking across the field and around the edge of the pools yielded **Egyptian Goose**, many **Blue-headed Wagtails** and **Red-throated Pipits, Brown-throated Martin**, flocks of **Red-rumped Swallows, Moorland Chat** and a few **Pied Wheatears**. Many **Yellow-billed Kites** were present, along with quite a few **Tawny Eagles**, whilst overhead there was a **Lanner, Hooded and Ruppell's Vultures**, at least two classic **Lammergeiers**, and a perched **Augur Buzzard** was also very nice.



The stunning view at **Debre Libanos**

A short drive took us to a different area of fields where **Plain-backed Pipit**, **Isabelline Wheatear**, **Ethiopian Cisticola**, a few **Red-billed Oxpeckers** were hitching a ride on some horses, and eventually decent views of the endemic **Abyssinian Longclaw** through the scope, whilst an **African Fish-Eagle** flew low over our heads.

From here we drove to our lodge situated right at the edge of a stunningly deep escarpment. We took a late lunch outside, watching quite a few Palearctic wintering birds such as **Blackcap**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Common Chiffchaff** and **Willow Warbler**, and even a soaring male **Pallid Harrier**. More typical African birds were also present, such as **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Variable Sunbird**, **Fan-tailed Raven**, a flyby Verreaux's Eagle, and even the endemic **White-winged Cliff-Chat**. After lunch we drove down to the monastery and found **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, the endemic **Banded Barbet**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Little Rock Thrush**, a brief **Black-winged Lovebird**, **Baglafaecht Weaver** and **Mountain Thrush**. During the drive back to the lodge we saw a troop of **Gelada Baboons**, along with a few **Hemprich's Hornbills**, a confiding **Stout Cisticola** and a **Common Fiscal**. Then a quick walk down to the Portuguese Bridge before the light went proved to be a good move as there was a small group of endemic **White-billed Starlings**, as well as **Mocking Cliff-Chat** and a few **Nyanza Swifts** flew over as well. What a day and after the checklist a quick count revealed we had seen 94 species today.

Day 3 Sunday 30th November

We left at 4am for a full day in the Jemma Valley, which produced a superb number of great species that began with an awesome Harwood's Francolin calling about 30m metres away on the slope below the road. As we watched this a Long-billed Pipit appeared behind us, plenty of **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings** appeared and then a short while later we picked up an **Erckel's Francolin** calling from on top of a boulder below us. We also enjoyed views of a pair of **Abyssinian Wheatears** here but got much better views further down the road. As the cool of the morning gave way to soaring temperatures we drove down into the valley we saw **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Booted Eagle**, **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Eastern Grey Woodpecker**, **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Red-collared Widowbird**, **African Citril**, and best of all a couple of endemic **Yellow-rumped Seedeaters**. Further down we really enjoyed some fine breeding-plumaged **Black-winged Red Bishops**, **Little Bee-eater**, **African Silverbill**, **Bush Petronia**, and also saw **Namaqua Dove**, our only **Vinaceous Dove** of the trip, **Speckle-fronted Weaver**, and both **Isabelline** and **Woodchat Shrikes**.



The endemic Abyssinian Wheatear

We eventually reached the river where **White-breasted Cormorant**, **Hamerkop**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, several **Pied Kingfishers**, **African Pied Wagtail** and some **Woolly-necked Storks** were seen. Walking upriver we found a huge **Nile Crocodile**, **Malachite** and **Giant Kingfishers**, **Green Sandpiper** and a pair of **Senegal Thick-knees**. In the trees along the riverbank a fine **Black-billed Barbet**, along with a mixed flock of **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus**, **Red-billed Firefinches** and **Crimson-rumped Waxbills**. A pair of **Mocking Cliff-chats** and a **Grey-backed Cameroptera** was also seen. Returning to the shade of a large

tree for lunch, a **Western Osprey** flew over, a male **Common Redstart** and an **African Pygmy Kingfisher** were seen in the canopy above us.

Driving towards Addis Ababa across the Sululta Plain and we still had a few species to find, which duly complied and the endemic **Erlanger's Lark**, the widespread **Thekla Lark** and several **Red-breasted Wheatears** were all found easily. A male **Pallid Harrier** was nice, as was a flyover **Lammergeier**, a group of **Black-winged Lapwings** and an **Ortolan Bunting** to end the day off nicely. We eventually reached our hotel in Addis Ababa around 6.30pm and enjoyed a fine evening meal, cold beers and long night's sleep.



Another endemic - Erlanger's Lark

Day 4 Monday 1st December

After a leisurely 6am breakfast we headed out of Addis Ababa and down into the Great African Rift Valley and the first of a series of bird-filled lakes. At the **Cheleklaka Wetlands** there were simply birds everywhere, and in big numbers. New birds here were **Red-billed Teal**, **Common Crane**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Squacco Heron**, 100's of **White Storks** amongst the **Marabou Storks**, 100's of **Greater and Lesser**



There was a mass of birds at the Cheleklaka Wetlands

Flamingo's, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Garganey**, **Hottentot Teal**, **Western Marsh & Pallid Harriers**, flocks of **Red-knobbed Coots**, **African Jacana**, **African Snipe**, and numerous **Red-throated Pipits**. A pair of **Black Crowned Cranes** strode majestically through the tall grass here right in front of us as well. Probably the star bird here was an **African Quailfinch** that flew in and landed nearby, before flying off into the distance. A little further down the road we came across a flock of **Village Weavers**, and scanning from this viewpoint resulted in a nice view of this corner of the lake where **White-faced** and **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were close by, an **African Spoonbill** was stood beside 3 **Yellow-billed Storks**, a dainty **Marsh Sandpiper** picked its way along the water's edge and **Ruppell's Vulture & Steppe Eagle** flew overhead.

Moving on, we headed to Koka Dam where a pair of awesome **Saddle-billed Storks** were stood out in the marsh, and we also picked up **Intermediate Egret**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **Woodland** and **Malachite**

Kingfishers, flyby **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, **Ruppell's Glossy Starling** and Kit had a **Kittlitz's Plover**.



Marabou & Yellow-billed Storks, African Spoonbill and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks

A rather forgettable lunch was taken at Ziway, but the birds in the garden kept us in good spirits with a pair of close perched **Black-winged Lovebirds**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers**, **Abyssinian White-eye**, **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver**, **Beautiful Sunbird** and a group of **Speckled Mousebirds**. Just around the corner was Lake Ziway where hundreds of **African White Pelicans** and **Marabou Storks** congregate to gorge on the fishy leftovers from the latest catch. A **Three-banded Plover** was a nice addition to our burgeoning list, as was a **Black Heron**, whilst **Little Stints**, **Long-tailed Cormorant**, **African Darter** and **Ruppell's Weaver** appeared, **Whiskered** and **White-winged Terns** were also seen, and a few **European Bee-eaters** flew over. I don't know where you can get so close to these birds and literally the **Hamerkops** were too close to photograph.

Driving between sites today resulted in **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, **Rufous-crowned** and **Lilac-breasted Rollers**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Red-billed Quelea** and **Superb Starlings** became commoner the further south we travelled.

Leaving here we then headed up into the hills following a tip-off and twitched a stake-out for **Half-collared Kingfisher**. Granted this was a bit of a gamble, but it was a lifer for everyone in the group and fortunately things panned out nicely as we had a bird fly downstream and land maybe 30m away from us on a large boulder.

Wow! We also saw **White-cheeked Turaco**, **Black Saw-wing**, **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, many **Silvery-cheeked Hornbills**, and a brief **Abyssinian (Ethiopian) Oriole**.



Saddle-billed Storks

Day 5 Tuesday 2nd December

It made a pleasant change to just walk out of our rooms and bird the gardens for a few hours this morning. And what a cracking session we were treated to as we saw so many new trip birds, beginning with a **Red-faced Cisticola**, **African Thrush**, **Spectacled** and **Little Weavers**, and at least 3 **Black Crakes** that all showed nicely.

Walking out the gate to view the lake 3 **African Pygmy Geese** (and what stunners they are!) and our first **Grey-headed Gulls** were present. Following the path bordering the lake many more new birds appeared such as a **Nubian Woodpecker**, **Blue-headed Coucal**, **Marsh and Sedge Warblers**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **White-rumped Babbler**, **Common Waxbill** and after much scrutiny a **Lesser Swamp Warbler**. And we had really close views of plenty of other species such as **White-winged** and **Whiskered Terns**, **Black-winged Lovebird**, a flock of really confiding **African Citrils**, **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, **Common Whitethroat**, **Sand Martin** and more.



African Pygmy Goose



An agitated Lesser Swamp Warbler

Returning to the gardens we had a mad spell with birds everywhere as first of all a group of **Black-billed Wood-Hoopoes** were seen, followed by **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Northern Puffback**, **Black-headed Batis**, **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and **Buff-bellied Warbler**. Then it was time to search for **Spotted Creeper**, but it was hard as we kept getting distracted by more birds including **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, both **Eurasian** and **Red-throated Wrynecks**, **Ethiopian Boubou**, **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Cut-throat Finch**, nest-building **Bronze Mannikins** and **Grosbeak Weaver**. Eventually we found a pair of **Spotted Creepers** as well to round off a really great pre-breakfast session.

Reluctantly leaving here, we drove just five minutes down the road to Hawassa Fishmarket but didn't stay long as the hoped for **Goliath Heron** wasn't around. There were still plenty of birds and we particularly liked the close views of **African Fish Eagle** calling evocatively from the top of an acacia. A **Spur-winged Goose**, **Hadada Ibis**, plus many **Hamerkops** and **Squacco Herons** were also nice. So from here we began the drive up towards the Bale Mountains, but didn't get far before pulling over at the side of the road to take a look at some **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** and a **Lilac-breasted Roller** perched on telegraph wires. It's always difficult in Ethiopia to get from A to B as there are just so many birds but with much effort on our parts we sifted out the common birds and only stopped for such goodies as **Lappet-faced** and **White-headed Vultures**, and a flock of 31 **Black-winged Lapwings**.

Of course we stopped to pay our respects at the usual stake-out for **Cape Eagle Owl**, which this year required a scramble down into the little valley to look back up at the bird at its day roost below a



Cape Eagle Owl

small conifer on the cliff. As the road wound ever upwards (we travelled from around 1900m at Hawassa up to 3000m) into the Bale Mountains the scenery changed from rolling arable fields to moorland and it was here that our first endemic **Rouget's Rail** was seen. We eventually arrived at the park HQ at Dinsho and immediately set out with one of the rangers to see a pair of absolutely fantastic **Abyssinian Owls**. Perched high up in a conifer, one of them was clearly visible close to the trunk, whilst the other had its back turned. But what a bird and having missed them last year, I was particularly pleased to nail them this time. We also came across a flock of the endemic highland

speciality **White-backed Black Tits** as well, which showed quite well and a fine **Abyssinian Ground Thrush** was a nice bonus as well.

Day 6 Wednesday 3rd December

We headed on the long, bumpy drive to Sof Omar, leaving the hotel early doors and driving a lot of the way in the dark. Once the sun rose above the hills we started seeing a few birds such as **Kori Bustard**, **Chestnut-naped Francolin**, **Eastern Chanting Goshawk**, **Rosy-patched Bush-shrike**, **Boran Cisticola**, and a trio of new hornbills: **Von Der Decken's**, **Northern Red-billed** and **Eastern Yellow-billed**. The road became almost impassable as it went down into the valley but our landcruisers made light work of it and after parking in the shade of some acacia trees we set out on a walk to see what was around.

I thought it was rather quiet here and we failed to get definitive views of **Salvadori's Seedeater** apart from a dubious flyover. But we did see **Shikra**, **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Crested Francolin**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **African Orange-bellied Parrot**, **White-bellied Go-Away-Bird**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Rufous Chatterer**, **Northern Brownbul**, **Brown-tailed Rock-Chat**, **Northern Crombec**, **Grey-headed Batis**, **Northern White-crowned Shrike**, **Brubru**, **White-crested Helmet-Shrike**, **Grey-headed Bush-Shrike**, **Acacia Tit**, **Shining Sunbird**, **Bristle-crowned Starling**, **Yellow-spotted Petronia**, **Red-headed Weaver** and **Purple Grenadier**.



Abyssinian Owl

Driving back towards Goba across the huge open plains with arable fields either side had a few good birds such as **Black-winged Kite**, **Rattling Cisticola**, **Pallid Harrier**, **Lanner**, **African Stonechat**, and we also heard a calling **Common Quail**.

Day 7 Thursday 4th December



The Sanetti Plateau

Today we birded the highest road in Africa, under the second highest mountain in Africa and found the rarest 'canid' in the world – **Ethiopian Wolf**. The scenery was stunning amidst fine Afro-alpine moorland habitat with giant lobelias dotted across the moorland plateau. We made a short walk at the treeline and quickly nailed the local race of **Brown Parisoma** before setting off across the plateau where we found our first **Spot-breasted Lapwings**. There was also **Chestnut-naped Francolin**, a small group of **Moorland Francolins**, **Ruddy Shelduck**,

Lammergeier, **Golden Eagle**, **Red-billed Cough**, and some flyby **Slender-billed Starlings**.

We returned to the hotel for a late lunch and then drove on to Dinsho. As soon as we arrived at the Park HQ a local ranger met us and showed us a day roosting **African Wood Owl** – a good start. We then walked through the juniper forest and quickly found **Abysian Catbird** as well to make our visit here really worthwhile.

Day 8 Friday 5th December

We left Goba early and drove back across the Sanetti Plateau, seeing much the same as before but an **Abysian Longclaw** and **Yellow-crowned Canary** were a bonus. The morning was very cold with a blanket of sharp frost covering the vegetation, making photography of **Chestnut-naped** and **Moorland**



Moorland Francolins



Chestnut-naped Francolins

Francolins and **Rouget's Rail** all the more appealing.

Dropping down into the Harena Forest, it proved to be rather quiet and all we had to show for our efforts were **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Yellow-bellied Waxbill** and **Grosbeak Weaver**. We lost a lot of time this morning looking for woodpeckers and also searching for a missing walkie-talkie, so had to press on as it is a very long drive down to Negelle. Then we drove down into the 'bush' country and travelled for many miles in order to reach the area for **Ruspoli's Turaco**. With a further delay for a flat tyre our arrival was much later than planned but we quickly found the turaco thanks to some local help – and pure relief all around as this is quite possibly the No 1 endemic to see here.

Other birds seen on the drive included **White-backed Vulture**, **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** for some, **Lesser Spotted Eagle**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **Red-and-yellow Barbet**, **Straw-tailed Whydah** and others. Mammal highlight were **Eastern Black-and-White Colobus**, **Ethiopian Wolf**, **Gunther's Dikdik**, and **Ethiopian Klipspringer**.

Day 9 Saturday 6th December

This was a really great day and could not have got off to a better start with a flock of 7 **Abdim's Storks** roosting beside the road – well it was a good sighting for 2 out of our 3 Landcruisers as one of our vehicles had to return to the hotel to retrieve a wallet. Perfect timing or what! Approaching the Liben Plains we stopped to scan a flock of hirundines perched on telegraph wires which turned out to be **Ethiopian** and the endemic **White-tailed Swallows**, and we had further flight views of both species over the next hour or so.



The very rare endemic Sidamo Lark

Then, within 10 minutes of searching we had found the rare **Sidamo Lark** on the huge Liben Plain! This scaly-backed lark can only be found here and we were treated to what can only be described as crippling views down to 5 metres – and I think David got even closer views at one stage. Shortly after, a little group of 3 **Somali Short-toed Larks** were found and it was good to be able to study them for a while. Around some grass huts a pair of **Shelley's Sparrows** were new for the trip. Having already seen a pair of **Kori Bustards** on the drive here, a line of ten more birds in a crop field was pretty impressive and as we scoped them, noticed a lot of activity above them which turned out to be a flock of **Amur Falcons**. So we walked over and got a lot closer and spent a nice

time watching their antics as they hawked for insects right in front of us. There was also a small flock of **Lesser Kestrels** to see here as well. Overhead there was a **Montagu's Harrier** and we also had a very rare record of an **Eastern Imperial Eagle**.

Then we drove to an area of acacia trees and had our picnic breakfast, during which we saw **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Tree Pipit**, many **Superb Starlings** & **White-crowned Starlings**, **Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers**, and a flock of **Grey-capped Social Weavers**.

Driving on we hit a purple patch with a pair of **Temminck's Coursers** beside the road, followed by a stately **Secretarybird** picking its way across a field of tall grass, a **Grey Kestrel**, **Isabelline Shrike**, **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush** and **Somali Crow**. Continuing on into the heat of the day we made our last stop along the road and came up trumps with an **Abyssinian Oriole** skulking in the shade of some large trees. Oh yes baby! There was also a flock of **White-headed Buffalo-Weavers** and **Reichenow's Seedeaters** as well.

So we turned around and headed back towards Negelle and our appointment with a very late lunch. Along the way we stopped at a seasonal lake where there were hundreds of **Egyptian Geese**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **White-winged Tern**, **African Sacred Ibis**, but best of all was a superb **Martial Eagle** we watched soaring through the scopes and many **Collared Pratincoles** hawking for insects over the crop fields. After lunch we checked out a small lake but there was nothing new, although a **Hamerkop** and 100's of **Yellow Wagtails** were seen.

Day 10 Sunday 7th December

This has to be one of the great birding travel days, as we drove from Negelle to Yabello through excellent habitat all the way. We clocked up so many new trip birds today, and it is hard to sum up how things went.

Anyway, spotlighting a **Dusky (Sombre) Nightjar** was a good start and to be followed by 2 **Spotted Hyenas** was also pretty decent. As it became light it was apparent that there were going to be lots of birds along the road so our first couple of stop notched up a few **Violet-backed Starlings**, followed by **Shelley's Starlings**, **Lesser Striped Swallow**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Striped Kingfisher** and the fantastic **Golden-breasted Starling**.



Golden-breasted Starling

The unpaved road was in pretty good condition and we could speed along at certain intervals but when we did pass something interesting it always resulted in good birds. So we followed on with **African Grey Hornbill**, **Red-and-yellow Barbet** perched on a termite mound and a **Yellow-necked Spurfowl** calling from on top of a tree of all places. Whilst our drivers prepared breakfast we came across a flock consisting of **Black-throated Barbet**, **Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit**, **Violet-backed Sunbird**, several **Abyssinian Scimitar-bills**, **Brown-tailed (Yellow-breasted) Apalis**, and a little later our first **Grey Wren-Warbler**.

Continuing our journey, a **Pygmy Falcon** was nice, followed by **Buff-crested Bustard**, and best of all a **White-winged Dove**. Upon arrival at the Dawa River we were lucky and quickly found **Juba Weaver** as the temperature was soaring. A short walk along the river gave us **Lesser Masked** and **Chestnut Weavers**, **Pygmy Batis** and **Hunter's Sunbird**. The long drive continued through several small villages and in one we saw our first **Blue-naped Mousebird**. More new birds followed, with flocks of **Vulturine Guinea-fowl** becoming increasingly common, **Banded Parisoma**, **Chestnut Sparrow**, **White-browed Scrub-Robin**, **Bateleur**, **Alpine Swift**, **Bare-eyed Thrush**, **Straw-tailed Whydah** and at the Soda Plains

7 **Abdim's Storks**, and **Somali Fiscal**. Lots of **Grant's Gazelles** and **Gerenuks** here also.

Day 11 Monday 8th December

We hit the bush country south of Yabello, played a blinder and enjoyed a thoroughly rewarding morning's birding. Driving along the main road a quick stop for the localised endemic **Stresemann's Bushcrow** was superb and we also saw **D'Arnaud's Barbet**, a singing **Spotted Palm Thrush**, and a flock of **Rufous Chatterers**. Further on several **Ruppell's Vultures** were feasting on some dead donkeys in a ditch beside the road....



Stresemann's Bushcrow can only be found in southern Ethiopia

Upon arrival at 'our spot' well it doesn't get much better than getting **Pringle's Puffback** straight off the bat (although you had to be quick!), and then an excellent run of key birds included **Northern Grosbeak Canary**, **White-bellied Canary**, **Somali Crombec**, **Red-naped Bush-Shrike**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Black-capped Social Weaver**, **Foxy Lark** and several **Purple Grenadiers**. Probably the most popular bird was a **Heuglin's Courser** that scuttled out from under a bush right in front of me, walked across the trail and literally froze some 5 metres away. Wow! We also saw **Red-faced Crombec**, **Banded Parisoma**, **Grey Wren-Warbler**, **Martial Eagle**, more bushcrows, **Bare-eyed Thrush**,

African Grey Flycatcher, **Pygmy Batis**, **Acacia Tit**, **Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit**, and a delightful pair of **Brubru**. Our last stop of the morning was good for **Pygmy Falcon**, **Pale Prinia** and **White-browed Scrub-Robin**.

Following a siesta we set out at 3pm and returned to the Soda Plains where **Great Spotted Cuckoo** (for some), **Short-tailed Lark**, and best of all a pair of **White-bellied Bustards** were seen. Another Secretarybird walking between the acacias and right in front of small village was quite atmospheric, as were a few **Somali Ostriches** striding through the bush. We waited until dusk and then took a back-track across the plain where we spotlighted 2 **African Wild Cats**. Driving back towards Yabello we made a couple of stops, the first of which only had a distant calling **Northern White-faced Scops-Owl**. The second one resulted in a **Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar**. Wow! The drive back was eventful with a **Genet** spotlighted, adding to the **Abyssinian Hare** we had seen earlier.

I must admit the beer and even the spaghetti bolognese tasted so much better tonight – ant that's saying something!

Day 12 Tuesday 9th December

A long travelling day as we drove north, but despite the interminable roadworks that should make this such an easier journey over the next year or two, we still pulled out some good birds. Beginning with a flock of **Mottled Swifts** overhead at breakfast, we followed this up with our first **Bare-faced Go-Away-Birds**, and best of all a pair of **Wattled Cranes** in a field beside the busy road. Some fine breeding-plumaged **Red-collared Widowbirds** were also classy....

We eventually reached the fine Bishangari Eco-lodge late in the day and tucked into peppered steak and cold beers before settling into the best rooms of the tour.

Day 13 Wednesday 10th December

A very enjoyable day was spent birding the forested trails of Bishangari Eco-Lodge. I was lucky to get a view of a singing **Red-capped Robin-Chat** as I left my bungalow in the grounds to meet the rest of the group for our dawn meet-up. Once we had all assembled, and right on time the first of several **Yellow-fronted Parrots** flew into the trees at the edge of the lake and looked superb in the scope. Out on the lake our first **Gull-billed Tern** was nice, but a flyby from what looked like a **Baltic Gull** was pretty good too.

Following a decent breakfast with the best porridge so far we walked the trails and our route this morning gave us **Tambourine Dove**, **Blue-spotted Wood Dove**, excellent views of **Abyssinian Ground-Thrush**, **Double-toothed** and **Banded Barbets**, **Green-backed Honeybird**, and a couple of **African Olive Pigeons** as well. We had a particularly fine close view of a **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** at its nesting hole, with



Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

Hadada Ibis perched high up in the trees as well. We walked out across a field, where **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** were perched on several prominent posts, to reach the larger forest which was rather quiet. That was until a roving canopy flock appeared in a huge tree right in front of us and we saw a female **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike**, **Mountain Thrush**, more barbets, and a couple of **Narina Trogons**. Cool!

So we finished by 11.30am and walked back to the open restaurant and had a nice lunch, before



Northern Carmine Bee-eater

settling into the comfy chairs and watching the surrounding acacias and bird baths. A couple of **Lemon Doves** gave point-blank views and were much too close to photograph. Then a flock of **Red-cheeked Cordon-bleus** and **Red-billed Firefinches** appeared, and that seemed to prompt more birds into the area. A pair of **Black-headed Batis** were next, followed by a gang of **White-rumped Babblers**, **Little Weaver**, **Common Redstart**, **Blackcap**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, a couple of **Red-faced Crombecs**, then a blaze of black and white in a longish tail flew right past us and landed nearby. This proved to be a stunning **Scaly-throated Honeyguide** which promptly flew down onto a bare

bush right above one of the bird baths and lingered just long enough for me to fire off a couple of shots. Stunning! Right after this bird had flown off, a superb **Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike** appeared in the acacia right next to us as well. And all of this had taken place whilst we sipped excellent coffee from our comfy chairs at the edge of the dining area. Decadent or what! During lunchtime some of the group also saw a **Scaly Francolin** as well. I must make note of the numerous **Olive Baboons** present here, some of the males being particularly large and impressive specimens....

We had to drag ourselves away to walk the trails again, but our afternoon session was a little quieter so we watched the **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** again, found a **Rattling Cisticola**, had close-ups of **Crested Francolin**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **Black-winged Lovebird**, flocks of **Ruppell's**, **Greater Blue-eared** and **Red-winged Starlings**, and a male **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike** before entering the large forest. We found more trogons, a flyover **Ruppell's Vulture** and many of the same birds as this morning but couldn't locate any Green Twinspots, although I'm sure I heard one calling from a boggy area. So we walked back to the lodge, getting a close flyover from a couple of **Pink-backed Pelicans** before we enjoyed some cool beers and watched the sunset.

Day 14 Thursday 11th December

A bit of a crazy day today as we left the impressive Bishangari Lodge after a 6.30am breakfast, during which an **African Pygmy Kingfisher** was seen. We drove out along the 20kms of bumpy track towards the main road and had a **Wahlberg's Eagle** and a **Peregrine** flying overhead. Once on the main road it didn't take long to reach Abiata-Shalla National Park, where a walk through the acacia woodland resulted in our first **Red-fronted Barbet** and **Bearded Woodpecker** of the tour, as well as **Rufous Chatterer** and a few other previously seen species. Girum also played a blinder with the finding of a day roosting **Slender-tailed Nightjar** in the shade of some dense bushes.

From here we drove back down to the shores of Lake Langano where a **Northern White-faced Scops-Owl** was seen at another day roost, and we followed this with a **Greyish Eagle-Owl** in another lodge's



Northern White-faced Owl

gardens! Easy birding! We had a poor lunch here but could scope some flyby **Baltic Gulls**, as well as **Great White** and **Pink-backed Pelicans** and other waterbirds. Other goodies seen this morning included **Little Rock Thrush**, **Mocking Cliff-Chat**, **Fan-tailed Raven**, **Black-billed Barbet**, **Double-toothed Barbet**, **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, **Striped and Malachite Kingfishers**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Shikra**, **Namaqua Dove**, and **Helmeted Guineafowl**.

At Lake Abiata the strong wind and poor light made our visit a little problematical, but as well as being amazed at the huge numbers of **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** at the lakes edge, we also found a small group of **Cape Teal** and some close **Kittlitz's Plovers** here as well. Big flocks of **Ruff**, some **Common Redshanks** and a **Ringed Plover** were more familiar

faire to us, but there was also a distant **Wattled Crane** amongst the **Common Cranes**, **African Sacred Ibis** and others. We left here and drove to the large town of Nazret for the night.

Day 15 Friday 12th December

Leaving Nazret early we reached the lava flow of the long dormant Fantale Crater volcano not too long after sunrise and it was still quite cool. Fortunately we managed to find the endemic **Sombre Rock-Chat** quite quickly and were treated to point-blank views of a pair perched on rocks right in front of us. In the same vicinity were several **Shining Sunbirds**, a breeding **Ruppell's Weaver**, **Ethiopian Swallow** and our first **Purple Heron** and **African Palm Swifts**. Checking out another site nearby and having our field breakfast proved to be a good move as the first of several **Striolated Buntings** appeared, followed by a pair of **Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks**. Nearby, there were a few **Pied** and **Isabelline Wheatears**, **Steppe Grey Shrike**, a perched **Gabar Goshawk**, flocks of **Red-billed Quelea**, **Abyssinian Roller**, and best of all a stonking **Yellow-breasted Barbet**.



Hartlaub's Bustard at Awash National Park

Leaving here we drove to our hotel and enjoyed several hours siesta over the extreme heat of the midday period. Afterwards we drove through Awash National Park across the grassland seeing species such as **Pygmy Falcon**, **Pallid Harrier**, **Somali Fiscals** and other previously seen species. An **Ashy Cisticola** was new, as was **Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah**, flocks of **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks**, **Singing Bushlark**, and an awesome **Hartlaub's Bustard** patrolling the edge of the tall grass. Wow! Non avian interest was spiked by several stately **Beisa Oryx** walking across the savannah.

As it got dark we spent a very enjoyable hour spotlighting our way back across the park, and although initially we drew a blank we got our just rewards with a **Greyish Eagle-Owl**, **Abyssinian Hare**, another **Common Genet** and on the track right in front of us was a **Star-spotted Nightjar** that allowed an extraordinary close approach. What a bird! Then, as we drove back to the hotel a **Bat-eared Fox** was seen. What a day!



Star-spotted Nightjar

Day 16 Saturday 13th December

Shortly after sunrise we were on the Aledeghe Plain and watching the first of 5 **Arabian Bustards** feeding quietly right out in this vast open wilderness, and with some careful positioning from our drivers we got ahead of one bird and it just kept walking towards us until only about 30 metres away! Probably the highlight was seeing one of these much-wanted bustards with a **Northern Carmine Bee-eater** riding on its back – an extraordinary sighting and my personal highlight of the whole tour. We were able to drive the cars closer and had amazing views once again and were able to observe them for quite some time. Many **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** were also present, along with **White Stork**, a couple of distant **Secretarybirds**, plus **Soemmering's Gazelle** and **Beisa Oryx**.



Arabian Bustard

We then drove the short distance to the Bilen Plain and the first bird we found was a pair of **Yellow-breasted Barbets** perched on top of an acacia, followed by a **Tawny Pipit**. Further on we took a short walk but it was getting really hot, however we did find several **Nile Valley Sunbirds** including one male still in breeding plumage which was something of a surprise. There was also a **Black-cheeked Waxbill**, **Brubru**, **Blue-naped Mousebird** and plenty of other birds in the vicinity.

We had a coffee at Bilen Lodge and saw yet more barbets, and a flock of **Red-rumped Swallows** on the wires here, but by now it was late morning and really hot. Returning to the hotel for lunch and a siesta we set out at 3.30pm for a drive in Awash NP but it was rather quiet. Although our first **Red-fronted Warbler** was overshadowed by 3 **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse** seen just before the light faded. Driving out we had a brief view of more **Bat-eared Foxes** beside the track.

Day 17 Sunday 14th December

Our last morning's birding in fabulous Ethiopia saw us back in Awash NP where we had a few hours before returning to Addis Ababa. Highlights here included great views of a **Gillett's Lark** singing from the top of an acacia, **Grassland Pipit**, **Turkestan & Masked Shrikes** and our final new bird was a stunningly beautiful **Green-winged Pytilia** – thanks to Christine. Other species noted included **Bateleur**, the **Hartlaub's Bustard** again, and a pair of close **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** amongst others.

The drive back to Addis Ababa wasn't too painful and along a new freeway we passed flocks of **Common Cranes**, some **White Storks**, a field full of **Abdim's Storks**, and even a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** flew over. So that was it, and we arrived at our hotel at 4.30pm and enjoyed a relaxing evening after a hectic yet bird-filled tour before flying back home the following day.

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR ETHIOPIA

NOV/DEC 2014

Species in bold are endemic as follows: Ethiopia (Et), Eritrea (Et) Somalia (So), Djibouti (Dj).

STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae

Somali Ostrich

Struthio molybdophanes

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Blue-winged Goose (Et)

Cyanochen cyanoptera

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

African Pygmy Goose

Nettapus auritus

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Eurasian Teal

Anas crecca

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

GALLIFORMES: Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Vulturine Guineafowl

Acryllium vulturinum

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Moorland Francolin

Scleroptila psilolaema

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

Scaly Francolin

Pternistis squamatus

Harwood's Francolin (Et)

Pternistis harwoodi

Chestnut-naped Francolin (Et, So)

Pternistis castaneicollis

Erckel's Francolin (Et, Er)

Pternistis erckelii

Yellow-necked Spurfowl

Pternistis leucoscepus

Common Quail (Heard Only)

Coturnix coturnix

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

Lesser Flamingo

Phoeniconaias minor

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork
Black Stork
Abdim's Stork
Woolly-necked Stork
White Stork
Saddle-billed Stork
Marabou Stork

Mycteria ibis
Ciconia nigra
Ciconia abdimii
Ciconia episcopus
Ciconia ciconia
Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Leptoptilos crumenifer

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis
Hadada Ibis
Wattled Ibis (Er, Et)
Glossy Ibis
African Spoonbill

Threskiornis aethiopicus
Bostrychia hagedash
Bostrychia carunculata
Plegadis falcinellus
Platalea alba

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Striated Heron
Squacco Heron
Western Cattle Egret
Grey Heron
Black-headed Heron
Purple Heron
Great Egret
Intermediate Egret
Black Heron
Little Egret

Butorides striata
Ardeola ralloides
Bubulcus ibis
Ardea cinerea
Ardea melanocephala
Ardea purpurea
Ardea alba
Egretta intermedia
Egretta ardesiaca
Egretta garzetta

PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican
Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus
Pelecanus rufescens

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant
White-breasted Cormorant

Microcarbo africanus
Phalacrocorax lucidus

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

African Darter

Anhinga rufa

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Sagittariidae

Secretarybird

Sagittarius serpentarius

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Western Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite
African Harrier-Hawk
Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)
Egyptian Vulture
Hooded Vulture
White-backed Vulture
Rüppell's Vulture
Griffon Vulture
White-headed Vulture
Lappet-faced Vulture
Black-chested Snake Eagle
Bateleur
Crowned Eagle
Martial Eagle
Long-crested Eagle
Lesser Spotted Eagle
Greater Spotted Eagle
Wahlberg's Eagle
Booted Eagle
Tawny Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Eastern Imperial Eagle
Golden Eagle
Verreaux's Eagle
African Hawk-Eagle
Gabar Goshawk
Dark Chanting Goshawk
Eastern Chanting Goshawk
Shikra
Little Sparrowhawk (Leader Only)
Western Marsh Harrier
Pallid Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Yellow-billed Kite
African Fish Eagle
Common Buzzard
Augur Buzzard

Elanus caeruleus
Polyboroides typus
Gypaetus barbatus
Neophron percnopterus
Necrosyrtes monachus
Gyps africanus
Gyps rueppelli
Gyps fulvus
Trionoceps occipitalis
Torgos tracheliotos
Circaetus pectoralis
Terathopius ecaudatus
Stephanoaetus coronatus
Polemaetus bellicosus
Lophaetus occipitalis
Clanga pomarina
Clanga clanga
Hieraaetus wahlbergi
Hieraaetus pennatus
Aquila rapax
Aquila nipalensis
Aquila heliaca
Aquila chrysaetos
Aquila verreauxii
Aquila spilogaster
Micronisus gabar
Melierax metabates
Melierax poliopterus
Accipiter badius
Accipiter minullus
Circus aeruginosus
Circus macrourus
Circus pygargus
Milvus aegyptius
Haliaeetus vocifer
Buteo buteo vulpinus
Buteo augur

OTIDIFORMES: Otididae

Arabian Bustard
Kori Bustard
White-bellied Bustard
Buff-crested Bustard
Hartlaub's Bustard

Ardeotis arabs
Ardeotis kori
Eupodotis senegalensis
Lophotis gindiana
Lissotis hartlaubii

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Rouget's Rail (Et, Er)

Rougetius rougetii

Black Crane
Common Moorhen
Red-knobbed Coot

Amaurornis flavirostra
Gallinula chloropus
Fulica cristata

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Black Crowned Crane
Wattled Crane
Common Crane

Balearica pavonina
Grus carunculata
Grus grus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

Burhinus senegalensis

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt
Pied Avocet

Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing
Black-winged Lapwing
Crowned Lapwing
Spot-breasted Lapwing (Et)
Common Ringed Plover
Little Ringed Plover
Kittlitz's Plover
Three-banded Plover

Vanellus spinosus
Vanellus melanopterus
Vanellus coronatus
Vanellus melanocephalus
Charadrius hiaticula
Charadrius dubius
Charadrius pecuarius
Charadrius tricollaris

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

African Snipe
Common Snipe
Common Redshank
Marsh Sandpiper
Common Greenshank
Green Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper
Common Sandpiper
Little Stint
Temminck's Stint
Ruff

Gallinago nigripennis
Gallinago gallinago
Tringa totanus
Tringa stagnatilis
Tringa nebularia
Tringa ochropus
Tringa glareola
Actitis hypoleucos
Calidris minuta
Calidris temminckii
Philomachus pugnax

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser
Three-banded (Heuglin's) Courser
Collared Pratincole

Cursorius temminckii
Rhinoptilus cinctus
Glareola pratincola

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Black-headed Gull
 Grey-headed Gull
 Baltic Gull
 Gull-billed Tern
 Whiskered Tern
 White-winged Tern

Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus
Larus fuscus fuscus
Gelochelidon nilotica
Chlidonias hybrida
Chlidonias leucopterus

PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse
 Black-faced Sandgrouse (Leader Only)
 Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus
Pterocles decoratus
Pterocles lichtensteinii

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Rock Dove
 Speckled Pigeon
White-collared Pigeon (Et, Er)
 African Olive Pigeon
 Lemon Dove
 Dusky Turtle Dove
 African Collared Dove
African White-winged Dove (Et, So)
 Mourning Collared Dove
 Red-eyed Dove
 Ring-necked Dove
 Vinaceous Dove
 Laughing Dove
 Emerald-spotted Wood Dove
 Blue-spotted Wood Dove
 Tambourine Dove
 Namaqua Dove
 Bruce's Green Pigeon

Columba livia
Columba guinea
Columba albitorques
Columba arquatrix
Columba larvata
Streptopelia lugens
Streptopelia roseogrisea
Streptopelia reichenowi
Streptopelia decipiens
Streptopelia semitorquata
Streptopelia capicola
Streptopelia vinacea
Spilopelia senegalensis
Turtur chalcospilos
Turtur afer
Turtur tympanistria
Oena capensis
Treron waalia

MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae

White-cheeked Turaco
Ruspoli's Turaco (Et)
 Bare-faced Go-away-bird
 White-bellied Go-away-bird

Tauraco leucotis
Tauraco ruspolii
Corythaixoides personatus
Corythaixoides leucogaster

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Blue-headed Coucal
 White-browed Coucal
 Great Spotted Cuckoo
 Levillant's Cuckoo
 Diederik Cuckoo

Centropus monachus
Centropus superciliosus
Clamator glandarius
Clamator levillantii
Chrysococcyx caprius

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Northern White-faced Owl
Cape Eagle-Owl
Greyish Eagle-Owl
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl
African Wood Owl
Pearl-spotted Owlet
Abyssinian Owl

Ptilopsis leucotis
Bubo capensis
Bubo cinerascens
Bubo lacteus
Strix woodfordii
Glaucidium perlatum
Asio abyssinicus

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Sombre Nightjar
Donaldson Smith's Nightjar
Star-spotted Nightjar
Slender-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus fraenatus
Caprimulgus donaldsoni
Caprimulgus stellatus
Caprimulgus clarus

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

African Palm Swift
Alpine Swift
Mottled Swift
Common Swift
Nyanza Swift

Cypsiurus parvus
Tachymarptis melba
Tachymarptis aequatorialis
Apus apus
Apus niansae

COLIIFORMES: Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird
Blue-naped Mousebird

Colius striatus
Urocolius macrourus

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Purple Roller
Lilac-breasted Roller
Abyssinian Roller

Coracias naevius
Coracias caudatus
Coracias abyssinicus

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Grey-headed Kingfisher
Striped Kingfisher
Woodland Kingfisher
African Pygmy Kingfisher
Malachite Kingfisher
Half-collared Kingfisher
Giant Kingfisher
Pied Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala
Halcyon chelicuti
Halcyon senegalensis
Ispidina picta
Corythornis cristatus
Alcedo semitorquata
Megaceryle maxima
Ceryle rudis

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Little Bee-eater
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
European Bee-eater

Merops pusillus
Merops variegatus
Merops apiaster

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicus

BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus somaliensis

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus minor

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Hemprich's Hornbill

Tockus hemprichii

African Grey Hornbill

Tockus nasutus

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus flavirostris

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Tockus deckeni

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

Bycanistes brevis

BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus

Red-fronted Barbet

Tricholaema diademata

Black-throated Barbet

Tricholaema melanocephala

Banded Barbet (Et, Er)

Lybius undatus

Black-billed Barbet

Lybius guifsobalito

Double-toothed Barbet

Lybius bidentatus

Red-and-yellow Barbet

Trachyphonus erythrocephalus

Yellow-breasted Barbet

Trachyphonus margaritatus

D'Arnaud's Barbet

Trachyphonus darnaudii

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

Green-backed Honeybird

Prodotiscus zambesiae

Scaly-throated Honeyguide

Indicator variegatus

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Red-throated Wryneck

Jynx ruficollis

Nubian Woodpecker

Campethera nubica

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

Bearded Woodpecker

Dendropicos namaquus

Eastern Grey Woodpecker

Dendropicos spodocephalus

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon

Polihierax semitorquatus

Lesser Kestrel

Falco naumanni

Common Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Grey Kestrel

Falco ardosiaceus

Amur Falcon
Lanner Falcon
Peregrine Falcon

Falco amurensis
Falco biarmicus
Falco peregrinus

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
Black-winged Lovebird (Et, Er)
Yellow-fronted Parrot (Et)

Agapornis taranta
Poicephalus flavifrons

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae
Grey-headed Batis
Western Black-headed Batis
Pygmy Batis
Brown-throated Wattle-eye

Batis orientalis
Batis erlangeri
Batis perkeo
Platysteira cyanea

PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae
White-crested Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike
Orange-breasted Bushshrike
Rosy-patched Bushshrike
Black-crowned Tchagra
Northern Puffback
Pringle's Puffback
Slate-colored Boubou
Red-naped Bushshrike
Ethiopian Boubou (Et, Er, So)
Brubru

Malaconotus blanchoti
Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus
Telophorus cruentus
Tchagra senegalus
Dryoscopus gambensis
Dryoscopus pringlii
Laniarius funebris
Laniarius ruficeps
Laniarius aethiopicus
Nilaus afer

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike

Campephaga phoenicea

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Northern White-crowned Shrike
Isabelline Shrike
Turkestan (Red-tailed) Shrike
Southern Grey Shrike
Grey-backed Fiscal
Steppe Grey Shrike
Taita Fiscal (Single observer)
Somali Fiscal
Northern Fiscal
Woodchat Shrike
Masked Shrike

Eurocephalus ruppelli
Lanius isabellinus
Lanius phoenicuroides
Lanius meridionalis
Lanius excubitoroides
Lanius pallidostris
Lanius dorsalis
Lanius somalicus
Lanius humeralis
Lanius senator
Lanius nubicus

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae
Ethiopian (Abyssinian) Oriole (Et, Er)
Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus monacha
Oriolus larvatus

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Stresemann's Bushcrow (Et)

Red-billed Chough

Cape Crow

Pied Crow

Somali Crow

Fan-tailed Raven

Thick-billed Raven (Et, Er)

Zavattariornis stresemanni

Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

Corvus capensis

Corvus albus

Corvus edithae

Corvus rhipidurus

Corvus crassirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

White-winged Black Tit

White-backed Black Tit (Et, Er)

Acacia (Northern Grey) Tit

Melaniparus leucomelas

Melaniparus leuconotus

Melaniparus thruppi

PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus musculus

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark

Foxy Lark

Sidamo Lark (Et)

Singing Bush Lark

Gillett's Lark

Short-tailed Lark

Thekla Lark

Erlanger's Lark (Et)

Somali Short-toed Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

Eremopterix signatus

Calendulauda alopex

Heteromiraфра sidamoensis

Miraфра cantillans

Miraфра gilletti

Spizocorys fremantlii

Galerida theklae

Calandrella erlangeri

Alaudala somalica

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul

Dodson's Bulbul

Dark-capped Bulbul

Northern Brownbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

Pycnonotus dodsoni

Pycnonotus tricolor

Phyllastrephus strepitans

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing

Brown-throated Martin

Sand Martin

Barn Swallow

Ethiopian Swallow

Wire-tailed Swallow

Psalidoprocne pristopectera

Riparia paludicola

Riparia riparia

Hirundo rustica

Hirundo aethiopica

Hirundo smithii

White-tailed Swallow (Et)

Rock Martin
 Common House Martin
 Lesser Striped Swallow
 Red-rumped Swallow

Hirundo megaensis
Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Delichon urbicum
Cecropis abyssinica
Cecropis daurica

PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae

Northern Crombec
 Red-faced Crombec
 Somali Crombec

Sylvietta brachyura
Sylvietta whytii
Sylvietta isabellina

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland Warbler (Heard Only)
 Willow Warbler
 Common Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus umbrovirens
Phylloscopus trochilus
Phylloscopus collybita

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler
 Sedge Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Acrocephalus palustris
Iduna pallida

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler

Bradypterus cinnamomeus

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola
 Rattling Cisticola
 Boran Cisticola
 Ashy Cisticola
Ethiopian Cisticola (Et, Er)
 Stout Cisticola
 Zitting Cisticola
 Tawny-flanked Prinia
 Pale Prinia
 Buff-bellied Warbler
 Yellow-breasted Apalis
 Red-fronted Warbler
 Grey-backed Camaroptera
 Grey Wren-Warbler
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela

Cisticola erythrops
Cisticola chiniana
Cisticola bodessa
Cisticola cinereolus
Cisticola lugubris
Cisticola robustus
Cisticola juncidis
Prinia subflava
Prinia somalica
Phyllolais pulchella
Apalis flavida
Urorhipis rufifrons
Camaroptera brevicaudata
Calamonastes simplex
Eremomela icteropygialis

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Rufous Chatterer
 White-rumped Babbler

Turdoides rubiginosa
Turdoides leucopygia

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

Abyssinian Catbird (Et)

Parophasma galinieri

Eurasian Blackcap
Barred Warbler
Common Whitethroat
Lesser Whitethroat
Brown (Bale) Parisoma
Banded Parisoma

Sylvia atricapilla
Sylvia nisoria
Sylvia communis
Sylvia curruca
Sylvia lugens griseiventris
Sylvia boehmi

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Abyssinian White-eye
Abyssinian White-eye
Montane White-eye

Zosterops abyssinicus abyssinicus
Zosterops abyssinicus jubaensis
Zosterops poliogastrus

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper

Salpornis salvadori

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Wattled Starling
Greater Blue-eared Starling
Rüppell's Starling
Golden-breasted Starling
Superb Starling
Shelley's Starling
White-crowned Starling
Violet-backed Starling
Red-winged Starling
Slender-billed Starling
Bristle-crowned Starling
White-billed Starling (Et, Er)

Creatophora cinerea
Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Lamprotornis regius
Lamprotornis superbus
Lamprotornis shelleyi
Lamprotornis albicapillus
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Onychognathus morio
Onychognathus tenuirostris
Onychognathus salvadorii
Onychognathus albirostris

PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae

Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Abyssinian Ground Thrush
Groundscraper Thrush
African Thrush
Bare-eyed Thrush
Mountain (Abyssinian) Thrush

Geokichla piaggiae
Turdus litsitsirupa
Turdus pelios
Turdus tephronotus
Turdus abyssinicus

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

White-browed Scrub Robin
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher (Er, Et)
Northern Black Flycatcher
African Grey Flycatcher
African Dusky Flycatcher
Rüppell's Robin-Chat
White-browed Robin-Chat
Red-capped Robin-Chat

Cercotrichas leucophrys
Melaenornis chocolatinus
Melaenornis edolioides
Melaenornis microrhynchus
Muscicapa adusta
Cossypha semirufa
Cossypha heuglini
Cossypha natalensis

Spotted Palm Thrush
Common Nightingale (Heard Only)
Common Redstart
White-winged Cliff Chat (Et, Er)
Common Rock Thrush
Little Rock Thrush
Blue Rock Thrush
African Stonechat
Moorland Chat
Mocking Cliff Chat
Rüppell's Black Chat (Et, Er)
Northern Wheatear
Red-breasted Wheatear
Isabelline Wheatear
Pied Wheatear
Blackstart
Brown-tailed Rock Chat
Sombre Rock Chat (Et, Er, Dj)
Abyssinian Wheatear (Et, Er, Dj)

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird
Nile Valley Sunbird
Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Hunter's Sunbird
Tacazze Sunbird
Beautiful Sunbird
Marico Sunbird
Shining Sunbird
Variable Sunbird

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
Grey-capped Social Weaver
Black-capped Social Weaver
Shelley's Sparrow
Swainson's Sparrow (Et, Er, Dj, So)
Chestnut Sparrow
Bush Petronia
Yellow-spotted Petronia

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver
White-headed Buffalo Weaver
Speckle-fronted Weaver
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver
Baglafaecht Weaver
Little Weaver

Cichladusa guttata
Luscinia megarhynchos
Phoenicurus phoenicurus
Monticola semirufus
Monticola saxatilis
Monticola rufocinereus
Monticola solitarius
Saxicola torquatus
Pinarochroa sordida
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Myrmecocichla melaena
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe bottae
Oenanthe isabellina
Oenanthe pleschanka
Oenanthe melanura
Oenanthe scotocerca
Oenanthe dubia
Oenanthe lugubris

Anthreptes orientalis
Hedydipna metallica
Chalcomitra senegalensis
Chalcomitra hunteri
Nectarinia tacazze
Cinnyris pulchellus
Cinnyris mariquensis
Cinnyris habessinicus
Cinnyris venustus

Plocepasser mahali
Pseudonigrita arnaudi
Pseudonigrita cabanisi
Passer shelleyi
Passer swainsonii
Passer eminibey
Gymnoris dentata
Gymnoris pyrgita

Bubalornis niger
Dinemellia dinemelli
Sporopipes frontalis
Amblyospiza albifrons
Ploceus baglafaecht
Ploceus luteolus

Spectacled Weaver
Rüppell's Weaver
Lesser Masked Weaver
Vitelline Masked Weaver
Speke's Weaver
Village Weaver
Juba Weaver (Et, So)
Chestnut Weaver
Red-headed Weaver
Red-billed Quelea
Black-winged Red Bishop
Northern Red Bishop
Red-collared Widowbird

Ploceus ocularis
Ploceus galbula
Ploceus intermedius
Ploceus vitellinus
Ploceus spekei
Ploceus cucullatus
Ploceus dichrocephalus
Ploceus rubiginosus
Anaplectes rubriceps
Quelea quelea
Euplectes hordeaceus
Euplectes franciscanus
Euplectes ardens

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia
Cut-throat Finch
Red-billed Firefinch
African Firefinch (Leader Only)
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
Purple Grenadier
Yellow-bellied Waxbill
Crimson-rumped Waxbill
Common Waxbill
Black-cheeked Waxbill
African Quailfinch
African Silverbill
Bronze Mannikin
Black-and-white Mannikin

Pytilia melba
Amadina fasciata
Lagonosticta senegala
Lagonosticta rubricata
Uraeginthus bengalus
Uraeginthus ianthinogaster
Coccygia quartinia
Estrilda rhodopyga
Estrilda astrild
Estrilda chamosyna
Ortygospiza atricollis
Euodice cantans
Lonchura cucullata
Lonchura bicolor

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

Village Indigobird
Straw-tailed Whydah
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah

Vidua chalybeata
Vidua fischeri
Vidua paradisaea

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Blue-headed Wagtail
Black-headed Wagtail
Grey Wagtail
Mountain Wagtail
White Wagtail
African Pied Wagtail
Abyssinian Longclaw (Et)
African (Grassland) Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Long-billed Pipit
Plain-backed Pipit
Tree Pipit

Motacilla flava
Motacilla flava feldegg
Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla clara
Motacilla alba
Motacilla aguimp
Macronyx flavicollis
Anthus cinnamomeus
Anthus campestris
Anthus similis
Anthus leucophrys
Anthus trivialis

Red-throated Pipit

Anthus cervinus

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

African Citril

Yellow-rumped Seedeater (Er, Et)

Reichenow's Seedeater

White-bellied Canary

Northern Grosbeak-Canary

Brown-rumped Seedeater

Streaky Seedeater

Yellow-crowned Canary

Ethiopian Siskin (Et)

Crithagra citrinelloides

Crithagra xanthopygia

Crithagra reichenowi

Crithagra dorsostrata

Crithagra donaldsoni

Crithagra tristriata

Crithagra striolata

Serinus flavivertex

Serinus nigriceps

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Ortolan Bunting

Striolated Bunting

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Somali Bunting

Emberiza hortulana

Emberiza striolata

Emberiza tahapisi

Emberiza polioleura

SYSTEMATIC MAMMAL & OTHER ANIMALS LIST

Eastern Black-and-white Colobus

Hamadryas Baboon

Olive Baboon

Gelada Baboon

Vervet Monkey

Abyssinian Hare

Starck's Hare

Unstriped Ground Squirrel

Gambian Sun Squirrel

Giant Root Rat

Blick's Grass Rat

Golden Jackal

Black-backed Jackal

Ethiopian Wolf

Bat-eared Fox

Dwarf Mongoose

White-tailed Mongoose

Spotted Hyena

Common Genet

Wild Cat

Ethiopian Rock Hyrax

Yellow-spotted Hyrax

Common Warthog

Menelik's Bushbuck

Colobus guerza

Papio hamadryas

Papio Anubis

Papio gelada

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

Cercopithecus pygerythrus

Lepus starcki

Xerus rutilus

Heliosciurus gambianus

Tachyoryctes macrocephalus

Arvicanthis blicki

Canis aureus

Canis mesomelas

Canis simensis

Otocyon megalotis

Helogale parvula

Ichneumia albicauda

Crocuta crocuta

Genetta genetta

Felis sylvestris

Procavia habessinica

Heterophyrax brucei

Phacochoerus Africana

Tragelaphus meneliki

Mountain Nyala
Ethiopian Klipspringer
Salt's Diddik
Gunther's Dikdik
Grant's Gazelle
Soemmering's Gazelle
Southern Gerenuk
Beisa Oryx
Leopard Tortoise
Nile Crocodile
Monitor Lizard

Tragelaphus buxtoni
Oreotragus saltatrixoides
Madoqua saltiana
Madoqua guentheri
Gazella granti
Gazella soemmeringi
Litocranius walleri
Oryx beisa
Stigmochelys pardalis
Crocodylus niloticus
Varanus indicus



Ethiopian Wolves on the Sanetti Plateau



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