



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Ethiopian Endemics I

*11<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011*

## & Lalibela Historical Extension

*29<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011*



### **Top 10 Birds (as voted by participants)**

- 1) Ruspoli's Turaco
- 2) Abyssinian Long-eared Owl
- 3) Harwood's Francolin
- 4) Black-crowned Crane
- 5) Egyptian Nightjar
- 6) Stresemann's Bush Crow
- 7) Red-billed Pytilia
- 8) Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse
- 9) Nile Valley Sunbird
- 10) Bearded Vulture

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**Trip Report compiled by:** Gavin Lautenbach

## Tour Summary

The Horn of Africa is an incredibly exciting destination for birding enthusiasts from across the globe. Ethiopia has in fact become a must do destination with the huge numbers of accessible birds that are not only confiding but highly photogenic as well. We had an incredible journey through the dusty wilderness, vast lakeshores and what seems like enough Teff fields to feed the world! From the Sanetti Plateau to the Dowa River, from Ghibe Gorge to Awash National Park, long days and short nights make these birding adventures thoroughly exciting and memorable.



We left the bright lights of Addis Ababa early and proceeded to visit a succession of Rift Valley lakes. This is quite an introduction to Ethiopia as it not only abounds with wetland species but also with all sorts of birds from the adjoining woodland and agricultural lands, typically leaving some people in absolute awe on their first day! Some of the top birds we saw included Ferruginous Duck (a rare bird in Ethiopia indeed!), Eurasian Teal, African Spoonbill, Black Heron, the first of many Steppe Eagles, Black Crowned Crane, Common Crane, Black-winged Lovebird, Blue-breasted and Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, stately Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, Abyssinian Wheatear, Little Rock Thrush, Tacazze Sunbird, Red-

throated Pipit and Ruppel's Weaver. Each Lake had something special to offer and we ended our very productive day at Lake Awassa where we spent the evening.

We started the following morning with a Black Sparrowhawk and then had a lovely view of a Spotted Creeper, which showed well a number of times. Northern Black Flycatcher, Nubian Woodpecker and Red-throated Wryneck were found in the taller *Acacias*. In the reed beds we had Lesser Swamp Warbler, Black Crake, Common Waxbill, Bronze Mannikin, Ethiopian Cisticola and African Citril. We also found a magnificent Blue-headed Coucal, White-browed Robin-Chat and Spectacled Weaver in the overgrown field. Pygmy Geese and Malachite Kingfishers were feeding in the lake shore grasses, whilst Thick-billed Ravens and Silvery-cheeked Hornbills were taking to the sky.



We left shortly after breakfast and headed toward Goba with a few stops along the way, notching up Cape Eagle-Owl, Red-billed Chough, Blue-winged Goose, Spot-breasted Lapwing, White-collared Pigeon, Groundscraper Thrush, Thekla Lark, Rouget's Rail, Botta's Wheatear, Abyssinian Longclaw and Moorland Chat. Closer to Dinsho we had the incredible Abyssinian Owl as well as Wood Owl both on their day roosts. We also had number of fantastic mammals including Bohor Reedbuck, Mountain Nyala, Menelik's Bushbuck, Warthog and Grey Duiker to round off and endemic filled day.

The following day was our excursion to Sof Omar. This is a valley with an extensive cave system named after a Muslim leader of the same name who took refuge there to escape prosecution. We left early to try and find as many birds as possible before the heat of the day forced us to retire to the



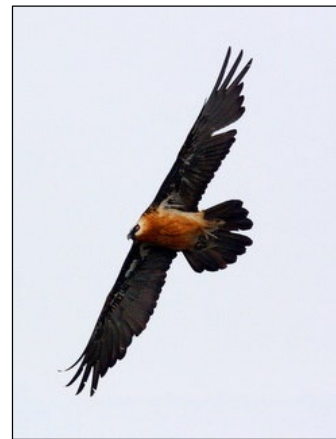
shade. We had a number of interesting bird parties with all sorts of interesting species, including Shining and Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Great and Lesser Honeyguides, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey Wren-Warbler and a pair of Northern Crombec's. We also had very nice views of White-rumped Babbler, Rufous Chatterers, Northern Brownbul and a small group of the endemic Salvadori's Seedeaters. We found a Red-headed Weaver in the midst of constructing a nest. After having a look at the extensive cave system we birded our way out of the valley where we slowly made our way home adding Somali Crow to list.

The ascent onto the Sanetti Plateau took us through a Juniper forest that is home to a number of fantastic species. Here we saw the noisy Abyssinian Catbird, Brown Woodland Warbler, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Montane White-eye and White-cheeked Turaco. We had wonderful scope views of a Mountain Buzzard, African Goshawk and Black Sparrowhawk, while a flock of Yellow-fronted Parrots flew over all too quickly. Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Mountain Thrush and Rüppel's Robin-Chat were also bouncing along on the grassy edges. We then continued up towards the Sanetti Plateau where the scenery was simply breathtaking! As we arrived



at the top we found a covey of Moorland Francolin busy feeding in the short grass. We also had incredible sightings of a Golden Eagle that glided past us at eye level, while a Lammergeyer made a grand appearance and gave us the most memorable views. Our timing was excellent as one of the botanical marvels of the world, the Giant Lobelia, was starting to flower. We were not disappointed by mammals either and we saw Blick's Grass Rat, Giant Root Rat, endemic Stark's Hare and the highly endangered Ethiopian Wolf that made a much anticipated appearance.

Departing Goba we travelled to Negele, with one of the major targets of the trip awaiting us! Driving over the Sanetti we descended into the seemingly endless Haremma Forest, where we saw Singing Cisticola, Slender-billed Starling, Red-chested Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Grey Wagtail and spectacular views of a Western-banded Snake Eagle. Stopping in the afternoon, we were soon treated to fantastic extended views of Ruspoli's Turaco, one of Ethiopia's most sought-after and attractive endemics! Interestingly, along with many other birds, it was mobbing a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl. Thereafter it was onward to the dusty town of Negele.



A day trip from Negele led us down the Bogol Manyo road where we spent a huge amount of time scouring the scorching *Acacia* thornveld for the areas' specials. We enjoyed a superb days birding, seeing Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Black-throated Barbet, Pygmy Batis, Three-streaked Tchagra, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Pringle's Puffback, Gillett's Lark, Pale Prinia, Somali Crombec, Northern Grosbeak-Canary, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Somali Bunting and White-crowned Starling. After the fantastic woodland birding we then visited the Liben Plains on our return journey to Negele, notching up Kori Bustard, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Caspian Plover and the critically endangered Sidamo Lark.





After two spectacular nights in the “five star” Green Hotel in Negele (not!), we ventured through the untamed and beautiful dry woodland and savanna *en route* to Yabello. Along the way we stopped at the Dawa River for a scrumcious bush breakfast. The birding here was most enjoyable and we found Juba Weaver, White-browed Coucal, African Hawk-Eagle and Black-bellied Sunbird. We also had a pair of Black-faced Sandgrouse on the ground which we managed to follow for a while, and after much searching we managed only a glimpse of a White-winged Collared Dove. The prehistoric looking Vulturine Guineafowl lined the roads as our journey continued, and in the afternoon we found Grey-headed



Sliverbill, Spotted Palm-Thrush, White-tailed Swallow, Taita and Somali Fiscals, Stresemann’s Bush Crow, White-bellied Bustard, Tiny Cisticola, Scaly Chatterer and, eventually after many hours’ of searching, a Red-naped Bushshrike.

Our stay in the south of Ethiopia was very rewarding, though our time in the stunning *Acacia* savanna always seemed too short. Some of the top avians seen here included the diminutive Pygmy Falcon, Donaldson-Smith’s Nightjar, Temminck’s Courser, Blue-naped Mousebird, Red-fronted and D’Arnaud’s Barbets, Shelley’s and Magpie Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Grey-capped and Black-capped Social Weavers, Chestnut Sparrow, Shelly’s Rufous Sparrow, Speke’s Weaver, Purple Grenadier, Black-cheeked Waxbill and, on the mammalian front, Lesser Kudu, Günther’s Dik-dik, Grant’s Gazelle, Gerenuk, Civet, Common Genet, White-tailed Mongoose and one of the highlights of the tour - AARDVARK!!!

After the delights of the south we then moved onward to the Lake Langano area. The birding here was excellent and we managed to see Saddle-billed Stork, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Greyish Eagle-Owl, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Narina Trogon, Grey Kestrel, Scaly-throated and Brown-backed Honeyguides, Green Twinspot, Hemprich’s Hornbill, Double-toothed Barbet, Lemon Dove, Scaly and Clapperton’s Francolins, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Thick-billed Weaver, Yellow-fronted Parrots and Green Malkoha. A mid-day sojourn to Lake Abijata was relaxed, and here we saw vast numbers of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Collared Pratincole as well as thousands of waterfowl.



It was then on to Awash National Park where we spent some good time driving the plains in search of Bustards. With some great spotting from the team Arabian, Kori, Buff-crested, Black-bellied and Hartlaub’s Bustards were all found within the park. We also found Northern White-faced Owl, Woodchat Shrike, Singing Bush Lark, Red-winged Lark, Ashy Cisticola, Bat-eared Fox, Aardwolf, Soemmerring’s Gazelle and Beisa Oryx. We made a trip out to the hot springs and had a troop of around 300 Hamadryas Baboon, African Collared Dove, Eastern Paradise Whydah and African Silverbill. We also discovered tracks of two lionesses that had been in the area the previous evening and found where they had crushed the spine of a Striped Hyena, which when we found it was still alive. It was very interesting – albeit it also very tragic – to see this competitive behaviour of the lions. We then visited the Belin Plains that produced Somali Ostrich, huge numbers of Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark interspersed by smaller numbers of Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Nile-



Valley Sunbird, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Egyptian Nightjar, Three-banded Courser and Pale Rockfinch. We also saw the range-restricted Grevy's Zebra. From the plains, a short drive to Bilen Lodge brought us a few new birds, and during our time here we saw Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Ethiopian Swallow, Black Scrub Robin, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Dideric's Cuckoo and a Saker Falcon that circled low over our heads.



Next it was into the magnificent Jemma Valley. We started the day with Harwood's and Erckel's Francolins, Long-billed Pipit, Yellow-rumped Seedeater, Village Indigobird, Lesser blue-eared and White-billed Starling, Eurasian Crag Martin, Masked Shrike, Whinchat, Red-collared Widowbird, Rüppell's Black and White-winged Cliff Chats, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Black Stork, Pied Wagtail, Long-legged Buzzard and a stunning Fox Kestrel. After lunch we then started our journey home with a few scenic stops on the way.

Gemase Geden was probably the most inspiring scenery of our trip, and despite the disturbance and noise some local roadwork's had brought we had excellent views of Ankober Serin and saw decent numbers of Gelada. Down the Melka Gebdu track we found Yellow-throated Seedeater and also Half-collared Kingfisher relatively easily as it came down to drink. A quick lunch and then it was all the way through to Weliso where we would get a good night's rest for the final days' birding at Ghibe Gorge.

This turned out to be an incredible day, starting off with a Hemprich's Hornbill devouring a Chameleon. A Red-billed Pytilia here was one of the highlights of the trip, which we found in the midst of a mixed flock. Other notable species included Foxy and Croaking Cisticola, Pale Flycatcher, Collared Subird, Black-faced Firefinch, Vinaceous Dove, Mosque Swallow, Zebra Waxbill, White-winged Widowbird, Bar-breasted Firefinch and Abyssinian Waxbill. After an epic mornings' birding we returned to Addis for a quick shopping excursion before finishing the main part of the tour with a memorable evening of dinner and dancing – local style of course! A huge thank you to our drivers who worked tirelessly to satisfy our passion; without them, we would never have been able to see such amazing birds!

For those that did the Lalibela extension, it was a fantastic cultural experience. We visited a variety of churches dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and it is definitively one of the wonders of the world! We also added a number of good birds including Somali Starling, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver, Flappet Lark, Cinerious Bunting and White-fronted Black Chat. Then sadly it was back to Addis for a last stop at the museum before everyone made their homeward bound journey.



**Photo Credits:** Ruspoli's Turaco, Black-winged Lovebird, Abyssinian Owl, Ethiopian Wolf and Lammergeier by Matthew Matthiessen, Stresemann's Bush Crow by Keith Valentine, Purple Grenadier by Matthew Matthiessen, Arabian Bustard and St. George's Chapel in Lalibella by Steve Davis.



## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.3 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

**Total species recorded: 503 (an additional 4 species for the extension Total 507)**

E = Endemic to Ethiopia, NE = Near-endemic to Ethiopia.

### Ostrich Struthionidae

#### **Somali Ostrich**

*Struthio molybdophanes*

We scoped a number of individuals on the Bilen Plains.

### Guineafowl Numididae

#### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

A nice flock was seen in the agricultural lands in the Yebello area.

*NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris (Helmeted Guineafowl) which we recorded in Ethiopia, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western N. m. galeata (West African Guineafowl) and the southern N. m. mitrata (Tufted Guineafowl). Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

#### **Vulturine Guineafowl**

*Acryllium vulturinum*

This sensational bird, was recorded in decent numbers on the road from Negele to Yabello, we also had a nice flock the following morning whilst birding around Yebello

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

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

*Scleroptila psilolaema*

We found a covey on the Sanetti Plateau.

#### **Crested Francolin**

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

First seen at Sof Omar, we recorded it at various bush sites thereafter.

#### **Scaly Francolin**

*Pternistis squamatus*

We had excellent views on the forest trail at Bishangari Lodge.

#### **Clapperton's Francolin**

*Pternistis clappertoni*

Great views were had of this scarce bird at Bishangari Lodge.

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

*Pternistis harwoodi*

We had lovely views of this sought-after endemic in the Jemma Valley.

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

*Pternistis castaneicollis*

Good numbers and seen well in the Bale Mountains.

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

*Pternistis erckelii*

We had a single bird next to the road close to Debre Birhan and a few in the Jemma Valley.

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

*Pternistis leucoscepus*

Our best views were on the Bogol Manyo road where we flushed a covey.

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

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

*Dendrocygna viduata*

We recorded large numbers in the Rift Valley Lakes.

#### **Fulvous Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

First seen in the distance flying at Ziway and then again at Lake Awassa.

#### **Spur-winged Goose**

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen at most Rift Valley lakes.

#### **Knob-billed Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*



We had a great view of this uncommon species at a small waterhole close to Ngele.

**Blue-winged Goose (E)** *Cyanochen cyanoptera*

A smart endemic, it was seen at scattered highland sites, with our initial views in the Bale Mountains.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Seen regularly during the trip at most wetland sites.

**African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus*

These stunning birds were seen on Lakes Ziway and Awassa.

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*

We found a few birds at Lake Schalla.

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa*

We were very fortunate to find a pair with 3 youngsters in a small stream close to Goba.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*

Seen on the Rift Valley Lakes, in the Bale Mountains and later in highland areas near Debre Birhan.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

We recorded this species at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour, huge numbers at Abijata.

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*

A few birds were seen on the first day visiting the Rift Valley Lakes

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Seen on the Rift Valley Lakes.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Small numbers were found in the Rift Valley lakes.

**Eurasian (Green-winged) Teal** *Anas crecca*

This stunning bird was seen on the first day around the Crater Lakes.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*

A few of these small, dainty ducks were seen in the Rift Valley lakes.

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*

A small number of birds were seen at the Crater Lakes.

**Ferruginous Duck (Pochard)** *Aythya nyroca*

We were very fortunate to see this bird on the first day around the Crater Lakes.

### Grebes Podicipedidae

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Recorded at scattered lakes during the tour.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Seen on the first day visiting the Crater Lakes.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

We had a small number at Lake Shalla.

### Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

We had great numbers on Lake Abiata.

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor*

Large numbers were seen at Lake Abiata where it was nice to see the comparison between the two flamingo species.

### Storks Ciconiidae

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*





A few scattered birds were recorded during the tour, great views of two perched birds at the Dowa River.

**African Openbil** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

No seen too often, they were seen at the Crater Lakes on the first day.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

We had good views in Jemma Valley and Ghiba Gorge.

**Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii*

We found a small group following a tractor that was ploughing the land in the Negele area.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

A few birds were found at Lake Langano whilst staying at Bishangari.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

Flocks were seen in various areas beginning with our drive to Awassa.

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

Always nice to find this magnificent bird, we had a nice view whilst birding the wetlands at Bishangari Lodge.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Large numbers were seen, especially in the vicinity of large towns and lakesides.

### Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Common and widespread, mostly seen in the vicinity of wetlands.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Small numbers were seen throughout the tour.

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

We saw this species on a number of occasions in higher altitude areas of Ethiopia.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Recorded at the Rift Valley lakes.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

A few were seen on the Rift Valley lakes, good views around Lake Langano.

### Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

A number of birds were seen at the wetlands of Bishangari.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Recorded on the Rift Valley Lakes, good numbers at Lake Ziway.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Regularly recorded throughout Ethiopia in small numbers.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret (which is what we recorded in Ethiopia) and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements but is accepted by the IOC.*

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Good numbers were recorded at most of the lakes in Ethiopia, common at Bishangari.

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

Was seen best in the farmlands in Ghiba Gorge.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

The largest heron in the world was seen well at Bishangari.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

A few birds were seen in the wetlands of Bishangari.

*NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron*





**Western Great Egret***Ardea alba*

This impressive egret was found in low numbers at most wetlands and lakes on the tour.

*NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements but is accepted by the IOC.*

**Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret***Egretta intermedia*

We had a wonderful opportunity to compare the Intermediate and Great Egrets at Lake Awassa.

**Black Heron***Egretta ardesiaca*

A single bird was seen at the fish market at Lake Awassa.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

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

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

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

Was seen at many wetland sites, common and widespread.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

This huge avian was seen at various Rift Valley lakes best views on Lake Langanjo.

**Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

We had a good view of a bird close to the hot springs in Awash N.P.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae****Reed Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

Many were seen at various water bodies on the tour best views around Lake Ziway.

**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Good numbers around Lake Langanjo.

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

Small numbers were seen during the tour, best views of a bird in the dead tree close to the hot springs in Awash N.P.

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

Small numbers were seen in open country sites throughout Ethiopia.

**Scissor-tailed Kite***Chelictinia riocourii*

We were extremely fortunate to get brilliant views of this incredible raptor in Awash N.P.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Commonly recorded in Ethiopia.

*NOTE: We recorded both the non-breeding Palaearctic migrant Black Kite M. migrans and the Afrotropical migrant Yellow-billed Kite M. m. parasitus during the course of the tour, sometimes split as M. aegyptius, although this split is not recognized by the IOC.*

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Seen at various waterbodies during the tour.

**Bearded Vulture***Gypaetus barbatus*

This magnificent bird provided superb views while at Gemassa Geden.



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<b>Egyptian Vulture</b>	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Scattered birds were seen, with our initial sighting close to Negele, common around the Awash area.	
<b>Hooded Vulture</b>	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
Seen virtually daily, especially in association with human settlements.	
<b>White-backed Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Seen regularly during the tour, and often in large numbers.	
<b>Rüppell's Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
Seen at scattered sites in smaller numbers, we had good views at a number of roadside kills.	
<b>White-headed Vulture</b>	<i>Trogoniceps occipitalis</i>
This species was seen at Wondo Genet and on the drive from Negele to Yabello.	
<b>Lappet-faced Vulture</b>	<i>Aegyptius tracheliotus</i>
Sub-Saharan Africa's largest vulture, it was seen en route from Goba to Negele.	
<b>Black-chested Snake Eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
We had a good view on our drive to Yabello in the late afternoon, we also had a bird in flight at Ghiba Gorge.	
<b>Brown Snake Eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
We only had one sighting of this bird which was in the Yabello area.	
<b>Western-banded Snake Eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
We had a fantastic sighting of a perched bird in the Haremma Forest.	
<b>Bateleur</b>	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
We had a good number of this classic African savanna raptor around the Negele and Yabello areas.	
<b>Western Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Lake Ziway produced the best views of this bird on the tour.	
<b>Pallid Harrier</b>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Good numbers were seen over grassland during the tour.	
<b>Montagu's Harrier</b>	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Recorded over the abundant grasslands, first sighting was on the road to Sof Omar.	
<b>African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)</b>	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
A nice confiding raptor first encountered around Bale Mountains N.P.	
<b>Dark Chanting Goshawk</b>	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
The conspicuous "DCG" was seen on a number of occasions during the tour, with good numbers in Awash NP.	
<b>Eastern Chanting Goshawk</b>	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>
We had great views of "ECG's" in southern Ethiopia.	
<b>Gabar Goshawk</b>	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
A sub-adult bird was seen on the first day and later an adult was seen in Awash N.P.	
<b>African Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
We had a great view of a single bird in the Juniper forest below the Bale Mountains. The bird was of the race <i>unduliventer</i> .	
<b>Shikra</b>	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
We saw this species in the south of Ethiopia, best views in the Yebello area.	
<b>Little Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
We had a number of good sightings; Sof Omar probably was the best.	
<b>Black Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
Scope views in the juniper forest before the ascent of the Sanetti Plateau.	
<b>Common Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
We had two separate sightings of this species, first was on the road from Awassa to Goba.	
<i>NOTE: The subspecies which we encountered is the northern breeding B. b. vulpinus, sometimes regarded as a separate species, Steppe Buzzard, from the nominate Common Buzzard and three other incipient groups in eastern Asia. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.</i>	

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**Mountain Buzzard***Buteo oreophilus*

Good scope views of a perched bird were had in the Juniper forest close to the Bale Mountain.

*NOTE: Most authorities recognize the northern African Mountain Buzzard B. oreophilus as distinct from the southern African endemic Forest Buzzard B. trizonatus. Clements does not recognize this split. These two resident African forms used to be lumped with the Common Buzzard B. buteo.*

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

We had a great view overhead of a soaring bird in the Jemma Valley.

**Augur Buzzard***Buteo augur*

Seen on many occasions throughout the tour.

**Tawny Eagle***Aquila rapax*

Regularly recorded throughout the tour, first seen in the Dinsho area.

*NOTE: The nominate African Tawny Eagle A. r. rapax may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle A. r. vindhiana. This split is as yet not recognized by IOC or Clements.*

**Steppe Eagle***Aquila nipalensis*

We recorded this species on a number of occasions during the tour; Bale Mountains was our first sighting.

*NOTE: The Western Steppe Eagle A. n. orientalis, which we recorded, may be split from the Eastern Steppe Eagle A. n. nipalensis. This split is as yet not recognized by IOC or Clements.*

**[Eastern] Imperial Eagle***Aquila heliaca*

A single bird was seen in flight over the Sanetti Plateau.

**Golden Eagle***Aquila crysaetos*

We had an incredible low flyby of this magnificent eagle on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Verreaux's Eagle***Aquila verreauxii*

An outstanding view of this large raptor soaring at Gemassa Geden.

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

This species was well at the Dowa River.

**Booted Eagle***Hieraaetus pennatus*

A single sighting of a bird in flight at the Prince Ruspoli's sight.

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

A few roadside individuals were recorded during the tour best sighting was just outside the town of Yebello.

**Falcons Falconidae****Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

Recorded on the Dowa River as well as the Yabello and Awash areas.

**Common Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

This species was seen in small numbers almost on a daily basis.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palaearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this split, while IOC does.*

**Fox Kestrel***Falco alopex*

This fantastic Kestrel was seen in the Jemma Valley.

**Grey Kestrel***Falco ardosiaceus*

We had a lovely sight of a perched bird in the early morning at Bishangari.

**African Hobby***Falco cuvierii*

Was fantastic to see a pair in flight and perched on our way from Yebello to Langanu.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

We had three of this large, open country raptor fly over our heads and then land on a nearby ledge on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Saker Falcon***Falco Cherrug*

What an outstanding bird, was seen twice best view overhead at Bilan Lodge.



**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

A single sighting of this spectacular Falcon in the Yebello area, seen whilst walking after breakfast.

**Bustards Otidae****Arabian Bustard***Ardeotis arabs*

We had a great view of a bird close to the road in Awash N.P.

**Kori Bustard***Ardeotis kori*

The heaviest flying bird was seen on the Liben Plains and in Awash NP.

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

We had a number of sightings of this handsome bird on the road from Negele to Yabello.

*NOTE: Clements lumps the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi. This treatment is not followed by the IOC and most authorities and they are generally considered two distinct species.*

**Buff-crested Bustard***Lophotis gindiana*

Seen well in the Yebello area and in the Awash area.

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

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

Not seen too often, we were lucky to see this lovely Bustard in Awash N.P.

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

We had superb views of this species in Awash NP.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****Rouget's Rail (E)***Rougetius rougetii*

We had a number of great views of this confiding species in the Bale Mountains.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

First seen at Lake Ziway.

**African Swamphen***Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Only recorded at Lake Awassa.

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

We had great views of adults as well as immature birds at Lake Ziway.

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

A few birds were seen at Lake Hora.

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

We were very fortunate to find a pair, very close by in Ghiba Gorge.

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

A few birds were seen on the first day of the tour around the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

We had a good sighting of this species at Bishangari.

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

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

Good numbers were seen on Lake Abijata.





### Plovers Charadriidae

#### **Spur-winged Lapwing**

*Vanellus spinosus*

A handsome bird, it was seen at a number of wetland sites throughout the tour.

#### **Black-winged Lapwing**

*Vanellus melanopterus*

We saw this species in small groups at scattered upland grassland sites.

#### **Crowned Lapwing**

*Vanellus coronatus*

Was seen fairly regularly in open country around Ngele and Yebello.

#### **African Wattled Lapwing**

*Vanellus senegallus*

We found a few birds at a small water hole close to Negele.

#### **Spot-breasted Lapwing (E)**

*Vanellus melanocephalus*

This beautiful lapwing was seen in the Bale Mountains.

#### **Common Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius hiaticula*

This species was seen on a shallow mudflat at Lake Abijata.

#### **Little Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius dubius*

We got good views of this species at some of the Rift Valley Lakes.

#### **Kittlitz's Plover**

*Charadrius pecuarius*

We saw this species in good numbers at Lake Abijata.

#### **Three-banded Plover**

*Charadrius tricollaris*

A few scattered birds were seen.

#### **Caspian Plover**

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

We were very fortunate to have two separate sightings, a single bird on the Liben Plains and two birds closer to breeding plumage at Lake Abijata.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

#### **Lesser Jacana**

*Microparra capensis*

After much searching we managed to find this uncommon species at Lake Langano.

#### **African Jacana**

*Actophilornis africanus*

Several birds were seen in the wetlands of the Rift Valley Lakes, good numbers around Bishangari.

### Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

#### **African Snipe**

*Gallinago nigripennis*

Scope views at Lake Ziway fish market.

#### **Black-tailed Godwit**

*Limosa limosa*

This species was seen at Lake Koka and again at Bishangari.

#### **Marsh Sandpiper**

*Tringa stagnatilis*

We saw this species at Lake Ziway and a few other wetland sites.

#### **Common Greenshank**

*Tringa nebularia*

Recorded at scattered wetland sites throughout the tour.

#### **Green Sandpiper**

*Tringa ochropus*

A number of good sightings throughout the tour.

#### **Wood Sandpiper**

*Tringa glareola*

Common at most wetland sites throughout the tour.

#### **Common Sandpiper**

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen regularly alongside many rivers and waterbodies.

#### **Little Stint**

*Calidris minuta*

Small numbers were seen at Lakes Ziway and Abijata.

#### **Temminck's Stint**

*Calidris temminckii*

First recorded at Lake Ziway and again at Lake Abijata.



**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris alpina*

We had a small number at Lake Abijata.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

We saw this species at a number of waterbodies, good numbers at Abijata.

**Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Temminck's Courser***Cursorius somalensis*

Excellent views on a night drive around the Yebello area.

**Three-banded Courser***Rhinoptilus Africanus*

First seen on night drive around the Yebello area and then scope views on the Bilen Plains.

**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

A single bird was seen at Lake Abijata.

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

We recorded this species at Lake Ziway.

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

Seen at some of the Rift Valley Lakes.

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

We had a single bird at Lake Ziway.

**Gull-billed Tern***Gelochelidon nilotica*

Seen at a few of the Rift Valley Lakes including Ziway and Langanu.

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybrida*

A few were seen at Lake Ziway.

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

A fairly small tern, it was seen on the Rift Valley lakes, first seen at Lake Awassa.

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

We had a fantastic view of a bird that landed at our bush breakfast on Bilen plains.

**Black-faced Sandgrouse***Pterocles decoratus*

A pair was found at the Dowa River.

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

A beautifully patterned bird, we saw it incredible well at Bilen Lodge.

*NOTE: The nominate African form which we recorded may be regarded as distinct from the Asian P. l. arabicus which would be renamed Close-barred Sandgrouse. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.***Pigeons & Doves Columbidae****Common Pigeon***Columba livia*

The first time we saw this species was in the little town of Mojo.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

Seen on every day of the tour.

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

Seen at most high altitude sites, good numbers in the agricultural lands.

**Lemon Dove***Columba larvata*

Spectacular views in the forests at Bishangari.

**Dusky Turtle Dove***Streptopelia lugens*

We saw this species fairly frequently at higher altitudes.

**African Collared Dove***Streptopelia roseogrisea*

We had wonderful scope views of this seldom seen bird on our Ethiopia tour in Awash N.P.

**White-winged Collared Dove (NE)** *Streptopelia reichenowi*

After much searching we had only a single bird fly past close to the Dowa River.

**Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*

We saw this species at a number of woodland sites during the tour, beginning with lunch at Lake Ziway.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

This species was recorded quite frequently during the tour in areas of woodland.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

This species was encountered at Sof Omar, and was then quite common thereafter.

**Vinaceous Dove** *Streptopelia vinacea*

We had good views of this species at Gibe Gorge.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Seen almost daily the tour.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*

We recorded this species at Sof Omar thereafter fairly common at most sites.

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer*

Excellent views as we came out of Harena Forest where we watched it drink from a small puddle.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

A flyby in the forests around Bishangari.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

This dainty dove was quite common in dry country areas.

**Bruce's Green Pigeon** *Treron waalia*

Found in large fruiting figs close to the edges of the Rift Valley Lakes we visited.

### Cockatoos & Parrots Psittacidae

**Black-winged Lovebird (E)** *Agapornis taranta*

We had a number of good sightings throughout the tour, good numbers around Bishangari.

**Red-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris*

A dry country inhabitant, first seen on our way to Negele with further sightings near Negele and Yabello.

**Yellow-fronted Parrot (E)** *Poicephalus flavifrons*

Our first sighting although brief was in the Juniper forest en route to the Sanetti Plateau, then around Bishangari we had good views of a number of birds.

### Turacos Musophagidae

**White-cheeked Turaco (NE)** *Tauraco leucotis*

This species was seen on a number of occasions, with our initial sighting in the Juniper forests in Bale Mountain NP. Incredible numbers in the large figs at Bishangari.

**Ruspoli's Turaco (E)** *Tauraco ruspolii*

We enjoyed fantastic extended views of a handful of birds that were mobbing a Verreaux's Eagle Owl en route to Negele.

**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*

We saw this species driving in to Lake Langano.

**White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster*

Seen at many savanna localities during the tour.

**Eastern Plantain-eater** *Crinifer zonurus*

We had two birds calling in the riverine vegetation in Awash N.P



### Cuckoos Cuculidae

#### **Blue-headed Coucal**

*Centropus monachus*

This large coucal was seen at Lake Awassa.

#### **White-browed Coucal**

*Centropus superciliosus*

Good views at Bishangari..

*NOTE: Although some authorities previously split the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus which we recorded in Ethiopia, this treatment is not followed by the IOC.*

#### **Green Malkoha**

*Ceuthmochares australis*

We had superb views of this little recorded species at Lake Langano.

#### **Dederic Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had a sighting at Bilen Lodge close to the reedbeds.

#### **Red-chested Cuckoo**

*Cuculus solitarius*

Seen and heard in the Harena Forest. We watched it calling with an unusual four note call.

### Owls Strigidae

#### **African Scops Owl**

*Otus senegalensis*

This tiny owl was heard on our night drive around Negele.

#### **Northern White-faced Owl**

*Ptiliops leucotis*

We had an outstanding view of a bird on a treetop in Awash N.P.

#### **Cape Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo capensis*

Our drive to Goba produced a close-up view of this beautiful bird; a second pair was flushed of the ground on the way up to the Sanetti plateau.

#### **Greyish Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo cinerascens*

A single bird was seen at Lake Langano, with a further bird found on our night drive around Bilen lodge.

#### **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo lacteus*

Great views of a bird being mobbed by the Prince himself en route to Negele.

#### **African Wood Owl**

*Strix woodfordii*

A single bird was scoped in the Bale Mountains NP.

#### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

Recorded at Sof Omar.

#### **Abyssinian Owl**

*Asio abyssinicus*

We were most fortunate to see this incredible bird in the Bale Mountains NP.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

#### **Egyptian Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus aegyptus*

An outstanding bird we were very fortunate to find these birds still using their dayroost from previous years on the Bilen Plains.

#### **Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

A single bird was seen on nightdrive from Yabello.

#### **Star-spotted Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus stellatus*

Unfortunately, only a brief sighting in Awash N.P on a night drive.

#### **Slender-tailed Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus clarus*

Good sighting of a resting bird at Lake Langano.

### Swifts Apodidae

#### **African Palm Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

Seen close to the hot springs in Awash NP.





**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

This massive swift was seen around the Bale Mountains N.P.

**Mottled Swift***Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Another large swift, it was seen in the open plains close to Mega.

**Nyanza Swift***Apus niansae*

We recorded this species over the Haremma Forest and again around Debre Birhan

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

A few birds were seen on the Bogol Manyo rd

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

We saw this species quite frequently during the tour.

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

First seen around the Yabello area, as well in Awash N.P.

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

We had superb views of this of around 10 birds at Bishangari.

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

Seen at a number of savanna sites during the tour first at Sof Omar.

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

Quite a widespread savanna species, which we saw a number of times and especially on travel days.

*NOTE: The subspecies which we recorded in Ethiopia, C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller which would become an Ethiopian near-endemic, based upon coloration of the breast and crown and an isolated population.*

**Abyssinian Roller***Coracias abyssinicus*

Seen on a number of occasions, with good views in the Awash area.

**Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus glaucurus*

We saw this species in fig forest at Lake Langano.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Grey-headed Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

Great views in the wetlands of Bishangari.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

Seen on our pre lunch walk on the day we drove to Negele.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

Recorded in scattered woodland and savanna sites during the tour.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher***Ispidina picta*

A tiny bird, it was first recorded at Sof Omar.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

A jewel of the waterways, we enjoyed fantastic views of this species at Lake Awassa and Lake Langano.

**Half-collared Kingfisher***Alcedo semitorquata*

Always a nice bird to get on tour, we found one on the Melka Gebdu track.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

We saw this, the world's largest "typical" kingfisher in the Jemma Valley.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

Seen at scattered waterbodies during the tour, where it was usually fairly common.



### Bee-Eaters Meropidae

#### **Little Bee-eater**

*Merops pusillus*

We saw this species predominately in lower altitude savanna sites. It is generally smaller and lacks the small white cheek patch and broad blue forehead of the following species.

#### **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**

*Merops variegates*

A stunning bird, it was seen quite regularly during the tour (most frequently in upland woodland sites).

*NOTE: The Ethiopian form M. v. lafresnayii, is considered by several authorities to form a distinct species, called Abyssinian Bee-eater, based on size, coloration, habitat differences, and this combined with the fact that this subspecies is restricted to the highlands of Ethiopia and the Boma Hills in Sudan. It would therefore be an Ethiopian near-endemic if full species status is awarded. This enigmatic race has in the past been lumped with Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater M. oreobates.*

#### **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**

*Merops persicus*

A few birds showed well at Bilen Lodge.

#### **Northern Carmine Bee-eater**

*Merops nubicus*

We saw scattered birds during the tour, usually in open savanna sites and close to water bodies.

### Hoopoes Upupidae

#### **Eurasian Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

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

*NOTE: IOC recognizes three species (African U. africana, Eurasian U. epops and Madagascar U. marginata). Clements only recognizes the Eurasian and Malagasy forms. A fourth is sometimes recognized (but not by IOC), West/Central African U. senegalensis. We only recorded the nominate Palearctic migrant form U. e. epops.*

### Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

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

*Phoeniculus somaliensis*

Seen at scattered woodland sites, with our first sighting coming in at Sof Omar.

#### **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**

*Rhinopomastus minor*

This stunning bird was seen well around the Ngele area.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

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

*Tockus hemprichii*

We recorded this species in good numbers around Bishangari, Jemma Valley and Ghibe Gorge.

#### **African Grey Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

Scattered birds were recorded in drier savanna areas of Ethiopia.

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

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Commonly recorded in savanna at lower elevations, first seen at Sof Omar.

*NOTE: Some authorities (including the IOC) have split the Red-billed Hornbill complex into five species. Clements does not recognize these splits as yet.*

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

*Tockus flavirostris*

Small numbers were seen at dry country sites. We initially saw it at Sof Omar.

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

*Tockus deckeni*

This species (also a dry country species) was seen on a number of occasions, with our first sighting on our drive to Negele.

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

*Bycanistes brevis*

This large hornbill was seen on a number of occasions; initially seen in Awassa. Usually around large fruiting figs.

### Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae



**Abyssinian Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus abyssinicus*

A magnificent bird, it was seen at scattered locales after our lovely sighting on the first day en route from Addis to Awassa.

**African Barbets Lybiidae****Red-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus pusillus*

Scattered birds were recorded, with our initial sighting at Sof Omar.

**Red-fronted Barbet***Tricholaema diademata*

We had good views of this one near Yabello.

**Black-throated Barbet***Tricholaema melanocephala*

A dry country bird, it was first seen in on the Bogol Manyo road with further sightings on our drive from Negele to Yabello.

*NOTE: The Serengeti and northern Tanzanian form of this barbet, T. m. flavibuccalis is sometimes considered a different species (Yellow-cheeked Barbet) from the nominate form which we recorded in Ethiopia, although this is not followed by the IOC nor Clements.*

**Banded Barbet (NE)***Lybius undatus*

A smart bird, we recorded it at scattered sites during the tour, a nice sighting around Lake Awassa.

**Black-billed Barbet***Lybius guifsobalito*

We recorded small numbers of this handsome bird at a number of sites, great views in the Jemma Valley

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

This large, colourful bird was seen at Lake Langano in the fig forest.

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

We had a lovely view of a pair sitting on the rim of a termite mound on our drive to Negele.

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

Great views were had in Awash and again at Bilen Lodge.

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

We saw this species well in the Yabello area.

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

We were very fortunate to see this bird when it responded to a Pearl-spotted Owlet recording at Lake Langano.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

A great view of a bird at Sof Omar.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide***Indicator variegatus*

After hearing one calling we managed to find it in the fig forests at Bishangari.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

Nice view of a bird the landed above our heads at Sof Omar.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Red-throated Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis*

We had great views of this species at Lake Awassa on our morning walk.

**Nubian Woodpecker***Campethera nubica*

Quite common in woodland sites throughout the tour, first sighting around Lake Awassa

**Abyssinian Woodpecker (E)***Dendropicus abyssinicus*

We were fortunate to find a female in the Harenna Forest, this species is becoming increasingly difficult to find.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicus fuscescens*

This small woodpecker species was seen on a few occasions in woodland, our initial sighting being near Ngele.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*

We had good views of this species in a dead tree on our pre lunch walk on our drive to Negele.

**African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

We had great views of this species at Lake Awassa at our accommodation.

*NOTE: The form we saw is split by some authorities (such as Clements) and is known as Grey-headed Woodpecker D. spodocephalus. IOC does however not follow this treatment, and "lumps" it within the Grey Woodpecker D. goertae complex.*

### Wattle-Eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

**Grey-headed Batis** *Batis orientalis*

First seen at Sof Omar, and later at a number of dry country sites.

**Western Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor*

Seen at some of the moister sites (such as in woodland around the Rift Valley lakes), with our first sighting being near LakeAwassa.

**Pygmy Batis** *Batis perkeo*

Best views of this species were on the Bogol Manyo road and in the south near Yabello.

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

We had a sighting of a pair of birds at Bishangari and later a pair on the fig forest walk.

### Helmetsrikes Prionopidae

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

We had a lovely view of a few birds on our walk at Sof Omar.

### Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

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

A wonderful sighting of a bird close to the Ruspoli's Turaco site.

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

Seen on our pre lunch walk on the day we drove to Ngele

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

A dry country bird, we had superb views of this species around the Yebello area.

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

We had a number of great sightings in and around the Ngele and Yebello areas

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

Awesome views in the Jemma Valley.

**Northern Puffback** *Dryoscopus gambensis*

This species was first seen at our lunch stop at Dodola.

**Pringle's Puffback** *Dryoscopus pringlii*

A small puffback, we enjoyed superb views while on the Bogol Manyo road and again on the Dowa River.

**Slate-colored Boubou** *Laniarius funebris*

Seen regularly in dry country sites.

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

One of the toughest birds to find on our trip we eventually found it on the road to Yebello in the late afternoon.

**Ethiopian (Tropical) Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Stunning views in the Juniper forests close to the Bale Mountains.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split as Ethiopian Boubou L. aethiopicus. IOC does not as yet follow this split.*





**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

Seen in the south on the Negele and Yabello areas, and thereafter in the Awash area.

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

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae****Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike***Campephaga phoenicea*

We had some superb views of both male and female of this species at Lake Langano.

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

First seen around Negele, it was quite common at savanna sites throughout the tour.

**Isabelline Shrike***Lanius isabellinus*

First seen on the Bogol Manyo road, we saw scattered birds in Awash N.P.

*NOTE: This complex which used to be lumped with Red-backed Shrike L. collurio is being considered for a further 3-way split. The western L. i. phoenicuroides (Red-tailed Shrike) group and the nominate Isabelline Shrike group have both been recorded in Ethiopia. The L. i. speculigerus (Daurian Shrike) group are extra-limital. Clements does not as yet recognize the three-way split of the L. isabellinus group but does recognize the split from the Red-backed Shrike L. collurio group.*

**Red-tailed (Rufous-tailed) Shrike***Lanius phoenicuroides*

We had a single bird in Ghiba Gorge.

**Steppe Grey Shrike***Lanius pallidirostris*

We had a number of good sightings in Awash N.P

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

Birds were seen at scattered open country savanna sites during the tour, good views around Bishangari.

**Taita Fiscal***Lanius dorsalis*

We had great scope views of a bird on the Liben Plains.

**Somali Fiscal***Lanius somalicus*

We observed small numbers of this species on our Negele – Yabello drive, and in the Awash area.

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

Seen regularly in open country.

**Woodchat Shrike***Lanius senator*

We saw good numbers of this beautiful shrike in Awash NP.

**Masked Shrike***Lanius nubicus*

We did well to find one in the Jemma Valley.

**Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae****Ethiopian Oriole (E)***Oriolus monacha*

A noisy endemic, we saw it in Harena and better views in the fig forests at Bishangari.

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

Seen at Sof Omar and agin at Yabello.

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

Commonly recorded during the tour.

**Monarchs Monarchidae**

**African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis*

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

*NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which include the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Grey-headed Paradise-Flycatcher T. plumbeiceps. The subspecies which we recorded in Ethiopia is T. v. ferreti which would fall within the northern African Paradise-Flycatcher complex T. viridis if the group were to be split. Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males and we observed an example of this phenomenon in Ethiopia. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

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

We enjoyed superb views of this species en route from Negele to Yabello, as well as in the vicinity of Yabello. This species has a small global distribution and is restricted to a section of savanna in southern Ethiopia that falls under the Somali-Masai biome. Although this biome stretches into northern Kenya, certain subtle environmental differences result in this species being completely restricted to Ethiopia.

**Red-billed Chough***Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Seen en route from Wondo Genet to Goba, and on the Sanetti Plateau.

**Cape Crow***Corvus capensis*

We encountered this species on a number of occasions in highland areas of Ethiopia.

**Pied Crow***Corvus albus*

Commonly recorded throughout the tour.

**Somali Crow (NE)***Corvus edithae*

First recorded between Goba and Sof Omar, we recorded scattered birds in the south of the country.

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

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

Seen quite frequently during the tour.

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

What a fantastic bird, seen frequently throughout the tour, first sighting was at Lake Awassa.

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

We had good views of this species close to our lunch stop on our way to Negele.

**Acacia (Somali) Tit***Parus thruppi*

Our first sighting was at Sof Omar, with later sightings in Acacia savanna around Negele and Yabello.

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

One of the smallest birds in Africa was on the Bogol Manyo road and again around Yabello.

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

We saw this species in Awash NP.

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

This large lark was well seen in Awash NP.

**Flappet Lark***Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Seen on the extension when we birded the agricultural fields outside of Lalibela



**Gillett's Lark (NE)***Mirafraga gilletti*

We had great scope views of a perched bird on the Bogol Manyo road.

**Sidamo Lark (E)***Heteromirafraga sidamoensis*

We enjoyed superb views of two of this critically endangered species on the Liben Plains. Frighteningly, its entire range is estimated at a miniscule 35km<sup>2</sup>, with Birdlife International estimating the population to consist of less than 250 adult birds! Unfortunately this species is precariously perched on the cusp of extinction, and could gain the unenviable reputation of being the first mainland Africa bird to suffer this fate.

**Greater Short-toed Lark (NE)***Calandrella brachydactyla*

Our time on the Bilen Plains resulted in a small group of three.

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

We recorded a few scattered birds in short, highland grassland en route to Debre Birhan.

*NOTE: Clements has given C. erlangeri of central Ethiopia full species status. The Blanford's/Erlanger's Lark complex was originally lumped within the Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, which itself was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla! Long live the days of splitting!*

**Thekla Lark***Galerida theklae*

First seen en route to Goba, we recorded this species in a few highland grassland sites.

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

Maximum numbers were recorded on the Bilen Plains, where we encountered several large flocks.

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

We had lovely views of this species at Bilen Lodge.

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

Seen in the vicinity of the Rift Valley lakes, where it was common.

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

We saw this species in the general Awash area.

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

This species was recorded in the dry southern areas of Ethiopia around Ngele.

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

Recorded in the vicinity of Goba.

**Northern Brownbul***Phyllastrephus strepitans*

We encountered this species at Sof Omar.

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

This avian was seen over the forest in Hareenna.

*NOTE: The Black Sawwing P. pristoptera complex was split into 8 full species which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification. However, all authorities including IOC and Clements have now accepted one species.*

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

Decent numbers were seen at most of the Rift Valley lakes.

**Sand Martin***Riparia riparia*

We had a few birds in a mixed Hirundine flock at Bishangari.

**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Seen almost daily, and often in large numbers.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species complex is likely to be split based on the Old World nominate form and its congeners which would become Eurasian Swallow H. rustica and the New World Barn Swallow H. erythrogaster. Further splitting within the group may also be done e.g. the distinctive H. r. savignii which breeds in the Nile Valley and would be named Egyptian Swallow. We only recorded representatives of the Palaearctic migrant Barn/Eurasian Swallow. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize any of these splits.*



**Ethiopian Swallow** *Hirundo aethiopica*

Perched birds at Bilen Lodge provided superb views.

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

Small numbers were seen, usually in association with water, good views at Awassa.

*NOTE: This species complex could be split based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be H. filifera. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

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

We enjoyed great views close to our lunch stop on the way to Yabello.

**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Our best views of this species were at the Jemma Valley, where we spent a good period of time observing them as they flew low over our heads.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Recorded at a few scattered sites, good views at Sof Omar.

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

Best views we had were in Ghibe gorge.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

We had fantastic views in Ghibe Gorge where we were able to scope them.

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*

We had a single bird over head in Ghibe Gorge.

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

Was seen well in the Ghibe Gorge.

*NOTE: The resident H. d. melanocrissus which we recorded may be considered a distinct species; Black-vented Swallow, which would become an Ethiopian endemic. IOC does not as yet recognize this split. Further extra-limital splits are likely within this wide-ranging species complex.*

**Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae****Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

We had superb views of this species in the Juniper Forest near Goba.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Recorded at a range of woodland sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: Most authorities including (IOC and Clements) have split the Chiffchaff complex into 4 full species.*

**Reed Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae****Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

A good view of a bird at Lake Awassa.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A few birds were seen well at Lake Ziway.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida*

We had a very nice view in the Yabello area.

*NOTE: IOC and Clements have split Olivaceous Warbler into two species namely, Eastern Olivaceous I. pallida and Western Olivaceous I. opaca.*

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

A single bird was seen at Lake Ziway lunch stop.

**Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae****Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

It took some time but we eventually got a good view in the Juniper forests close to the Bale Mountains.

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**

- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*  
This noisy species was heard at Lake Awassa.
- Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*  
Seen well in the Jemma Valley after only a few people saw it in Harena Forest.
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*  
We recorded this species on the road to Ngele during our pre lunch stroll.
- Boran Cisticola (NE)** *Cisticola bodessa*  
This species was seen in the Yebello area.
- Ashy Cisticola** *Cisticola cinereolus*  
Good scope views of this pale looking Cisticola.
- Ethiopian Cisticola (E)** *Cisticola lugubris*  
Seen at scattered upland sites in Ethiopia, first found at Lake Ziway.  
*NOTE: IOC have split the Winding Cisticola complex into five species (Winding C. marginatus, Coastal C. haematocephalus, Luapula C. luapula, Rufous-winged C. galactotes and Ethiopian C. lugubris). Clements does not recognize any of these species.*
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*  
We had great views in Ghiba Gorge.
- Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nana*  
This small Cisticola (as the name suggests!) was seen near Yabello.
- Foxy Cisticola** *Cisticola troglodytes*  
Two birds provided good views in the Jemma Valley.
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*  
We recorded this species on the Liben Plains.
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*  
First seen in scrubby vegetation en route to Lake Awassa from Addis, it was then seen at scattered locales thereafter.
- Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*  
Recorded in the dry southern areas of the tour, with our first sighting in the Bogol Manyo road.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*  
We saw this species in *Acacia* trees at lower elevation sites beginning at Lake Awassa.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*  
Seen at few savanna sites our first sighting was at Sof Omar.  
*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species may be split into two species. The form we saw is sometimes split as Brown-tailed Apalis A. viridiceps. IOC does not accept this split.*
- Red-fronted Apalis** *Urorhipis rufifrons*  
This bird proved difficult to get the entire group on, some got a view whilst birding on the Bogol Manyo road.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
We saw this species on a number of occasions at scattered woodland sites throughout the tour.  
*NOTE: IOC splits this species into Grey-backed Camaroptera (the birds we saw) and Green-backed Camaroptera C. brachyura. Clements does not as yet follow this split.*
- Grey Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex*  
Seen at a few dry country savanna sites, with our first sightings at Sof Omar.
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*  
We recorded it quite frequently at dry county sites throughout the tour, our first glimpse of this species was around Ngele.

### Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*





Recorded at a range of dry country sites during the tour. First sighting was down at Sof omar. We saw birds of the distinctive *leucopsis* race.

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

This species was seen at around Yabello.

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

Our first encounter of this species was on the Bogol Manyo road, we had a fantastic view for some time.

### Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

**Scaly Chatterer (NE)** *Turdoides aylmeri*

This shy species was seen near Yabello, where a few birds showed briefly. A tough bird that is recorded infrequently. Unfortunately it showed up at the same time as the Red-naped Bushshrike so not everyone was able to get on it.

**Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*

Small groups were seen at scattered savanna sites, we had a great view at Sof Omar.

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

Great views of a group at Sof Omar. Also seen around Bishangari.

**Abyssinian Catbird (E)** *Parophasma galinieri*

This noisy endemic showed well in the Juniper forest near Goba.

### Old World Warblers Sylviidae

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

This migrant was seen at in the Juniper forest close to Bale Mountains,

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

We had a sighting on the Bogol Manyo road in one of many bird parties.

**Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens*

We found the Bale form on the way up to the Sanetti plateau. At the end of the extension we found a small group in an *Acacia abyssinica* tree in the garden of the Ghion Hotel.

**Banded Parisoma** *Parisoma boehmi*

We saw this noisy species around the Ngele area.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

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

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

*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species, namely Abyssinian White-eye Z. abyssinicus and the Kenyan and Tanzanian form Z. flavilateralis. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split as of yet.*

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

We saw this species at high altitude sites around the Juniper forest close to the Bale Mountains.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 6 full species. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.*

### Treecreepers Certhiidae

**Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis spilonotus*

This species provided superb views around Lake Awassa.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

We saw this nomadic species on a few occasions, beginning with a small flock at Lake Ziway.

Commonly associated with animals.

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



Associated with savanna, it was seen almost daily in good numbers.

**Lesser Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

We had a few birds in the Jemma Valley.

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

This species was seen quite regularly during the tour, good numbers around Bishangari.

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

First seen by some en route from Goba to Negele, thereafter it was seen near the Dawa River and in the Yabello area. What an outstanding bird?

**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*

A common savanna starling that was seen regularly during the tour.

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

We saw this species in dry woodland in the south of Ethiopia, first seen en route to Negele.

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

A few flocks were seen in the dry southern savanna areas, with the first birds seen on the Bogol Manyo road.

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

We had good views around Bishangari.

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

We recorded this species at Yabello and again in Ghibe Gorge.

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

Huge flocks were seen in the flowering Erythrina's in the Haremma Forest.

**Somali Starling** *Onychognathus blythii*

We had a number of birds on the Lalibela extension.

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

This huge starling was seen at Sof Omar and at the lava fields at Lake Beseke

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

We saw this species in the Jemma Valley.

**Magpie Starling** *Speculipastor bicolor*

We were extremely fortunate to have two birds fly over while we were birding in the Yabello area.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

We saw this game and livestock associated species on a number of occasions.

### Thrushes Turdidae

**Abyssinian Ground Thrush** *Zoothera piaggiae*

We had great sightings of this stunning bird in the Juniper forest near Goba.

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

Recorded at a number of upland grassland sites, where it was fairly common.

*NOTE: This subspecies of Groundscraper Thrush P. l. simensis is considered a distinct species by some authorities and would therefore become a further Ethiopian endemic. This split is based on distribution (P. l. simensis forms an isolated population far to the north of the nominate form), habitat (high altitude grasslands versus wooded Southern savannas of the nominate), plumage and vocal differences. IOC and Clements do not as yet recognize this split.*

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

We had a wonderful opportunity at Bishangari to have the African Thrush alongside Abyssinian Thrush, which made for a nice comparison.

**Bare-eyed Thrush** *Turdus tephronotus*

We had great views of this species in the Yabello area.

**Abyssinian Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus*



This species was seen at a number of higher altitude sites, we had great views of many different birds in the Juniper forests near the Bale Mountain.

*NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex has been split by the IOC into five species. Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits, some of which are already well accepted e.g. Taita Thrush T. helleri.*

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

#### **Bluethroat**

*Luscinia svecia*

A Rockjumper first, we had a single bird at a small pan on the way fro Yebello to Lake Langano. The bird showed well before heading for cover.

#### **Common Nightingale**

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

This skulky species showed exceptionally well in the heat of the day in the riverine vegetation of Awash N.P.

#### **Rüppell's Robin-Chat (NE)**

*Cossypha semirufa*

Seen on a number of occasions in high altitude sites, best views were in the Juniper forest close to Goba.

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

*Cossypha heuglini*

We were fortunate to see this species at LakeAwassa where we were able to see the olive-brown central tail feathers not black.

#### **Spotted Palm Thrush**

*Cichladusa guttata*

This delightful songster was seen on the way to Ngele after lunch..

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

*Cercotrichas leucophrys*

We saw this species at a few dry *Acacia* sites, good numbers in the Ngele/Yebello area.

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

#### **Rufous-tailed Scrubrobin**

*Erythropgia galactotes*

Not seen to often we were fortunate to have one right next to the road for a short while in Awash N.P.

#### **Black Scrub Robin**

*Cercotrichas podobe*

We worked hard to find this bird, eventually a few people were rewarded with a few in the last bit of remaining light close to the water hole at Bilen lodge.

#### **Common Redstart**

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

We saw small numbers of this species first seen at our lunch stop at Lake Ziway, doing the characteristic tail wag.

#### **Whinchat**

*Saxicola rubetra*

A single bird was viewed near Awassa and another bird was seen at Ghiba Gorge.

#### **African Stonechat**

*Saxicola torquatus*

We saw this species at a few high altitude grasslands, first being close to Dinsho and again on the way from Yebello to Lake Langano at the small pan.

*NOTE: Although IOC and Clements recognize the split of African S. torquatus and European S. rubicola Stonechats, the form we recorded in the highlands of Ethiopia S. t. albofasciata is considered for further separation as Ethiopian Stonechat and would then become an Ethiopian near-endemic. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

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

*Oenanthe bottae*

Was seen on a number of occasions at higher altitude grasslands, good numbers were seen from Awassa to Goba.

*NOTE: This African and Arabian complex is treated as two species by IOC, Heuglin's Wheatear O. heuglini of the Sahelian zone of Africa and Red-breasted Wheatear O. bottae, which is resident in Ethiopia and Arabia and is the form which we recorded. This split is not as yet recognized by Clements.*

#### **Isabelline Wheatear**

*Oenanthe isabellina*

The most common of the species was recorded regularly throughout the tour.



**Northern Wheatear***Oenanthe oenanthe*

We had great views of this species in Awash.

*NOTE: The North-West African race may be split off as Black-throated Wheatear O. seebohmi (although this is not yet ratified by the IOC). The Palearctic migrant forms which we recorded would remain within the nominate group.*

**Pied Wheatear***Oenanthe pleschanka*

Seen quite regularly during the tour, individuals found at Ghibe Gorge were moving towards breeding plumage.

**Black-eared Wheatear***Oenanthe hispanica*

We had a good view at Lake Awassa.

**Abyssinian Wheatear***Oenanthe lugubris*

This species was seen at Lake Langano and in the Jemma Valley.

**Desert Wheatear***Oenthe deserti*

We spent hours scouring through all the Wheatears and managed to have a good view of this species in Awash N.P.

**Brown-tailed Rock Chat***Cercomela scotocerca*

We had a number of birds at Sof Omar.

**Blackstart***Cercomela melanura*

We had a number of birds in the early morning at the lava fields.

**Moorland Chat (NE)***Cercomela sordida*

Common in high altitude grasslands.

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

We had fantastic views of this fantastic Chat in the Jemma Valley.

On the extension to Lalibela, we managed to find a pair on the side of the road.

**Mocking Cliff Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

We saw this bird at Lake Langano and in the Jemma Valley. We also had race albiscapulata

*NOTE: White-crowned Cliff-Chat, T. coronata of West Africa is considered by IOC as a full species. Clements does not recognize this species as yet.*

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

We had good views of a couple birds in the Jemma Valley.

**Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush***Monticola saxatilis*

We had a single bird on the Bogol Manyo road.

**Little Rock Thrush***Monticola rufocinereus*

This species showed very well at Lake Langano.

**Blue Rock Thrush***Monticola solitarius*

We had a great view just before breakfast in the Jemma Valley.

**Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher (E)***Dioptornis chocolatinus*

We had a great sighting in the Juniper forest on the way up to the Sanetti Plateau.

**Northern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis edolioides*

We had a great sighting on our morning walk around Lake Awassa.

**Pale Flycatcher***Bradornis pallidus*

This species was seen in Gibe Gorge in tall woodland.

**Ethiopian Grey Flycatcher (NE)***Bradornis pumilus*

Seen quite frequently in dry country situations.

*NOTE: This is a recent split from African Grey Flycatcher B. microrhynchus.*

**Gambaga Flycatcher***Muscicapa gambagae*

We had a single bird where we had lunch in Mojo.

**African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

This species was seen in a number of forested sites on the tour good views in the Juniper forest.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae



- Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis*  
We had a good sighting at Sof Omar, again around the Ngele
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*  
We had good views in Ghibe Gorge.
- Nile Valley Sunbird** *Hedydipna metallica*  
An absolute stunner, we found a number of birds in the the Awash area.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
Found around Lake Awassa on the second day.
- Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri*  
The dry country equivalent of the previous species, we saw it on the Bogol Manyo road and in the Negele-Yabello area.
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze*  
Seen at a number of upland sites in Ethiopia.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*  
We saw this avian near the Rift Valley lakes and around Awash NP.
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*  
A dry woodland species, it was seen in the Negele-Yabello.  
*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The subspecies C. m. osiris which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird. Neither Clements nor IOC recognize this split.*
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*  
We had good numbers in the dry country sites, around Ngele.
- Black-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris nectarinioides*  
We had a great sighting along the edges of the Dawa River.
- Shining Sunbird** *Cinnyris habessinicus*  
This species was first seen at Sof Omar, where we enjoyed fantastic views. Recorded at scattered dry woodland sites thereafter.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*  
First seen at Sof Omar thereafter frequently observed. Both *albiventris* (white) and *fazoqlensis* (yellow) races were recorded.  
*NOTE: We recorded the white-bellied race which may be split as White-bellied Sunbird. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*  
Seen on a number of occasions, their untidy grass nests were often an indicator of their presence.
- Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver**  
We had a few birds on the Lalibela Extension.
- Grey-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*  
This species was seen around the Negele/Yabello areas.
- Black-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*  
Also seen around the Negele/Yabello area, some times in mixed flocks with the previous species.
- Shelley's Sparrow** *Passer shelleyi*  
Whad a great sighting close to Teff pile in a agricultural area close to Yabello.
- Swainson's Sparrow (NE)** *Passer swainsonii*  
Seen virtually daily.  
*NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex has been split into 5 full species that are fully recognized by IOC and Clements.*
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey*  
A wonderful bird also seen feed close to a Teff pile near Yabello.





**Pale Rockfinch***Carospiza brachydactyla*

A very fortunate sighting of a single bird flying with a flock of Sparrowlarks on the Belen Plains.

**Bush Petronia***Gymnoris dentate*

We saw this species in the Jemma Valley.

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

Seen at Sof Omar, on the Bogol Manyo road and in the Yabello area usually one of the first to respond to Pearl-spotted Owllet.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver***Bubalornis niger*

Good number of this bird was seen in the Awash area.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver and the form which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Northern Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver B. intermedius. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

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

Seen at a number of dry country sites, where it was common, our first sighting was at Sof Omar.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver***Sporopipes frontalis*

We found a small group of birds in the Jemma Valley.

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

We had a good sized flock in the fig forests at Bishangari.

**Baglafaecht Weaver***Ploceus baglafaecht*

This species was seen at range of sites throughout the tour.

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

**Little Weaver***Ploceus luteolus*

Good views were had of this species at Lake Awassa.

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

We had a good sighting on our morning walk around Lake Awassa.

**Rüppell's Weaver***Ploceus galbula*

This species was seen at a number of Rift Valley sites we had a great view at Lake Langano.

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

Good views were had of this species at Yabello, a number of birds joining us for lunch.

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

Seen at Lake Ziway in good numbers, busy with nest construction.

**Juba Weaver (NE)***Ploceus dicrocephalus*

We recorded this scarce species at the Dowa River in southern Ethiopia.

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

We had superb views of this species at Sof Omar, the male was constructing a nest.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Ethiopia would become Red-winged Weaver A. leuconotos. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

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

Some good flocks in Awash and Bilen Plains

**Yellow Bishop***Euplectes capensis*

We had a small flock in the afternoon on our way to Dinsho in Bale Mountains N.P.

**White-winged Widowbird***Euplectes albonotatus*

We had number birds in non- breeding plumage at Ghibe Gorge.

**Red-collared Widowbird***Euplectes ardens*

This species was seen in the Jemma Valley, most birds were in transitional plumage. Race *laticauda*



### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Red-billed Pytilia** *Pytilia lineata*  
What an outstanding bird, we had a wonderful sighting in the Ghibe Gorge.
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*  
A brief sighting in Awash N.P.
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata*  
We had wonderful views of this attractive little bird coming in to drink in Awash N.P.
- Green Twinspot** *Madingoa nitidula*  
We had incredible sightings in the fig forest at Bishangari.
- Bar-breasted Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rufopicta*  
Lovely scope views in the Gibe Gorge.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*  
Fairly common throughout the tour, we had a good sighting in Harenna Forest.
- Black-faced Firefinch (NE)** *Lagonosticta larvata*  
A beautiful bird, we enjoyed views of this species in Gibe Gorge.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
This beautiful bird was seen at scattered savanna sites throughout Ethiopia almost seen daily.
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*  
A colourful bird in the dry bushveld, it was seen well on the Bogol Manyo road.
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Estrilda quartinia*  
We had great views along the road side in Harenna Forest.
- Abyssinian Waxbill (NE)** *Estrilda ochrogaster*  
We had good views of this species in Gibe Gorge.  
*NOTE: This is a recent split from Fawn-breasted Waxbill Estrilda paludicola.*
- Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga*  
We had a small group coming out of the Harenna Forest, good numbers around Bishangari.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*  
We had a small flock in the reedbeds at Lake Awassa.
- Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*  
We had a small flock of the lovely little birds in Ghibe Gorge.
- Black-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda chamosyna*  
We had superb views of a few birds in the Yabello area close to the Teff pile.
- African Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*  
We had a lovely sighting on the first day around the Crater Lakes.
- African Silverbill** *Lonchura cantans*  
Great numbers coming down to drink at a pan in Awash N.P.
- Grey-headed Silverbill** *Odontospiza griseicapilla*  
We enjoyed superb views of a small flock after lunch on our drive to Ngele.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*  
We had a good sighting of a small flock at Lake Awassa.
- Black and White Mannikin** *Lonchura Bicolour*  
We had a small flock fly over in Harenna Forest.

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*  
We found a bird in a small village in the Jemma Valley.  
*Note: This extremely confusing species complex is in consideration for a multi-species split. The form which we recorded in Ethiopia V. c. ultramarina would become Purple Indigobird as opposed to the nominate V. c. chalybeata*



*Green Indigobird of West Africa and the southern V. c. amauropteryx or South African Indigobird. IOC and Clements do not recognize these splits.*

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

A small flock was seen feeding next to the roadside on the way to Ngele.

**Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea*

A bird in full breeding plumage came down to drink at a small waterhole in Awash N.P.

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Good numbers were seen almost daily. The race *feldegg and thunbergi* were also seen on a few occasions.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

First found in a small puddle in Harenna Forest.

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

An inhabitant of clear, upland streams, we had good views of this species close to Goba.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites, often in the vicinity of water.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

We had a good sighting in the Jemma Valley.

**Abyssinian Longclaw (E)** *Macronyx flavicollis*

Great views were had of this species in Bale Mountains N.P.

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Our best views of this species were on an upland grassland en route to Goba from Wondo Genet.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

Was seen on the way to Awassa.

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similes*

This inhabitant of rocky areas was seen in the Jemma Valley and at Gemase Geden.

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*

Good numbers seen on the Liben Plains. Race *saphiroi*

*NOTE: A. l. goodsoni of central and SW Kenya may be split off from the nominate group A. leucophrys. The Ethiopian races we recorded would probably remain within the nominate complex. Neither IOC nor Clements recognize this split.*

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

We enjoyed good views of this heavily patterned bird at Bishangari and again in Ghibe Gorge.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

Seen on grasslands in the vicinity of water. Good numbers at most Rift Valley Lakes.

### Finches Fringillidae

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

A smart bird, it was seen regularly in high altitude areas, good numbers at Gemassa Geden

**African Citril (NE)** *Crithagra citrinelloides*

Many birds were seen at scattered locations throughout the tour.

*NOTE: This complex is now treated as three full species by IOC: Southern Citril, S. hypostictus, the central Western Citril S. frontalis and African Citril S. citrinelloides.*

**Yellow-rumped Seedeater (NE)** *Crithagra xanthopygia*

We had good views of this species in Jemma Valley and good numbers in Gibe Gorge.

**Reichenow's Seedeater** *Crithagra reichenowi*

Small numbers were seen at a few savanna woodland sites in the south, first seen on the day we drove to Ngele.

**Salvadori's Seedeater (E)** *Crithagra xantholaema*



We found a small flock feeding on some seeds at Sof Omar, an immature bird was found on the way to Ngele on our pre-lunch walk.

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*

We had a few birds in the Jemma Valley.

**Northern Grosbeak-Canary (NE)** *Crithagra donaldsoni*

This bird was recorded on the Bogol Manyo road and in the Yabello area, where it was singing at the tops of trees.

**White-bellied Canary** *Crithagra dorsostriata*

Recorded in the Yabello area next to the road whilst walking after breakfast.

**Brown-rumped Seedeater (NE)** *Crithagra tristriata*

Was seen on a number of occasions in high altitude areas, first recorded at our lunch stop at Dodola.

**Ankober Serin (E)** *Crithagra ankoberensis*

A few birds were seen at Gemase Geden.

**Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra striolata*

Quite common in high altitude areas, good numbers around Dinsho.

### Buntings & Allies Emberizidae

**Cinereous Bunting** *Emberiza cineracea*

First found on the lava fields close to Lake Beseke and again on the extension around Lalibela.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

This species was found in the lava fields of Lake Beseke

**Stiolated (House) Bunting** *Emberiza striolata*

We had a small number of birds in the lava fields close to Lake Beseke

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

Recorded in the Jemma Valley in good numbers.

**Somali Bunting** *Emberiza poliopleura*

We had good views of the stunning bird on the Bogol Manyo road.

## Annotated List of Mammals recorded

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of "The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals"; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.*

**Total species recorded: 45**

### Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae

**Guereza Colobus** *Colobus guereza*

We had a number of good sightings, Lake Awassa, Harenna Forest and Bishangari.

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

We had superb views of almost 300 animals in Awash.

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

We often encountered large troops, at the Dowa River and Bishangari.

**Gelada** *Theropithecus gelada*

Certainly one of the top mammals of the tour a good number Gemase Geden and another troop on the Melka Gebdu track.

**Grivet Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops*

We had a great sighting in the fig forests around Bishangari.

**Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

We saw these monkeys at Sof Omar.



**Bats Chiroptera****Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat***Epomorphorus crypturus*

We found a small day time roost at Lake Langano.

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

Seen near Yabello and in the Awash area on the nightdrives.

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

**Starck's Hare***Lepus starcki*

We had superb views of this species on the Sanetti Plateau.

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

First seen at the Dowa River had quite good numbers in the Negele-Yabello region.

**Striped Ground Squirrel***Euxerus erythropus*

Some saw this species en route to Negele from Goba.

**Gambian Sun Squirrel***Heliosciurus gambianus*

Seen in the fig forest at Bishangari.

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

One or two individuals were seen on the Sanetti Plateau

**Blicks (Unstriped) Grass Rat***Arvicanthus blicki*

We had a number of individual's scutteling for cover on the Sanetti plateau.

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

We had a nice view of a pair on a night drive at Bilen Lodge.

**Ethiopian Wolf (E)***Canis simensis*

The rarest canid on earth (with a population estimated at around 500 animals), we had a few excellent views of this handsome animal on the Sanetti Plateau.

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

**Bat-eared Fox***Otocyon megalotis*

We had some fantastic sightings in Awash N.P on our nightdrives.

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

We had a lovely sighting of two animals in the fig forest of Bishangari.

**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

We had a brief sighting in the mayhem of trying to get on the Black-faced Sandgrouse at the Dowa River.

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

We had a fantastic sighting of these animals on our nightdrive around Yabello.





**Hyaenas Hyaenidae****Striped Hyaena***Hyaena Hyaena*

We found an animal that had been spinal crushed by two lionesses the previous evening. It was very sad as the animal was still alive but unable to move. This was in Awash N.P.

**Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

We had a fantastic sighting of a Hyaena early one morning in Awash N.P.

**Aardwolf Protelinae****Aardwolf***Proteles cristata*

A lovely creature, the “earth wolf” was seen on a night drive in Awash NP.

**Genets & Civets Viverridae****Common Genet***Genetta genetta*

We had a number of outstanding sightings, a great view of an individual on the nightdrive around Bilen Lodge.

**African Civet***Civettictis civetta*

We had an amazing sighting, a very relaxed individual out in the open on a night drive around Yebello.

**Cats Felidae****African Wildcat***Felis sylvestris*

We had a brief sighting in Awash N.P

**Aardvark Orycteropodidae****Aardvark***Orycteropus afer*

Mammal of the trip, we had a memorable sighting of an Aardark on a nightdrive around Yebello.

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

This species was seen en route to Bale Mountains NP, at Lake Langano and at Gemase Geden.

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

This was the species that was seen at Lake Langano on the rocky cliff face.

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

A few were seen on the Bilen Plains, this is only one of three places where this mammal can be seen in all of Ethiopia.

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

The “river horse” was seen at Lake Ziway, at Lake Langano and in the Omo River in Gibe Gorge.

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

Were seen at scattered sites during the tour we first found some in the Bale Mountains N.P.

**Desert Warthog***Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

We were extremely fortunate to see two of these good looking creatures at the Dowa River.



### Antelope & Allies Bovidae

- Menelik's Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki*  
We had superb views of this endemic in the Bale Mountains.
- Mountain Nyala (E)** *Tragelaphus buxtoni*  
Another unique endemic we enjoyed views in the Bale Mountains.
- Lesser Kudu** *Tragelaphus imberbis*  
Animals were seen on the road to Ngele, we had a number of sightings in Awash N.P.
- Bush (Common/Grey) Duiker** *Sylvicapra grimmia*  
We caught one of these usually shy little antelopes out in the open in Bale Mountains N.P.
- Klipspringer** *Oreotragus oreotragus*  
This rock loving antelope was seen on the Sanetti Plateau.
- Salt's Dik-dik** *Madoqua saltiana*  
We saw this species at Sof Omar and in the Awash NP.
- Günther's Dik-dik** *Madoqua guentheri*  
Seen between Negele and Yabello, where it was common.
- Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca*  
We saw this species close to Dinsho in the Bale Mountains.
- Grant's Gazelle** *Gazella granti*  
A few animals were seen between Negela and Yabello in an open area with large scattered *Acacia's*.
- Soemmerring's Gazelle (NE)** *Gazella soemmerringi*  
We had good numbers in Awash NP.
- Gerenuk** *Litocranius walleri*  
These long-necked antelope were seen between Negele and Yabello.
- Beisa Oryx** *Oryx beisa*  
A magnificent antelope, we had some brilliant sightings in Awash area.

### Reptiles

- Leopard Tortoise** *Geochelone pardalis*  
We saw a few enormous individuals at Bilen Lodge.
- Marsh or Helmeted Terrapin** *Pelomedusa subrufa*  
We had a small group basking in the sun at the waterhole in Awash N.P.
- Tropical House Gecko** *Hemidactylus mabouia*  
Some were seen in our accommodations at night.
- Striped Skink** *Mabuya striata*  
Were seen in the Yebello area.
- Blue-headed Tree Agama** *Agama atricollis*  
Brightly coloured males were seen in the Yebello areas.
- Red-headed Rock Agama** *Agama agama*  
We had number of individuals on rocky surfaces and walls.
- Nile Monitor** *Varanus niloticus*  
On one of the river crossings heading to Yebello we had a monitor in the water.
- Rock or White-throated Monitor** *Varanus albigularis*  
In the riverine forest on the edge of the Awash River we had one moving through the sand.
- Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*  
Seen in the Gibe Gorge and in the Jemma Valley.



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