

Birding trip report: Ethiopia, January 29 - February 21, 2011

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Introduction

This is a report of a 24-day independent birding trip to Ethiopia by 5 Dutch friends. We rented a Jeep with driver, but without local guide. Because we still wanted to see all the good birds, we invested a lot of time in preparation of the trip. In the end, we were pretty successful as we recorded over 550 species, including all possible endemics (ok ok, we skipped *Nechisar Nightjar*). Doing an independent trip is thus definitely feasible, as a few other groups before us have also demonstrated. If your birding and/or preparation time is more limited, however, it's probably better to take a local guide along, or join one of the many available tours.

Besides the Ethiopia & Eritrea endemics, highlights and unexpected sightings included *Common Ostrich, Swallow-tailed Kite, Ovambo Sparrowhawk, Lesser Jacana, Caspian Plover, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Short-tailed Lark, Desert Wheatear, House Sparrow* (1st for the country), *Green-backed Twinspot, Red-billed Pytilia, Black-faced Firefinch* and *Grey-headed Silverbill*.

Notable misses were *Orange River Francolin* (possible future split; but little to no good site info; Nechisar is probably the best place, but we couldn't access that area), *Red-winged Lark* (somehow not found in Awash), *Red-chested Swallow* (not found at Sululta and Dinsho), *Abyssinian Crimsonwing* (despite much searching along streams, no sign of it in Harenna) and *Stripe-breasted (Reichard's) Seedeater* (possible future split; is sometimes seen in Gibe, and we paid close attention, but to no avail).

Itinerary

<u>day</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>site(s)</u>
1	29/1	Addis Ababa, Sululta Plains, Portuguese Bridge
2	30/1	Jemma Valley
3	31/1	Jemma Valley, Ankober, Melka Gebdu
4	1/2	Melka Gebdu, Afar Plains, Awash NP
5	2/2	Awash NP
6	3/2	Ali Dege Plains, Bilen Lodge, Awash NP
7	4/2	Awash NP, Lake Ziway, Wondo Genet
8	5/2	Wondo Genet, Bale: Dinsho Area
9	6/2	Bale: Sanetti plateau, Harenna,
10	7/2	Harenna, Ruspoli's Turaco, Negele

11	8/2	Liben Plains, Filtu
12	9/2	Filtu, Bogol Manyo
13	10/2	Bogol Manyo, Negele
14	11/2	Negele, Dawa River, Yabello
15	12/2	Yabello
16	13/2	Arero Forest
17	14/2	Yabello, Nechisar NP
18	15/2	Nechisar NP, Awassa
19	16/2	Awassa, Lake Bojo
20	17/2	Lake Langano, Lake Abiata, Lake Awassa
21	18/2	Bishangari, Lake Ziway, Lake Koka
22	19/2	Debre Zeyt Lakes, Menagesha Forest
23	20/2	Gibe Gorge
24	21/2	Gibe Gorge, Addis Ababa

Some notes on our itinerary:

* We stayed longer in the Jemma Valley compared to most organized tours, which often do the Jemma Valley and Ankober on one day. When doing so, one needs to find both *Red-billed Pytilia* and *White-throated Seedeater* in one morning, and in practice, often only one of the two is seen. We were happy to take some extra time here, and to tick both goodies.

* We skipped Sof Omar as we placed our bets on seeing *Salvadori's Serin* in Filtu, but since that failed, we had to go to Arero forest (by then, backtracking to Sof Omar is not an option). Unless you take the southern loop counter-clockwise, we therefore recommend playing it safe with the *Salvadori's* by visiting Sof Omar.

* Most tours spend only a few hours in the Harenna Forest, in between the Sanetti plateau and the Genale River. We spent both an afternoon and a morning at Harenna, giving us some time to explore this fantastic forest. Nonetheless we did manage to miss what is probably the main target there: *Abyssinian Crimsonwing*...

* We went to Bogol Manyo, but we are not sure whether any company still wants to go there at this point. Many were already reluctant, and our company (Ethiopian Quadrants) is likely to be too, now, since we had some trouble with the head of the UN there. Adding insult to injury, we could actually not bird the location properly, since one of us fell seriously ill there.

* We spent some left-over time in the forest called Bishangari at the southeastern side of Lake Langano. This was an enjoyable place and very successful birdwise, with e.g. *Green-backed Twinspot* (30-40 birds!), *Yellowbill* (both heard and seen) and *Red-capped Robin-chat*. This forest is in a much better condition than the famous but heavily degraded Wondo Genet.

* We spent more than a full day at Gibe Gorge. Probably at least partly because of this, we had a very good score there, with e.g. many *Yellow-throated* and some *Four-banded Sandgrouse*,

Red-billed Pytilia, and most of the more regular specialties. It is advisable to stay overnight in nearby Welkite instead of all the way in Addis, so you can be in the gorge at dawn and dusk.

* As mentioned above, the 'southern loop' can in theory be done counter-clockwise: after the Rift Valley, one then visits Yabello → Dawa River → Genale → Harenna → Sanetti → Dinsho & Sof Omar, instead of the other way around. The main advantage of this is that you can look for *Salvadori's Serin* at Filtu, where most people go birding anyway. If you are successful there, you can save a day by skipping Sof Omar (otherwise there aren't many unique birds at Sof Omar, apart from *Brown-tailed Rock Chat*). There are however also major disadvantages to the counter-clockwise route: first, this make it hard to get to the Dawa River by early morning, and second and more importantly, one cannot obtain permits for crossing the Sanetti plateau (or camping at Harenna Forest) when entering from the south -- these can only be obtained at the HQ in the Dinsho area. Potentially there could be a way around the latter problem if you try to arrange something with your car rental company, who may be able to get permits in advance.

Car rental

We rented a Nissan Patrol at <http://www.ethiopianquadrants.com> and paid \$160 a day. This included a driver and petrol. In Ethiopia, renting a Jeep always comes with a driver. In fact, you sorely need a driver anyway, since finding your way through Ethiopia on your own is difficult, especially when it comes to communication with locals (most people only speak Amharic). Our driver Mesfin knew all the hotels and did almost all communication, making him indispensable. Since we were with five birders, six persons had to fit in the Jeep, so we ended up with two persons on the front seat, which is slightly uncomfortable. It also made packing our luggage into the trunk a fresh new challenge for each morning.

All in all, we can certainly recommend Ethiopian Quadrants. Mesfin was an excellent driver, and the office was very helpful both before and during (e.g. when one of us fell ill) the trip. Moreover, they are familiar with all the places that birders want to visit. They also have no problems with driving at night. Although Mesfin was only moderately interested in birds, he did remember many of the stopping places for specific birds -- where we had a GPS point, he would often already stop spontaneously... If you take a company that has no experience with birders, you are likely to find out that they do not want to drive at night, do not know all the places you want to see, etc. The only problem we had was that Mesfin had not taken any camping gear for some reason, and therefore generally tried to avoid camping. Besides a monetary tip, we decided to give Mesfin a *Birds of HoA* guide as a goodbye present, since he was still carrying around a "Birds of Africa - South of the Sahara", which tricked him into a few misidentifications. Now he still needs a new pair of bins!

Food and accommodation

In general, we had no problems getting food. The further inland you go, though, the more limited the choice in food becomes. The national food in Ethiopia is injera, a bitter sort of pancake. Most of us did not like it, and often the only other choice is spaghetti. This is served only with meat sauce, without vegetables. In Addis, other bigger cities, and the Rift Lakes area, food is much

better with more choice. Bread is widely available, but spreads are not, so we bought a lot of that in advance in Addis (canned fish, marmalade etc.).

Ethiopian Quadrants tried to convince us to book all accommodation in advance. However, we wanted to be flexible, e.g. in case we needed more time for an endemic bird, or were quicker than anticipated. We therefore did not book any hotels in advance, except for in Addis. The downside of this approach is that hotels may be fully booked upon arrival. Fortunately, we faced a fully-booked hotel only once (in Goba, where we had to camp on the hotel grounds -- this did result in a nice *Verreaux's Eagle Owl*). So in our experience, when travelling independently, booking in advance is not necessary. Our driver often called ahead to hotels during the day, especially if we would arrive late, and this worked fine. Western style hotels in Ethiopia are quite expensive, but we were happy to stay in local style hotels -- these can be very cheap. They usually consist of a small room with one bed and a chair. On a few occasions, we were not allowed to sleep with two persons in one room, since those two persons would have been of the same gender.

Accommodation details (incomplete):

Addis Ababa:	Bel Air Hotel (<u>AD03</u>), two twin rooms, one 115 birr, one 200 birr per night. Kaleb Hotel (<u>AD01</u>).
Jemma Valley:	Camping on the land of a farmer (<u>JE12</u>): 200 birr in total.
Ankober:	Local hotel, 3 rooms including dinner: 600 birr.
Awash NP:	Awash Falls Lodge (<u>AS07</u>) 100 birr per tent per night.
Wondo Genet:	Wabe Shebelle Hotel (<u>WO03</u>): twin room + 3 persons camping: 900 birr.
Goba:	Camping at the Wabe Shebelle Hotel (<u>BS01</u>) grounds: 810 birr.
Negele:	Nile Hotel, 100 birr per person, good hotel for Negele standards.
Yabello:	Hawi Hotel.
Mojo:	100 birr per room.
Langano:	Bekele Molla (<u>LA05</u>): Bungalow for 5 persons: 540 birr per night.
Sashemene:	Bekele Molla, 120 birr per single room.
Awassa:	United Africa (<u>AW01</u>): 450 birr for a double.
Welkite:	?? Hotel at <u>GI01</u> , 100 birr per room, good restaurant.

Weather & season

February is in the middle of the dry season in Ethiopia. We therefore experienced hardly any rain, except for one short shower while driving back from Arero to Yabello. The drought was also reflected in the landscape of Ethiopia -- it was beautiful but extremely barren, almost without any green, except in some of the forests. Unfortunately, this year was much drier than average, which certainly seemed to negatively affect bird activity (see below). In order to enjoy lush landscapes and higher bird activity (especially song, which was rarely heard now), Oct-Dec, at the start of the dry season, may be a better time to visit. The downside of Oct-Dec is that the rainy season may occasionally extend into this period, and/or some tracks may be still wet and therefore hard or impossible to drive on. This is especially true for Nechisar, but since that area was inaccessible anyway, and may still be, it doesn't matter. On balance, considering others' trip

reports and our own experiences, we would thus recommend going in one the last few months of the year.

Temperatures are high but it is mostly not extremely hot, with maxima generally balancing around 30 degrees. However, out on the vast plains of the southern part of the country, with hardly any wind, temperatures often reach up to 35-40 degrees in the afternoon. The 'hottest' place we went to was probably the Dawa River, where we found ourselves sweating heavily in search of three near-endemics. It was only there and at Gibe that we took a longer lunch break to cool down, but generally, one can easily keep birding all day at most places.

General remarks on birding in Ethiopia

Birding in Ethiopia does not only mean a total number of bird species that is almost equivalent to spending a few weeks in South America, but also gets you a lot of (near-)endemics. In addition, almost all endemic species are common and relatively easy to see, with *Nechisar Nightjar* as the most glaring exception. We had some difficulties with *Salvadori's Serin*, but that was because we arrogantly skipped Sof Omar, in order to save some time and explore new areas. Of course, a few other species may at times be hard to find and easily missed, but in general, the target birds are not that difficult to tick. Furthermore, most birds are pretty easy to photograph. Light conditions are harsh, except for in the early morning and late afternoon. Daylight was mostly from around 05:30 to 17:30.

Preparation

We first ordered and read through the field guide, as well as the two new and very useful WTWB guides, Spottiswoode et al and Behrens et al. We then downloaded all the trip reports we could find on the Travelling Birder website (link below) and other sites. Many trip reports are of guided tours (Birdquest, Tropical Birding, Rockjumper, etc), which contain a lot of beautiful prose and interesting trivia about bird species, but relatively little detailed information on actual sightings. Nonetheless, when all these reports are put together, there is definitely some useful information to be distilled. Even more useful were some of the trip reports by independent birders, such as the one by Lieven de Temmerman (link below). We prepared a few spreadsheets to collect information on which species were seen where by each trip. This turned out to be especially useful to get a clear picture of the whereabouts and abundance of many of the 'semi-targets', i.e. birds that are not endemic, or within Ethiopia clearly limited to one specific spot, but that could (perhaps) easily be missed if we weren't aware about their specifics.

Travelling birder site for Ethiopia: http://www.travellingbirder.com/birdwatching/birding_Ethiopia.php?from=1&to=12

Lieven de Temmerman report: <http://www.freewebs.com/lievendetemmerman//ethiopia%202009%20travel%20report%20pdf.pdf>

GPS points

GPS points are referred to in the report a lot, and they can be recognized by capital letters and underscores, as well as always being underlined in the text.

A complete list of GPS points is in a separate file, and can also be requested from Jelmer in e.g.

.kml (for Google Maps), **.gpx** (for GPS devices and GPS software), or **.gdb** (Garmin DataBase, Garmin's own format for its software -- *this file also includes all the gps tracks from our trip*) format.

The GPS points include not only those that we recorded ourselves during and after the trip, but also many points from Spottiswoode et al., Behrens et al., and several other trip reports. Many of the points are referred to in the report and especially the species list, e.g. in all cases where they document a specific location where we see a certain species. Many other points are however not referred to, e.g. locations where other trips saw specific species. The long names in the GPS list and GPS files (as opposed to the truncated names referred to in the species list and the report) should be descriptive enough to figure out what each point is for.

Prefixes used in the text in front of GPS references:

- "a:", followed by the name of the GPS point (e.g.: "**a: AF01**"), means that the species was seen in the area near (at most at a short walking distance away from) this exact location.
- "x:", followed by the name of the GPS point (e.g.: "**x: AF01**") means that the GPS point was taken specifically for this species and the species was thus seen at or from this exact location.

Explanation of the names of GPS points:

The first two capital letters are abbreviations of the area (see below for a list).

- If the GPS point is our own, or is taken from a different trip (report), this abbreviation is followed immediately by a number, e.g. **AF01**.
- For GPS points from Spottiswoode et al., the area abbreviation is followed by "_Sp" and then a number, e.g. **AF_Sp30**. The numbers correspond to those in Spottiswoode et al.
- For GPS points from Behrens et al., the area abbreviation is followed by "_Be" and then a capital letter, e.g. "**AF_BeA**". The capital letters correspond to those in Behrens et al.

References

Birds of the Horn of Africa, N. Redman, T. Stevenson, and J. Fanshawe, 2009.

Where to watch birds in Ethiopia, C. Spottiswoode, M. Gabremichael, and J. Francis, 2010.

Birding Ethiopia, K. Behrens, K. Barnes, and C. Boix, 2010.

There is much overlap with the previous book, but it is still worth buying both.

Birds of Ethiopia and Eritrea, J. Ash and J. Atkins, 2009.

This is mainly a distributional atlas, not quite necessary for most visiting birders.

Acknowledgements

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1. Addis Ababa [29/01 & 21/02]

Addis Ababa was our departure point, and we also ended the trip here. When picking up the rental car at dawn (at the Ethiopian Quadrants HQ at [AD02](#)), we excitedly saw our first lifers in town, but all of them were common birds. Perhaps one sighting worth mentioning is that of **Banded Barbet** at the Bel Air Hotel ([AD03](#)). Some birds for which Addis is one of the better places in Ethiopia include *Nyanza Swift* and *Brown Parisoma*.

2. Sululta Plains [29/01: 07-12h]

After two hours of sleep and the necessary shopping (Nutella hazelnut flavoured sweet spread, and so on) in Addis, we went to the Sululta Plains for our first morning of birding in Ethiopia. These highland plains start directly north of Addis, and extend northward almost to Debre Libanos. The road through the area is high quality tar, and birding is done by making some stops along the road, especially near river crossings, and walking around in the easily accessible grasslands.

Our first stop was at [SU01](#) (07:05-08:10). Here we first walked on the fields to the west of the road. We saw our first **Blue-winged Geese** and **Red-throated Pipits** (abundant), 10 **Ortolan Buntings**, 3 **Black-winged Plovers**, and 10 **Red-breasted Wheatears**. After almost half an hour, we found **Abyssinian Longclaw** on a small stony hill a bit south to where we parked, along the road. It then flew across the road, where there are small fields and sheds directly along the road, also with some running water. Here, we got nice views of a pair of *Longclaws*, and also found another target: **Erlanger's Lark**. Other birds seen included **Ethiopian Cisticola** (in the wet area), **Red-billed Oxpecker**, 5 **Black-headed Siskins** and an overhead **Bearded Vulture**.

Next stop was the Duber River crossing, [SU_Sp11](#) (08:25-09:30). Here we walked to the west along the river, which looks more like a small stream. In the river we were surprised to find 4 **African Black Ducks**. While walking along the river we heard singing **Erlanger's Larks**, saw 50 **Plain Martins**, a **Moorland Chat**, 15 **Yellow Bishops**, 2 **Augur Buzzards**, 1 **Red-rumped Swallow**, 1 **African Spoonbill**, 2 **Nyanza Swifts**, 2 **White-backed Vultures**, 2 **Abyssinian Longclaws**, **Rüppell's Vulture** and 2 **Tawny Eagles**. After 350m, the path goes through a field, where we found a **Pectoral-patch Cisticola** skulking sneakily through the grass.

At site [SU_BeC](#) (09:35-10:00), we unsuccessfully searched for *Red-chested Swallow*. Here, we did see our first **Lanner**, a female **White-headed Vulture**, 2 **Abyssinian Longclaws**, 1 **Erlanger's Lark**, 1 **Black Stork** and another **Pectoral-patch Cisticola**, foraging well visible in short grass along with Longclaws and other birds. Next stop was another river crossing at [SU02](#) (10:45-11:10), where we found a male **African Stone-chat**, 3 **Ethiopian Cisticolas** and a group of 6 non-br males **Pin-tailed Whydah**.

We had our lunch at SU_BeD (11:25-12:00), a nice marsh area with still some open water, directly east of the road at the northern end of the plains. **Spot-breasted Plover** appeared to be common here with some 15-20 individuals. Many other birds were present here, including 90 **Yellow-billed Ducks**, up to 40 **Black-winged Plover**, 10 **Blue-winged Geese**, many **Groundscraper Thrushes**, **Tawny Eagle**, 35 **Ruff** etc. All **Yellow Wagtails** here were *feldegg*, while the birds on the more dryer plains earlier today were all *flava*. After lunch, we headed for the Portuguese Bridge (Debre Libanos).

Species that we did not see here, but for which Sululta is a good site:

Red-chested Swallow (also possible in Dinsho), *Yellow Bishop* (idem), *Quail Finch* (idem, though rarely encountered in general), *Yellow-crowned Bishop* (rarely), *Fan-tailed Widowbird* (rarely).

3. Debre Libanos and the Portuguese Bridge [29/01: 12h30-dusk]

We arrived at around 12:30 at the Ethio-German Hotel (DL01), which is situated along the main road near the Portuguese Bridge. After checking in, we first had a coke at the hotel to enjoy the quite spectacular scenery. **Fan-tailed Raven** was abundant, and **Rüppell's Vultures** were soaring over the ridge, as were a pair each of **Bearded Vultures** and **Verreaux's Eagles**. Twice a small falcon flew past, which really looked like a *Barbary Falcon*, but we could not clinch the ID.

From the hotel, we took the small track to the Portuguese bridge, which is situated only a few hundred meters away from the hotel, at DL02. After 100m, in some scrub along the path, we found two **Stout Cisticolas**. Not many trips pay attention to this species, but according to the Birds of HoA, the Ethiopian population is a potential split. This might be a reliable site, and elsewhere we only saw the species in the Gibe Gorge. At the same spot, we also saw a **Long-billed Pipit**. At the bridge, locals were asking for an entrance fee for the bridge. We didn't know whether we should pay and enter, but since all the specialties can already be seen before you enter the bridge, we did not. Just before the bridge, it's possible to look down in the gorge, and from there we saw **Rüppell's Black Chat**, **Mocking Cliff Chat** and **White-winged Cliff Chat**.

Having seen all the targets at the bridge area by 15h, we went to the Debre Libanos monastery. This is some five km from the hotel, at the end of a small road heading eastwards from near the hotel (DL03). About halfway to the monastery, a large fig tree stands right next to the road (DL_Sp12, you can see the actual tree on Google Maps...). The tree was fruiting -- we didn't know where to look, new species everywhere (15:05-15:25): **White-cheeked Turaco**, **White-billed Starling**, **Bruce's Green Pigeon**, **Banded Barbet**, **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, **Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher**, **Montane White-eye**, **Baglafecht Weaver** and **African Citril**.

Even though we did not want to visit the monastery itself ([DL03](#)), we were still asked to pay the steep entrance fee for entering the grounds. Knowing that we should also be able to elsewhere see the woodland/forest species that are possible here, we decided to turn around (meanwhile seeing **White-backed Tit** near the entrance), and to try some shrubbery a few 100m before the monastery (15:50-16:10). In hindsight this was the wrong decision, since the whole village followed us, making decent birding impossible. We also did not reach any forest this way. We still had **Hemprich's Hornbill**, **Singing Cisticola**, **Yellow-bellied Waxbill**, **Blue-headed Coucal** (song), **Rüppell's Robin-chat** and a **Bearded Vulture**.

Back at the Ethio-German Hotel, we first added a soaring **Greater Spotted Eagle** to the list, oddly enough still a lifer for Rob. With still some time left until dusk, we walked the path to the bridge again (16:20-17:45). Halfway, we heard **Erckel's Francolins** deep down in the valley, and saw one bird very nearby, at the edge of the abyss. Near the bridge, one can overlook a cliff where we found a **Verreaux's Eagle** chick on a nest. Along the stream just south of the bridge, we saw two **Mountain Wagtails** that were quite active and vocal (cool call!). At the Ethio-German Hotel we had our first, and for some of us, last, injera.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Debre Libanos area is a good site:
Portuguese Bridge: *Cape Eagle Owl* (calling at night near the hotel), *Nyanza Swift*, *Black ('Blue') Saw-wing*, *Erlanger's Lark*, *Little Rock Thrush*.
Monastery: *Abyssinian Woodpecker*, *Brown Woodland Warbler*, *Brown Parisoma*, *Abyssinian Oriole*.

4. Jemma Valley [30/1: all day & 31/1: dawn-11h]

30/1:

Jemma Valley is the usual destination after Debre Libanos. One of the main targets here is *Harwood's Francolin*, which is best seen and heard at first light. Therefore, one should leave very early from Debre Libanos. We left at 04:00, arriving at the top of the Jemma Valley at 05:30. During the ride, we had good views of a **Barn Owl** along the road (exact spot unfortunately not recorded), a species that is apparently very rarely seen in Ethiopia.

After getting out of the car at [JE03](#) (05:30-06:20), we soon heard **Harwood's Francolin** calling from down the hill (even though overall, francolin calling activity was very low during our visit, and most of the calls were from Erckel's Francolins). It was not hard to find both **Harwood's** and **Erckel's Francolins** leisurely foraging on the fields below the road, at the indicated GPS point. Despite this, the locals surrounding the car claimed they found it for us, demanding a 500 birr reward. They were quite persistent, so in the end our driver Mesfin deemed it necessary to go all the way back to Lemi Town ([JE02](#)) and get the police.

A recent trip report by Lieven de Temmerman (see link in 'Preparation' section) reported Ankober

Serin just 1km back (upslope) from the Harwood's spot, where there are cliffs above the road (JE05). Because Mesfin was still on his way getting the police, we walked our way to the point where they had seen it. Unbelievably, only a short search later Sander indeed encountered a group of **Ankober Serins** along the road (x: JE04)! We could all see (and hear, as they were rather vocal) them quite well for a while, flying around and foraging on the cliffs above us, but surprisingly, they then completely disappeared. It was not even 8am, and we had both the francolin and serin in the pocket -- not too bad.

Roadside birding in this area was generally good, with 2 **Little Rock thrushes**, **Rüppell's Black Chat**, **Streaky Seedeater**, 3 **Singing Cisticolas**, **White-billed Starling**, 2 **Slender-billed Starlings** (near a well with wet cliffs along the road), 2 **Blue Rock Thrushes**, 10 **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**, a female **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Mountain White-eyes**, and a male **Pallid Harrier**.

When Mesfin returned from Lemi Town, we made our descent into the Jemma Valley, stopping halfway at JE06, from where we walked a few km's down the road (08:00-10:00) to a little beyond the cliffs at JE_Sp18 (and passing JE07 where the same Belgians had seen *White-throated Seedeater*). It was quite hot already, so birding was a bit slow, but we had **Abyssinian Wheatear**, **Familiar Chat**, **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver**, 2-3 **Mocking Cliff Chats**, **White-winged Cliff Chat** (both Cliff Chats at the ...cliffs), **Booted Eagle**, **Black-chested Snake-Eagle**, 3 **Singing** and 1 **Rattling Cisticola**, **Little Rock Thrush**, and a non-br male **Red-collared Widowbird**.

Further down in the Jemma Valley, we briefly stopped in agricultural land at JE08 (10:10-10:40), where we added 10 **Speckle-fronted Weavers** and 5 **Bush Petronias**. Just before the Jemma Bridge, we walked through a dry river bed at JE09 (11:00-12:10), which was reasonably productive despite the time of day: **Vinaceous Dove** (make sure you know the song!), a probable non-br *Black-winged Red Bishop*, **Black-billed Barbet**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, 3 **Red-billed Queleas**, **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver**, **Isabelline Shrike** and **Namaqua Dove**.

We had lunch at a shady spot on the north side of the Jemma Bridge, and then by foot birded the area near the river (13:00-15:00). We first walked a bit eastwards along the northern shore of the river, near the entrance to the wadi mentioned in Behrens: JE_BeX1. We added species like **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **Village Indigobird**, **Black stork**, **Woolly-necked Stork** (3, overhead), **Senegal Thick-knee** (on the gravel along the river), **Spur-winged Plover**, **African Pied Wagtail**, **Abyssinian White-eye** and **Familiar Chat**. Among the swallows flying along the river, we found a swallow with a grey rump -- unfortunately it turned out not to be a *Red Sea Cliff Swallow* but merely a **Grey-rumped Swallow** (still a fairly good bird in Ethiopia). Besides some 10 **Greater Blue-eared Starlings**, we also found 5 **Lesser Blue-eared Starlings** -- knowing the difference in voice makes the ID easier! We then walked through the wadi (JE_BeX1) to the hills above it (JE_BeX2), which was disappointing. In the wadi, we heard our first **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**. On the hills, there was no trace of *Foxy Cisticola* (for which this

location is highlighted by Behrens) or any other interesting birds. *Foxy Cisticola* turned out to be easy at a few later spots -- so no need to walk there for this species.

The last part of the afternoon was spent along the Lomi River (JE_Sp20, 15:15-16:30), which is, as the crow flies, 6km northeast of the bridge over the Jemma River. We birded the stream on both sides of the road near the bridge. Along the river, just north of the main road, Rob found the much wanted **Red-billed Pytilia** (x: JE10) in a bush; it stayed just long enough for everybody to see it. Unfortunately, we could not find *White-throated Seedeater*. Other species seen included: 15+ **Crimson-rumped Waxbills**, 3+ **Foxy Cisticolas**, 1 **Striped Kingfisher**, 2 **Wire-tailed Swallows**, 2 **Mountain Wagtails**, 10+ **Speckle-fronted Weavers**, 1 **Long-billed Pipit** and 5+ **African Silverbills**. Because we wanted to start our search for *White-throated Seedeater* at this site again the next morning, we asked Mesfin whether we could camp here. He did not like the idea ("too dangerous"), and proposed to go to a hotel in Lemi Town. Since Lemi was a long drive back, we were not at all keen on going there. So Mesfin came up with a better idea: he asked a nearby farmer, and we were allowed to camp near his house (JE12). This was a very nice experience.

31/1:

In the early morning, we searched extensively for *White-throated Seedeater* along the Lomi River, but again without success (05:30-07:15) However, Jelmer and Bas saw **Red-billed Pytilia** again at the same spot, and we also found 2 **Harwood's Francolins** (x: JE11). Other interesting sightings included an adult **Red-tailed Shrike**, 6 non-br **Northern Red Bishops**, 6 **Foxy Cisticolas**, 4 **Lesser Blue-eared Starlings**, 2 non-br **Pin-tailed Whydahs** and, unexpectedly, 1 **Green-backed Eremomela**, but only by Sjoerd. We were getting a bit nervous now, where was the *White-throated Seedeater*?

We then headed to our last spot for this species, Awar Wuha (JE_Sp21, 07:55-08:50), a bit further northwards from Lomi. Well, we should have checked that spot earlier, since all **White-throated Seedeaters** seemed to have gathered here -- we saw some 15 individuals, and they were impossible to miss! This was a nice spot anyway, many birds were attracted to the green vegetation along the spring that was present here, and we added species like **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, 4 **Black-winged Lovebirds**, an elusive **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler**, our only **Lesser Spotted Eagle**, 8 **Violet-backed Starlings**, **Yellow-fronted Canaries**, a **Pin-tailed Wydah**, **Little Rock Thrush**, 2 **African Grey Hornbills**, 1 **Lesser Honeyguide**, 3 **Mountain Wagtails** and **Crimson-rumped Waxbills**. Heavily relieved that we had seen *White-throated Seedeater* (missing out on endemic species was no option on this trip!), we drove back to the Jemma River, halfway finally finding a nice (and indeed our only) **Fox Kestrel** (x: JE13), another species for which we had looked out for a while. A lunch stop near the Jemma River bridge again produced a **Grey-rumped Swallow**. At 11h, we had left the Jemma Valley, and passed Lemi on our way to Ankober (seeing a pair of **Verreaux's Eagles** east of the T-junction at JE14).

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Jemma Valley is a good site:

Giant Kingfisher, *Nyanza Swift*, and *Black-winged Red Bishop* (we were pretty certain of one bird, but they are hard in non-br plumage -- though we later got some pretty clear ones in Gibe). This insignificant list means that we did pretty well in the Jemma Valley. There are also a few sightings of *Pale Rock Sparrow* and *Cinereous Bunting*, so these are species to keep an eye out for!

5. Ankober Escarpment [31/01: 14h-15h]

After a 3h drive, we arrived in the eucalyptus forest near Ankober. Having seen *Ankober Serin* in Jemma, the only species we were really looking for in Ankober was *Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk*. It had been reported quite often in and near this eucalyptus forest. But how to quickly target an *Accipiter*? We decided to walk around a little bit along the road at AN02 (14:15-14:30), but to no avail. Because we still wanted to do some birding in Melka Ghebdu for more important species in the late afternoon, we soon decided to drive on. While entering the village of Ankober, three of us were lucky enough to still see a **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** flying past (x: AN03). In the village (AN04), we first made a reservation at a very basic but friendly hotel, and then drove straight to Melka Ghebdu. The next morning, while driving in the dark to Melka Ghebdu, we flushed a **Montane Nightjar** from the road, just after leaving the village.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Ankober is a good site:

Ankober Serin, *Verreaux's Eagle*, *White-billed Starling*, *Cinnamon Bracken Warbler*, *Abyssinian Wheatear*. There are also a few sightings of *Mountain Buzzard* and *Moorland Francolin*. We saw all of these species elsewhere.

6. Melka Ghebdu [31/01: 16h-17h30 & 01/02: 05h30-07h]

31/01:

Melka Ghebdu was a 40min drive from Ankober, and we arrived there at 15:55. Our first stop was at MG_Sp28, which should be good for *Yellow-throated Seedeater*. Only minutes after leaving the vehicle, we indeed found a couple of **Yellow-throated Seedeaters** in the ploughed fields left (north) of the road immediately before the river crossing. From here on, we walked eastwards through the river bed for some 500 meters. It didn't take long before we encountered two **Half-collared Kingfishers** (x: MG01), giving excellent views, but we couldn't find any *Giant Kingfishers* (which we did not see at all this trip!). In trees on the north side of the river, we found a small group of **Eastern Grey Plantain-eaters**, our only sighting of the trip. Another highlight of this productive spot was a **Black Scrub Robin** (also the only one of the trip). The bird was very elusive in the thick bushes surrounding fields on the south side of the river. Other birds seen here included 5 **Yellow-breasted Barbets**, 3 **Abyssinian Wheatears**, 1 **Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike**, 1 **Yellow-fronted Canary**, 1 **Red-faced Crombec**, and 1 **Collared Sunbird**. According to the range maps, the latter should not occur this far north in the country, but we are

certain that we saw one, and not a *Variable* (other trip reports have also reported them north of the indicated range). Returning to the road at 17:30, we had brief views of **Crested Francolins**.

01/02:

The main target for this morning was *Clapperton's Francolin*. It was very quiet at MG_Sp28, so we soon moved on to MG02 (05:55-06:35), where bird activity was much higher: 2

Yellow-throated Seedeaters (x: MG03), 2 **Reichenow's Seedeaters**, 1 **White-browed Scrub Robin**, 20+ **Crimson-rumped Waxbills** and 3 **Rufous Chatterers**. We also heard francolins calling on the slopes south of the road, both **Crested** and **Clapperton's Francolins** (x: MG02). But despite some searching, we could not obtain views of the *Clapperton's* (fortunately, we would later see them multiple times elsewhere). After a short breakfast-break near MG_BeC (our first **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers** and a **Gabar Goshawk**), we drove onto the Afar plains.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Melka Ghebdu is a good site:

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weaver, *Giant Kingfisher*, *Bare-faced Go-away Bird*, *Long-billed Pipit*, *Ruppel's Black Chat*. We never connected with *Giant Kingfisher*, but all other species were seen elsewhere.

7. Afar plains (Melka Ghebdu to Awash) [01/02: 07h30-14h]

The road from Melka Ghebdu to our first stop on the Afar plains (AF02) is slow and rough (07:25-08:30), but the area is desolate in a pretty way. This stop was a bit disappointing (08:30-09:25; the place is mentioned in Behrens as site A for Afar, but our AF02 coordinates are more precise). We could not find the goodies mentioned in Behrens, such as *White-faced Owl* and *African Collared Dove*, but did have great views of **Pearl-spotted Owlet** and **Nubian Woodpecker**. Driving on, we had our first sightings of **Arabian** and **Kori Bustards**, and, very surprisingly, two males **Common Ostrich** (at x: AF03 and x: AF06). These are not mentioned for the Afar Plains in any source, but after consulting several people, they are most likely genuine, wild, birds.

Near a small settlement (at x: AF04), we were relieved to find 3 **African Collared Doves**, our only sighting of the trip. Our next stop was AF05 (11:20-12:20), where we birded a more wooded area, with lots of cattle tracks. Here we found **Pearl-spotted Owlet** again (attracted to our tape that was actually meant to lure in passerines), and also saw **Masked Shrike**, 3 **African Palm Swifts**, 4-5 **Northern White-crowned Shrikes**, 2+ **White-rumped Babblers**, 2-3 **White-browed Coucals**, and **Common Bulbuls** (with no phenotypic signs of *Somali* influences).

We reached the main road (that runs from Addis to Awash) at 14:05, quite a bit earlier than we had expected. This means we had spent only 6h40min between Melka Ghedbu and the main

road, of which a little over 4h was net driving time.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Afar Plains are a good site:

White-faced Owl, *Nile Valley Sunbird*, *Somali Bulbul* (but note that we did see bulbuls, and they looked like Common Bulbuls! Also see Bilen account), and more rarely: *Black-headed Lapwing* and *Desert Lark*. *Nile Valley Sunbird* was later easily seen at Awash and Bilen.

8. Awash NP & Lake Besaka [01/02: 14h-dusk & 02/02: all day & 03/02: 15h-dusk]

01/02:

Coming from the Afar Plains in the afternoon, we had some time to explore the Besaka lava fields for *Sombre Rock Chat* and associated by-catch (14:10-15:40). We stopped at [AS_Sp40](#), and first explored the lava fields south of the highway. Walking on lava fields is not always easy, and we could only find some **Blackstarts** on this section. We then crossed the highway, and tried the lava fields on the northern side, with a broad, straight track running through it. From the track, we heard and briefly saw a **Striolated Bunting**. It took a while, but Sander finally also found a **Sombre Rock Chat**, at x: [AS01](#), which is east of the track and north of the highway. It often sat in a small tree on the lava field, at times accompanied by a **Blackstart**, which allowed for excellent comparison!

From here, it is only a short drive to the entrance of the National Park. We paid the entrance fee for three days, and drove straight to the Awash Falls Lodge ([AS07](#)). After pitching our tents at their campsite, we still had some time until dark, which we spent birding by foot near the lodge (16:40-17:40). **Wahlberg's Honeyguide** (x: [AS08](#)) was an unexpected highlight, while some **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouses** flew by at dusk. Unfortunately, it was too dark to identify a *nightjar* sp. that was flying around at the gate of the lodge.

02/02:

We started driving through the park at dawn, and first of all saw two *Spotted Hyenas* and a *Bat-eared Fox*. This morning, we did the loop through the park counter-clockwise and then back-and-forth a bit. Our first stop was in some open woodland at [AS09](#) (05:50-06:15). One of the targets was easily found: two males in breeding plumage as well as a female **Nile Valley Sunbird** -- really nice birds! While the other target, *Gillet's Lark*, could not be found, we did also see a few **Ashy Cisticolas**, **Grey-headed Batis** (singing), 5+ **Rosy-patched Bush-shrikes**, **Red-tailed Shrike**, 1 **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, 2 **Plain-backed Pipits**, 1 **Red-and-yellow Barbet**, several **African Palm Swifts**, 2 **Buff-crested Bustards** and 10+ **Mouse-coloured Penduline-tits**. In between driving around and birding from the car, we walked through similar habitat in the northern part of the loop (07:50-08:20 and 09:55-10:20, just west and east of [AS11](#), respectively), but again no *Gillet's*, and also no *Red-winged Lark*. We also looked for *White-faced Owl* at [AS_Sp33](#), but could not find it.

Walking around in the area at the park entrance (08:40-09:20) produced 4 **Nile Valley Sunbirds**,

1 male **Little Weaver**, 1 **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, 1 **Buff-crested Bustard** and 2 **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills**.

Northwards from the T-junction (with the track to the Kereyou Lodge) at AS_BeC, the plains are more open. We soon saw our first bustard here, a **Kori Bustard**, and five more individuals would follow on this stretch (a: AS10). **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** was abundant, with some 200 individuals, mainly flying by. We also easily found a few **Arabian Bustards**, but *Hartlaub's* was more difficult to get. We tried the track mentioned in Behrens that heads northeast from AS_BeB (10:25-12:00). Here, some areas with higher grass can be found, and we were very happy to finally see a **Hartlaub's Bustard** (the only one of the trip), a superb male at x: AS12. At this spot we also walked around on the plains hoping to find *Desert Cisticola*, but could only find **Zitting Cisticola**. This track also produced our only and highly welcomed **Scissor-tailed Kite** (x: AS14), soaring above us for a while. Other species seen on the open plains this morning: 10-15 **Singing Bush Larks** (mainly flushed by walking on the plains), 1 imm **Lappet-faced Vulture** (x: AS13), 5 **Ashy Cisticolas**, 1 female **Bateleur**, 1 **White-browed Scrub Robin**, 1 **Rattling Cisticola**, 1 **Martial Eagle**, both **Red-tailed** and **Isabelline Shrike** and 2 **Steppe Grey Shrikes**.

We had lunch at the Kereyou Lodge (AS_Sp35, 12:20-13:15). It is no longer possible to stay overnight at the lodge, but the restaurant is still running, and food is served with great views of the canyon. Two distant starlings down in the canyon were identified as **Bristle-crowned Starlings**. While driving back from the lodge to the loop, Jelmer found 3 **Three-banded Coursers** (x: AS15) in the shade under a bush -- one of the highlights of the day.

In the afternoon we drove the entire loop again until dusk, stopping and walking around in both bushy and open habitat, hoping for some new birds, especially *Red-winged Lark*, *Desert Cisticola*, or *Secretary Bird*, but could not find any. We did find two odd-looking *Gillett's Larks* (at x: AS11): they seemed to have red primaries, which doesn't fit this species. But they were clearly not *Red-wingeds* either, based on e.g. size and head pattern. A little confused, we still identified them as *Gillett's* for the time being -- back home, after checking the pictures and consulting Ken Behrens and Christian Boix, it became clear that these birds had been **Foxy Larks**. These had in fact not been recorded in Awash before. In hindsight we were also rather happy that we did see *Gillett's Lark* in Bogol Manyo!

03/02:

The morning was spent at the Ali Dege Plains and Bilen Lodge area, see that section.

After a long lunch in Awash Town, we spent the remaining part of the afternoon (14:50 - dusk) in Awash NP, mainly in an unsuccessful search for the earlier mentioned species that we were still missing. We did see a pair of **Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs** in breeding plumage near AS_Sp34, two males **Pallid Harrier**, a male **Buff-crested Bustard** as well as many **Tawny Pipits** and **Somali Fiscals**. The last few hours of daylight were spent around the airstrip (AS17):

4 Purple Grenadiers, 1 Somali Bunting, 4 Green-winged Pytilias and 4 Yellow-spotted Petronias.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Awash is a good site:

Red-winged Lark, Secretary Bird, Star-spotted Nightjar, White-faced Owl, Gillet's Lark, Desert Cisticola, White-bellied Canary, White-bellied Bustard, Red-fronted Warbler, Bearded Woodpecker, Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Black Scrub-robin, and Chestnut-headed Sparrowlark. So we missed quite a few birds, though none of them very important or attractive (and only the first four we never connected with). Birding here was not very entertaining for us, as the area was very dry, and bird activity very low. A few species that are more rarely seen here include *Double-banded Courser, Black-headed Lapwing, and Straw-tailed Whydah.*

9. Ali Dege Plains and Bilen Lodge area [03/02: 06-11h]

From 04:45-05:50, we drove from Awash to the Ali Dege Plains. While we had planned AL_Sp45 as a stop, Mesfin said he knew where to best look for *Somali Ostrich*, and drove us to AL01 (05:50-07:05). Here we scanned the plains east of the road, and indeed, **Somali Ostrich** was easily found. From that point, a track goes on to the plains from the main road, but because of a tribal border conflict, Mesfin didn't want to drive in. So we simply walked the first 500 meters of the track (we promised Mesfin not to go too far). A very pleasant surprise was the fact that **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** appeared to be abundant on the plains -- we saw 100s of them! Another highlight was 100+ **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**, some of which gave great views. Other species seen included >6 **Lanner Falcons**, 1 male **Green-winged Pytilia**, 50+ **Red-billed Queleas**, 1 **Arabian Bustard**, and 1 **Greater Short-toed Lark** (among the *Sparrow-larks*, picked up by call).

On the way back, we didn't stop at AL_Sp45, as this was rather close to a small settlement, and Mesfin did not feel secure about it. In safer times, it is apparently also possible to drive onto the plains there, to AL02 and AL03, where Swedish trips had e.g. seen *Double-banded Courser*. Unfortunately, no courser for us!

The next destination was Bilen Lodge, so we drove ca 7 km back along the main road, and then took the track to Bilen Lodge at Bl_Sp42. We drove the first few km's slowly, and saw 3 **Northern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, 1 **Cardinal Woodpecker** and our first **White-bellied Bustards** (a pair) from the car. We stopped at BI02 (07:35-08:05), and walked around at both sides of the road. **Nile Valley Sunbird** was common here, with more than 10 individuals, and we also saw **Shining** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. **Slate-coloured Boubou** and **Black-throated Barbet** were new for the trip, some 65 **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** flew past, and another **Arabian Bustard** was seen.

We then stopped BI03 (08:15-08:30). This spot is not far from the lodge itself, and has more

open habitat. Here, too, **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** was abundant, with over 200 birds in several groups (and again, **Short-toed Larks** mixed in). Bas briefly saw a properly looking **Somali Bulbul**, and Sander had a male **Desert Wheatear** (a vagrant). Other species seen here: 8 **African Silverbills**, 1 **Red-fronted Warbler**, **Black-throated Barbets** and many **Namaqua Doves**.

We then went to the lodge itself (at [BI05](#); the GPS point in Spottiswoode at [BI_Sp43](#) seems a bit off; 08:40-11:10), where we first had a soda in the shade. After the refreshment, we spread out and searched stony areas around the lodge for **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**. It took a while, but we eventually stumbled upon 4 individuals (at x: [BI06](#); 2 males and 2 females). They are perfectly camouflaged, and they trust on that feat, so we could observe them at close distance for a long time -- certainly one of the highlights of the trip. Another target was *Somali Bulbul*, but all individuals seen around the lodge showed intermediate features between *Common* and *Somali Bulbul*. All other trip reports simply mention *Somali Bulbul* here; are they ticking intergrades, or were we just unlucky in not seeing proper *Somalis*? From the lodge, a distant marsh can be scanned, which resulted in 2 distant **Saddle-billed Storks**. Birding around the lodge also produced **Yellow-breasted barbets**, 1 **Ethiopian Swallow**, 2 **Wire-tailed Swallows**, 5 **Northern Red Bishops**, **Nile Valley** and **Shining Sunbirds**, 1 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, ca 10 **Wattled Starlings** and a few **Grey Wren-Warblers**. It was lunch time now, but the lodge is a little bit very much expensive, so we left the area (flushing a nice **Slender-tailed Nightjar** at the edge of the parking lot) and had a late lunch in Awash Town, on the way back to Awash NP.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Ali Dege Plains and Bilen are good sites: *Somali Bulbul*, *Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark*, *Black Scrub Robin*, *Spotted Thick-knee*.

More rarely seen species include *Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark*, *Grasshopper Buzzard*, *Pale Rock Sparrow*, *Menetries Warbler*, *Four-banded* and *Yellow-throated Sandgrouse*.

With respect to *Somali Bulbul*: we suspect that the local population is part a intergradation/hybrid zone. This means that a lot of plumage variation can probably be found, which leaves some room to opportunistically tick the species anyway.

10. Wondo Genet [04/02 12h - dusk & 05/02 dawn - 7h]

We arrived at Wondo Genet at 12:15. Mesfin had phoned ahead to the allegedly best bird guide of Wondo Genet (his name is Nuru or something very similar), so we could go birding with him immediately. Nuru turned out to be a very good guide indeed. He does not come across as enthusiastic at all, but he knows every bird call and finds all the birds, without binoculars. Many reports claim that nearly all forest is gone and that the place is very degraded. Unfortunately this is true indeed, and the place itself is very depressing. The small tracks are packed with little kids carrying wood on their backs. The forest is clearly shrinking: where the real forest was supposed to start only a few years ago, according to trip reports, we were still walking in an area with scattered large trees. Nonetheless, already in those areas, forest species do appear, but it feels like this will not last for long.

While pitching our tents in the Wabe Shebelle Hotel ([WO03](#)) gardens, we found 5+ **Black-and-white Mannikins** in a palm tree, our only sighting of the trip. At the entrance of the hotel we met Nuru, and first we made a short stroll on the hotel grounds for *Olive Sunbird*, but no luck. From here we went into the 'forest' and visited most spots mentioned in the Spottiswoode and Behrens guides. Nuru knows a spot for each of the target species, so we saw nearly all specialties that afternoon: **African Olive Pigeon** (drinking from a ditch at the edge of the village), **Black Saw-wing** (very common), **Green-backed Honeybird** (x: [WO06](#)), 2 females and 1 male **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike**, 1 **Long-crested Eagle**, 2 **Tambourine Doves** (took a while before everyone saw it in the understory), 2 **Lemon Doves**, 1 **Broad-billed Roller** (x: [WO12](#)), **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** (common), 1 male **Abyssinian Woodpecker** (x: [WO10](#)), 1 **Abyssinian Ground Thrush** (x: [WO13](#)), 2 **African Hill Babblers** (x: [WO08](#)), 3 **Spotted Creepers** (nice birds! At x: [WO07](#)), 2 **Slender-billed Starlings**, 2 **Sharpe's Starlings** (x: [WO11](#)), an unexpected group of 50 **Grosbeak Weavers** (our only of the trip!) and 2 **African Firefinches**. **African Crowned Eagle** had a nest in the forest, we saw the chick in the nest, and the parents were also around, giving a nice flight show (x: [WO09](#)). We ended the walk near the hotel at the **Yellow-fronted Parrot** roost (x: [WO14](#)). It took a while, and some of us became nervous, but in the end, at 18:35, two birds flew in giving good views.

The next morning, we met up with Nuru early. While leaving the hotel grounds in the dark, Nuru heard **African Goshawk** at the entrance (x: [WO21](#)), and after waiting for some more light, we indeed saw two of them. After this minor delay we headed towards the *Scaly Francolin* spot. After another minor delay (a gorgeous **Abyssinian Ground Thrush** at x: [WO15](#)), we arrived at the spot and soon heard **Scaly Francolins** calling. With some patience we eventually all had reasonable views as well, at x: [WO16](#). In this area we also had good views of **African Firefinches** (x: [WO17](#)) and a pair of **Abyssinian Woodpeckers** (x: [WO18](#)), **Spectacled Weaver** and **Red-faced Cisticola**, and Jelmer had 2 **Common Waxbills**. On the way back, Nuru heard **African Emerald Cuckoo** (x: [WO19](#)), and sure enough, after he whistled it in, we had great views -- how iridescently green can a bird be, fabulous! Back at the hotel we had a few **Mountain Wagtails**. The only (minor) target we were then still missing was *Grey Cuckoo-shrike*, so we figured that we should move on, with a long drive to Dinsho still ahead. We drove away at 07:30.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Wondo Genet is a good site:
Great Sparrowhawk, *Half-collared Kingfisher* (stream at [WO20](#)), *Grey Cuckoo-shrike*, *Brown Parisoma*, *Red-winged Starling*, *Olive Sunbird*, *Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird*. All these species except the cuckoo-shrike were seen elsewhere.

11. Bale Mountains: Dinsho area [05/02 10h - dusk]

Make sure to leave Wondo Genet in time, as it is a long drive to the Bale Mountains (almost three hours to the first stop at BD_Sp64, then another two hours to the *Cape Eagle Owl* site, which is close to the HQ). When we were there, only the first part of the road was paved, until BD02, but this should improve in the near future. Our first stop was at BD_Sp64 (10:20-10:35), where we walked a bit along the stream, south of the road. A few very persistent kids didn't make it a very pleasant stop, but **3 Grey-rumped Swallows** flew over the fields, and **African Black Duck** was present in the stream.

Further along the main road, at the pass at 3600m, we saw groups of **Red-billed Choughs** (x: BD04). At the well known Cape Eagle-Owl spot (BD_Sp67; 12:45-13:15), we stopped to check the cliff, and were immediately asked for entrance by the local road workers. We politely refused. We checked the cliff and indeed found the roosting **Cape Eagle-Owl**, also seeing 8 **Common Waxbills** and 2 **Ethiopian Cisticolas**.

Next stop was the pool at BD_Sp68 (13:25-13:45). We should have seen *Rouget's Rail* already before this pool, strolling confidently near or on the road, but we didn't. We also initially did not find it at the pool, so we became a bit nervous: is the rumour true that Chinese road workers are eating all the rails? Anyway, just before we wanted to leave we did see one **Rouget's Rail** appearing from the vegetation along the pool. We also flushed two snipes from the lakeside, which we at least initially thought looked more like *Common* than *African Snipes* -- but also see the Sanetti account, the species may be less easy to separate than the drawings in the *Birds of HoA* suggest. The lake was also good for 26 **Spot-breasted Plovers**, 15 **Yellow-billed Ducks**, 10 **Blue-winged Goose**, 1 **Steppe Eagle**, 1 **Lappet-faced Vulture**, 2 **Abyssinian Longclaws** and 10 **Red-knobbed Coots**.

A stop at BD_Sp69 (14:00-14:10) was disappointing, the only bird was a single **Rouget's Rail**. At ca 14:30 we arrived at the entrance of the National Park (BD_Sp71). While paying for permissions for the coming days in the National Park, we heard a **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** singing at the entrance. On the way back, we stopped here again, and taped the bird out. From the entrance it is ca 1km to the park headquarters (BD06). Here, we met the local bird guide who knows the roosting spot of *Abyssinian Long-eared Owl*; his services cost a whopping 450 birr these days. Only a short walk and a few minutes later, we were looking at a roosting **Abyssinian Long-eared Owl** in a pine (x: BD07). From here, we did some birding with the guide in the vicinity of the HQ. The guide does not know many birds, and the area was very quiet, but we heard 2 **Abyssinian Catbirds**, saw 7 **White-Backed Black Tits** and 6 **Red-winged Starlings**. We ended the walk at the roosting spot of **African Wood Owl** (x: BD09), where two owls gave good views.

For us it was then time to find a place for the night, and on the way to Goba we saw 2 **Rouget's Rails**, an **African Stonechat** and the first **Dark-capped Bulbuls**. In Goba, we had some problems finding accommodation: the Wabe Shebelle Hotel was fully booked, and camping on their grounds costed a hefty 810 birr per very cold night! But we had little choice, and all was

suddenly well when, while pitching our tent at dusk, we saw a **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** on a lamp post! One of the most unexpected sightings of the trip (they are not known from such high altitudes).

Species that we did not see here, but for which Dinsho is a good site:

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, African Snipe, Montane Nightjar, Abyssinian Woodpecker, Red-chested Swallow, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Yellow-crowned Canary. All these species except the swallow were seen elsewhere.

12. Bale Mountains: Sanetti Plateau [06/02: dawn - 13h]

Our departure point for the day was Goba. The night before, we had had telephone contact with a Swiss group that had been to the Sanetti Plateau the previous day. They had some bad news: they had seen very few birds in general (presumably due to the drought), with no *Wattled Crane*, only one *Chestnut-naped Francolin* and not a single *Moorland Francolin*!

Our first stop was BS_Sp73 (06:30-07:10), where we walked the fields west of the road. It didn't take long before we found an elusive **Chestnut-naped Francolin** (x: BS02), and another target was found soon after: **Brown ('Bale') Parisoma** (x: BS03). Time to move on to the more open plateau. The first stop (BS04) was good for 11 **Chestnut-naped Francolins** and 1 **Rouget's Rail**. Seeing so many *Chestnut-naped*s was heartening, so our hopes for *Moorland* were up again. Yet the next stop (BS06) produced a similar result: **Chestnut-naped Francolins** and **Rouget's Rail**, but no *Moorland Francolin*. How would we be able to find this species?

We decided to take a longer walk, near BS_BeF (08:30-10:35). This is just before one reaches the plateau proper, and where a lot of very low bushes are still present (which should be good for the francolin). We spread and searched extensively, but again saw only **Chestnut-naped Francolins**. We ended up at a pool (BS07), where we saw **Rouget's Rail** and nearby we flushed a **Cape Eagle-Owl**. On the way back to the car Sander finally flushed 2 **Moorland Francolins** (x: BS08), but frustratingly enough they flew into the valley, and the rest missed them. Nobody really cared about the two **Crag Martins** (*Rock Martin* carefully excluded) and the **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** that we saw here as well.

After lunch and a final attempt for the francolin, we went to BS09 (10:40-11:15), which is at the start of the plateau proper, with very little vegetation apart from low grasses. We flushed a few *snipes* here which we initially felt had to be *Common* once again, but after scrutinizing the pictures and consulting some other people, these were **African Snipes** after all. But beware, they are not as dark and don't have as much white on the tail as illustrated in the *Birds of HoA*! Along the pool, we also finally flushed 2 **Moorland Francolins**, and with some luck (we were rather spread out..), everyone had good views as they flew down into a valley. Because of the unusually extensive searching that had proved to be necessary for *Moorland Francolin* (most

trips see it fairly easily), it was almost noon already. Unsurprisingly, we could not find *Wattled Crane* on the plateau -- it is known that in dry years, the cranes leave the plateau by January or so. Fortunately we had a good back-up place for this goody: Lake Bojo.

The last part of the plateau (11:15-12:45) was a bit disappointing as well: 2 **Ruddy Shelducks** (x: BS12), 1 distant *Ethiopian Wolf*, 4 **Steppe Eagles** (usually many more are seen here!) and 10 **Red-billed Choughs**. Presumably we only saw one instead of many wolves because it was already afternoon at this point.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Sanetti Plateau is a good site: *Wattled Crane*, *Golden Eagle*, *Mountain Buzzard*, *Spot-breasted Lapwing*, and more rarely, *Malachite Sunbird*. We did not see the eagle and the sunbird elsewhere on this trip either.

13. Bale Mountains: Hareenna Forest [06/02: 14h-dusk & 07/02: dawn-11h]

Many people bird Hareenna for a few hours only, but we were happy to take a bit more time for this excellent forest. Whether you see all the goodies or not, this place is just very nice. We arrived at Katcha Camp (BH_Sp76) at 14:15. This is basically a small field next to a stream. You need permission to stay there, which has to be arranged at the entrance of the NP at Dinsho. After pitching our tents, we took a walk around the campsite (15:00-17:15). First, we walked to the main road (BH_Sp78), then we followed the road to the north for ca 1km (BH_BeL). At the latter spot, a stream runs parallel to the road just east of it. Several small footpaths along the stream eventually bring you back to the campsite, which is situated along the same stream. Bird activity was once again fairly low, but a few hours of intensive birding still resulted in 2 singing **Red-chested Cuckoos**, 1 heard-only **Emerald Cuckoo**, 1 singing **Brown Woodland Warbler**, ca 10 **Abyssinian Catbirds**, 5+ **Cinnamon Bracken Warblers**, 15 **White Cheeked Turacos**, 2 **Abyssinian Ground Thrushes** (at BH_BeL), 2 **Lesser Honeyguides**, 1 female **Abyssinian Woodpecker** (at BH_BeL), 2 **African Hill Babblers**, 2 **Yellow-crowned Canaries**, 1 **African Olive Pigeon**, 1 **Tambourine Dove**, 20 fly-by **Red-winged Starlings**, 1 **Abyssinian Oriole** and 1 **Mountain Buzzard** (soaring, the only one of the trip). Back at the campsite, a **Montane Nightjar** was briefly calling at dusk. One of the targets here was *Abyssinian Crimsonwing*, but despite intensive searching we could not find it.

After a cold night, we started the next day with pretty much the same walk as yesterday, but we first walked a bit further up the main road, to BH02 (05:30-09:00). Much of the same species as yesterday, but generally higher numbers, and also 1 **Greater Sparrowhawk**, 5+ **Ruppell's Robin-Chat**, 3 **Thick-billed Raven**, 1 **Verreaux's Eagle** and, finally, 2 **Olive Sunbirds** (x: BH03). Yet still no trace of *Abyssinian Crimsonwing*. After a late breakfast, we packed our tents and stopped a few more times on the way down. First, some 1.5 km down the road, at BH04, we walked the road further down for a km or so (10:00-10:20), producing 4 **Abyssinian Woodpeckers**, 10+ **Yellow-bellied Waxbills** and a **Red-chested Cuckoo**. At x: BH05, we had

a flying **Crowned Eagle**. Our last stop before leaving Hareenna forest was at a bridge at BH06 (10:30-11:00). This was truly a very nice spot, and it was unfortunate that we were running out of time, so we stopped for only 15 minutes here (take some more time here if you have it!). We saw a **Little Sparrowhawk**, **African Hill Babbler** and a **Narina Trogon**.

After driving out of the forest (the end of the forest is approximately at BH08), the first village you encounter is Dola-Mena. While doing some shopping here, an **Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** was soaring right above the town center.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Hareenna Forest is a good site: *Abyssinian Crimsonwing*, *Black-and-White Mannikin*, *Sharpe's Starling*, and *Grey Cuckoo-shrike*. We saw the mannikin and starling at Wondo Genet, but missed out on the others.

14. Genale River area [07/02: 14-16h]

On the way from Hareenna forest to the Genale River area, we saw a flock of swifts at GE01. Most of them were **Mottled Swifts**, mixed in with at least a few **Alpine Swifts**. The Genale River area has only one major target: the *Prince Ruspoli's Turaco*. Our first stop to connect with the species was at GE_BeE (14:00-15:10). We explored the east side of the road, found some fruiting fig trees, but no turacos. We did see a **Wahlberg's Eagle** here, and a female **Black Cuckooshrike** was also a welcome tick. Other sightings included 30 **White-crested Helmet-shrikes**, 2 **Northern Brownbuls** (x: GE03), 5 **White-rumped Babblers**, two probable *Black-headed Batises* (didn't call...), and 5 **Black-headed Orioles**.

But we were running out time, as it is a long drive to Negele, and Mesfin became a bit nervous.

Next stop for the turaco was GE_BeD. Here we were soon surrounded by local kids offering help for the turaco. With little time on our hands, we opted for the easy way and agreed on 100 birr for finding the turaco -- the kids started to spread out along the river. After some fifteen minutes, one of them came running in with the news that he had found them. Two **Prince Ruspoli's Turacos** sat in a fig tree at x: GE04, some 0.5km west of the road. Here we also saw an unexpected male breeding plumage **Yellow-shouldered Whydah** (flying by), 2 **Abyssinian Ground-hornbills**, 1 **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, and 1 **Crimson-rumped Waxbill**.

By then it was 16:15, and our driver was in a hurry: he wanted to be in Negele before dark since the road there is in a bad condition. During the drive we still managed to see **Crested Francolin**, **Shelley's Starling**, **Golden-breasted Starling**, **Rufous-crowned Roller** and **Black-billed Wood-hoopoe**. We stayed at the Nile Hotel, in the middle of town, which was quite good.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Genale River area is a good site: Near the bridge over the Genale River (at GE06), *Juba Weaver* has been seen.

15. Liben Plains [08/02: dawn-9h & 10/02: 15-17h]

08/02:

We were at the Liben Plains at first light. Only one bird is really important here, the **Sidamo Lark**, so we started at the enclosure that has been made for this critically endangered species. The enclosure is a small “fenced” part of the plain to avoid overgrazing. The fence merely consisted of thorn bushes though, and was clearly being violated regularly. Grass inside the enclosure was only marginally higher than around it. We did not walk in the enclosure itself, but found the lark quickly and easily in the fragments of higher grass directly southeast of the enclosure (x: [LI04](#)). A few 100m further east (x: [LI05](#)) we found them as well; in total we saw 4 individuals.

Somali Short-toed Lark should be common on the plains, but we only saw exactly one individual! (We were warned about this, though, by a Swiss group we had spoken to. They had been here a few days earlier, and had not seen a single one. Probably an effect of the drought once again...). This was at [LI04](#), and it stayed just long enough for everybody to see it. Later we heard that the agricultural fields north of the road may be a better spot. While scanning the plains from this area, we also found the hoped for **Temminck’s Courser** (x: [LI09](#)) -- they were in fact hard to miss, as there were no less than eight of them! Among these coursers we also found five **Caspian Plovers**, including two males partly in summer plumage. Other species seen amongst these goodies: 1 **Short-toed Snake-Eagle**, 2 **Black-chested Snake-Eagles**, 1 **Shelley’s Rufous Sparrow**, **Plain Backed Pipit** (very common), 3 **Ethiopian Swallows** and 3 **Pectoral-patch Cisticolas**.

In the village 5 km to the east (spot D in Behrens), we had hoped to get better views of **Shelley’s Rufous Sparrow**, but couldn’t find them. A bit further, at x: [LI10](#), we did find 8 of them, although they were quite shy. Here we also had 3 **Kori Bustards**. Further east, the plains give way to a more savannah-like landscape. We stopped and walked around at [LI11](#) (7:15-7:40), but it was hot already, and very quiet. A roadside walk 3 km further east gave the same impression, and produced little of interest besides a pair of **African Hawk-Eagles**. It was then time to continue further east to the Filtu area.

10/02:

Unexpectedly, we found ourselves on the Liben Plains again just two days later. Bas was treated in the hospital of Negele, so the rest of us spent the last few hours of the day near the plains at spot [LI_Sp87](#) (15:40-17:10). This proved to be a very good site, although it did not produce any lifers. Not many old fig trees here, in fact just some scrub, but as promised in the Spottiswoode guide, we still found a **Prince Ruspoli’s Turaco** (x: [LI02](#)). Five **Reichenow’s Seedeaters** made our heart beats faster, but no *Salvadori’s* in the group (they are sometimes seen at the Liben Plains, so keep an eye open). Other birds included 5 **Ethiopian Swallows**, 1 **African Spoonbill**, 1 **Isabelline Shrike**, 3 **Black-headed Batis** (song), 2 **Rattling Cisticola**, 2 **Wattled**

Lapwing and 2 Northern Brownbuls.

The next morning, while waiting in the dark for our driver in front of our hotel in Negele, we heard a **Freckled Nightjar** calling.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Liben Plains are a good site:

Coqui Francolin, Red-and-Yellow Barbet, Tiny and Boran Cisticola. We would later see the barbet and Tiny Cisticola in the Yabello area.

16. Filtu area [08/02: 10h-dusk & 09/02: dawn-10h]

08/02:

At LI_BeF, between Negele and Filtu, we birded the area south of the road (09:50-11:20). Overall it was rather quiet, until we bumped into a nice feeding flock: 1 male **Banded Parisoma**, 1 **Three-streaked Tchagra**, 10 **Black-cheeked Waxbills**, 3 **Rosy-patched Bushshrikes**, 5 **Northern Black Tits**, 2 **Purple Grenadiers**, 5+ **Somali Crombecs**, 1 **Red-fronted Warbler**, 5 **Pygmy Batis** and 4 **Somali Buntings**.

Continuing towards Filtu, we saw 2 **Lappet-faced Vultures**, 5+ **Lilac-breasted Rollers** 2 **Rufous-crowned Rollers**, 1 **Isabelline Shrike** and 1 **Red-tailed Shrike**. Another stop and walk (FI02, 12:00-13:30) produced many of the same species, but also a male **Marico Sunbird**, 2 **Yellow-spotted Petronias**, ca. 5 **Abyssinian Scimitarbills**, a pair of **Pringle's Puffbacks**, a **Buff-crested Bustard**, and an **Upcher's Warbler**. In Filtu town (FI03) we checked in at a very basic hotel, had a coke, and then spent the last hours of the day at FI_BeB (16:00-17:30). This spot should host *Salvadori's Serin*, a major target for us because we had skipped Sof Omar. Increasingly nervously, we birded the area until dusk, but no sign of the *Salvadori's*. We had 3 **Buff-crested Bustards**, 1 singing **Reichenow's Seedeater**, 2 **Golden-breasted Starlings** and a **Pringle's Puffback**.

09/02:

Early the next morning, we were at FI_BeB again, with only one mission: *Salvadori's Serin* (06:00-08:00). Much the same as yesterday, including most species typical for this habitat... except for the target (in general, though, there was a lack of finches and seedeaters. This might make sense: we did not see any water here, and these birds have to drink often). It slowly became clear that we had to go for plan C for seeing this species (i.e. Arero Forest). A small consolation was that Rob flushed a **Donaldson Smith's Nightjar** (x: FI04) that gave great views.

We continued in the direction of Bogol Manyo and stopped at FI05, to do some birding along the road (08:45-08:55). It is very hot here during the day, and there was little activity. A **Red-naped**

Bushshrike was the highlight.

On the way back from Bogol Manyo to Negele we crossed the Filtu area again, and saw 2 **White-bellied Bustards** at FI01.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Filtu area is a good site:

Gillet's Lark, *Hunter's Sunbird*, *Salvadori's Serin*, *Grosbeak Canary*. We saw all these species elsewhere.

17. Bogol Manyo area [09/02: 12h-dusk]

09/02:

We arrived in Bogol Manyo town at 12:15. On the way there, we had seen three **Somali Coursers** directly along the road at x: BO01. While having a coke in town, we had a look at the local sparrows. They did not look too good for *Parrot-billed Sparrows*, even though only this species (and not **Swainson's Sparrow**) should occur here according to the literature. Having asked around a bit after the trip, it appears that the (distributional) situation with *Parrot-billed Sparrow* is actually quite unclear.

We then went to the police station to negotiate access to area. After a while, we got permission to bird the region with a guard, although they did not want us to go too far down the road towards Somalia (perhaps not as far as we had wanted to go for the *Somali Wheatear*, but this never actually became clear, as we did not bird here the next day). They also gave us permission to stay in the hospital coming nights. The hospital consists of a few small buildings with one doctor and one guard, but no patients. The building has sockets and taps, but there is no water and electricity in Bogol Manyo... weird situation. Anyway, a good hospital would have been nice, because since lunch time, Bas didn't feel good at all (head swellings). He stayed in the hospital, while the rest of us made a short excursion just east of Bogol Manyo.

We birded along the river south of the road at BO_Sp9 (14:50-15:40). There was no running water in the river, only some remaining pools. These attracted good numbers of **Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks**. Other birds included two **Golden-breasted Starlings** and a pair of **Violet-backed Sunbirds**.

Four km further east (at BO_BeB, 15:50-16:45), we birded the area north of the road. Soon we found a **Gillett's Lark**. *Gillet's Larks* at this site have previously been known as a separate species ("*Degodi Lark*"), but after careful study, they apparently don't even deserve subspecies status (this was in fact our sole sighting of *Gillett's Lark*, with our Awash birds later turning out to have been *Foxy Larks*!). Other highlights included two **Yellow-vented Eremomelas** (only sighting of the trip, also a bit of a Bogol specialty, although sometimes seen in the Yabello area), an **Orange-bellied Parrot**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, several groups of **Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks**, two **Buff-crested Bustards**, and last but not least a beautiful male

Black-faced Sandgrouse that sat on the sand right in front of us. It is unsafe here at night, so we had to return to Bogol Manyo before dark. Back at the hospital, we found Bas still being ill.

10/02:

The next morning, Bas' situation had deteriorated, and it became clear that we needed to go to a proper hospital immediately. Since there is no cell phone connection and only one doctor in Bogol, we had to go back to Negele. This would unfortunately also mean that we could not look for the much-wanted *Somali Wheatear*, *Somali Bee-eater* etc. We decided to first go to the UN post in town, to ask whether we could use their satellite phone line to call ahead. That turned out to be a bad idea. The local head of the UN was very angry at seeing white people with lenses etc, so he took some of our passports and cameras. He did not consider our permission letter (which Mesfin had brought from Addis) to be sufficient for clearance, and was especially condescending towards Mesfin. But after a while, he fortunately gave us back our stuff, and let us leave. Ethiopian Quadrants was one of the few tour operators still willing to go to Bogol Manyo, but this may have been the last time, at least for a while!

On our way back between Bogol Manyo and Filtu, we saw 270 **Vulturine Guineafowl** on the road, 1 **Martial Eagle**, 2 **Somali Coursers** and a few **Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Larks**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Bogol Manyo area is a good site: *Somali Bee-eater*, *Somali Wheatear*, *Philippa's Crombec*, *Parrot-billed Sparrow*, *White-winged Dove*, *Short-tailed Lark*, *Juba Weaver*, *Hartlaub's Bustard*, and sometimes, *Golden Pipit*. We never saw the first four and last of these species.

18. Dawa River [11/02: 06-12h]

From Negele, we departed for the Dawa River in the early morning, and en route connected with 2 **Kori Bustards**, 1 **Martial Eagle**, 2 **Pygmy Falcons** and 10 **Golden-breasted Starlings** from the car.

At the river crossing at DA_Sp100 (05:55-06:45), we had hoped to find *White-winged Dove*: the Swiss group that we were in telephone contact with, had heard of someone seeing them at this spot the week before, and not at the Dawa river site itself. But despite extensive searching through the hundreds of doves present here, we could not find a *White-winged*. The highlight was **Black-faced Sandgrouse**: in total 24 birds in several small groups flew by or landed to drink nearby -- handsome birds! Other sightings included 4 **Black-cheeked Waxbills**, 1 male **Eastern Violet-backed Starling**, 2 **Gabar Goshawks**, 1 **Greater Honeyguide** and 4 **Bristle-crowned Starlings**. After birding for a while at this site, we realised that we should be at the Dawa River instead, before it would get too hot to catch up with the sunbird, weaver and dove there. On the way, we saw 25 **Golden-breasted Starlings**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Dark-chested Snake-Eagle** and a very welcome single **Magpie Starling** (x: DA01).

When we arrived at the Dawa River, it was 08:30, and quite hot already. The locals here were

looking for gold in the river. They seemed uncomfortable with our presence, but after telling them that we were here for birds instead of stealing gold, they became more relaxed. We parked on the south bank, west of the road at [DA06](#), and started to walk around. First, we checked the area near the car and in a nearby wadi at [DA03](#). Bird activity was already low, and in the first hour, there was no trace of the dove, sunbird or weaver. After a while, Jelmer found a **White-winged Dove** along the river at x: DA02. It was singing in a tree on the other side of the river. While looking through our telescopes, a small dark sunbird was flitting around just below the dove: **Black-bellied Sunbird!**

It was really hot, so we then first headed back to the car for a refreshment. But leaving without *Juba Weaver* was no option, of course, so we soon sent ourselves back into the field. During another check of the wadi, Sjoerd found two **Brown-tailed Rock Chats** (x: [DA03](#)). We were quite happy with this species, which is a NE Africa endemic that is not often seen away from Sof Omar (which we had skipped). Now we walked further along the river, and finally hit the jackpot: 20+ **Juba weavers** (at x: [DA04](#)) in summer plumage, **White-winged Doves** and two stunning breeding plumage males **Black-bellied Sunbirds!** The weavers were in the thick bushes along the river, but also came to drink at x: [DA05](#). Other birds at this spot included 4 **Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds**, 1 **Barred Warbler**, **Lesser Masked Weavers**, **Black-billed Woodhoopoes**, **White-headed Vulture**, 3 **White-crested Helmet-shrikes** and a male **Northern Masked Weaver**. With all boxes ticked at 11:30, it was time to move on to Yabello! On the way, we stopped at [DA08](#), where Mesfin knew there was a colony of **Black-capped Social Weavers**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Dawa River is a good site: *Water Thick-Knee*, *Grey Kestrel*. We saw the latter at Lake Ziway, but never saw the former.

19. Yabello area [11 - 14/02]

11/02:

We arrived in the Yabello area from the Dawa River, so we drove via Wachile and Soda. Before reaching Yabello itself, one of the specialties of the area was already in the pocket: **Stresemann's Bush Crow** (x: [YA02](#)). We then had a stop at [YA_BeF](#) (15:30-16:40). We walked around northeast of the road to search for *Desert* and *Boran Cisticola*. Many cisticolas here indeed, but most were **Ashy Cisticolas**, only a few **Desert Cisticolas** (x: [YA04](#)) and no *Boran Cisticola*. Other good birds included a steep 10 **White-bellied Bustards**, a **Kori Bustard**, a **Greater-spotted Eagle** and a handsome **Heuglin's Courser** (among the bushes at x: [YA03](#)).

Our next stop was near a small settlement, at [YA_BeE](#) (17:00-17:30). This is supposed to be a good spot for **Short-tailed Lark**, and sure enough, at x: [YA05](#) we found a flock of 36 birds here. They were quietly foraging on the field until a **Gabar Goshawk** disturbed them and managed to

catch one in the air. Also 20 **Shelley's Rufous Sparrows** and 5+ **Crowned Plovers** here. We called ahead to Yabello, but all hotels were apparently full booked, so we went to Mega (YA06) instead, and fortunately found a basic hotel there.

12/02:

Since we still hadn't seen *Salvadori Serin*, our first goal of today was to arrange permission for entering Arero Forest the next day. So at first light we drove from Mega to Yabello town. On the way we saw 2 **Black-winged Kites**, 2 **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills**, and 2 **Buff-crested Bustards**.

After checking in at a Hawi (or something similar) Hotel in Yabello (at YA08, nearby the Yabello Motel; and here we saw 8 **Mottled Swifts**, 1 **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, and 2 **Ruppel's Starlings**), and arranging permission for visiting Arero forest the next day, we went birding at YA_BeB (09:10-11:00). By then, it was pretty hot already. We walked the area on the east side of the road, and still observed a lot of new birds: 5 **Spotted Palm Thrushes**, 2 **Bare-eyed Thrushes**, 5+ **Rufous Chatterers** (but no *Scaly...*), **Black-capped Social Weavers**, 1 **Red-fronted Barbet**, 5+ **White-browed Scrub Robin**, 4 **Orange-bellied Parrots**, a few **Purple Grenadiers**, 5+ **White-bellied Canaries**, 2 **Red-naped Bushshrikes**, 3 **d'Arnoud's Barbets**, 1 **Green-winged Pitilya**, 1 male **Northern Grosbeak Canary**, 2 **Black-cheeked Waxbills**, 1 **Three-streaked Tchagra**, 1 **Pringle's Puffback**, 1 **Banded Parisoma**, and 3 **Black-throated Barbets**. A good score, but no *Scaly Chatterer* and *Hunter's Sunbird* yet.

The next stop was at YA_Sp110 (11:15-12:30). While sitting in the shade of a big tree along the road here, we found a nice **Little Sparrowhawk** in the same tree. We walked around southeast of the main road in order to look for *Red-and-yellow Barbet* (for most trips not a hard species at all, and by many already seen in the Genale River area..) and *Boran Cisticola*. The latter gave us a headache, because it is so similar to *Rattling* -- and to make things worse, the cisticolas were not vocal at this time of the year. So we were restricted to the subtle and subjective plumage features that differentiate these two. We found a flock of cisticolas, some of them clearly **Rattling**, others looked more like *Boran*. But were they *Boran Cisticolas* indeed, or variation within *Rattling*? We left these birds unidentified, wondering how other groups identify them. The relatively poor score at this site: 6 **Banded Parisomas**, 2 **Black-cheeked Waxbills**, 2 **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, 2 **Three-streaked Tchagras**, 3 **White-bellied Canaries** and 20 **d'Arnoud's Barbets**.

Early afternoon, we walked around at YA_Sp111 (12:45-14:20), just west of the road, which was really good, resulting in seeing three target species: a stunning male **Hunter's Sunbird**, an indeed tiny **Tiny Cisticola**, and a group of **Scaly Chatterers**. The chatterers were very sneaky, the group moved through the area, disappearing from bush to bush -- but with some patience all of us had good views. We saw many of the species typical for the area here, including 8 **Crested Francolins**, 1 2cy **Barred Warbler**, 5+ **White-bellied Canaries**, 1 **Northern Grosbeak-Canary**, 1 female **Pringle's Puffback** and 2 **Pygmy Batises**.

Birding in the afternoon heat had made us tired, so it was then time for a coke in Dubluk. While enjoying the soda, we found some sparrows in the trees above the terrace, which looked like House Sparrows. Common in Amsterdam, but not in Ethiopia (there are no Ethiopian records at all!). We photographed the birds, and they were **House Sparrows** indeed (x: [YA10](#)). Possibly with some Somali Sparrow influences, or simply ssp. *indicus* birds expanding northwards from Kenya, where they are common after having been introduced.

After the refreshments, we searched for and easily found **Foxy Lark** south of Dubluk, east of the road (x: [YA11](#)). A very nice bonus was a group of six handsome **Grey-headed Silverbills** at the same spot.

The end of the day was spent at [YA_BeG](#) (15:50-17:25). We walked both sides of the road one km eastwards and back again, resulting in some 65 **Grey-capped Social Weavers**, 10+ **Black-capped Social Weavers**, 3 **Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers**, a female **Pygmy Falcon**, 2 **Cardinal Woodpeckers**, 4 **Grey-headed Silverbills**, 5+ **White-tailed Swallows**, 3 **Rosy-patched Bush-shrikes**, and a male **Steel-blue Whydah** in flight, seen only by Sander. Just before dusk, we found a nice flock of some 50 **Chestnut Sparrows** at x: [YA12](#), including males in summer plumage.

14/02:

Because an old trip report had mentioned *Orange River Francolin* (possible future split: Archer's Francolin) near Yabello Town (at x: [YA13](#)), we spent the first two hours birding at this spot, which is at walking distance just northwest of our hotel. No sign of any francolin, and the habitat was unattractive with not many other good birds either. We then walked towards [YA17](#), where we walked through a scrubby area and saw 4 **Buff-bellied Warblers**, 3 **Spotted Palm Thrushes** and a male **Greater Honeyguide**. We also checked the Yabello Motel gardens, where both *Steel-blue* and *Straw-tailed Whydahs* are sometimes seen according to the Spottiswoode guide, but had no luck.

We had now seen all the major targets for the Yabello area, and were only missing less important species for which we did not have any additional useful leads (most notably *whydahs*, *Boran Cisticola*, *Red-and-yellow Barbet*). So after breakfast, we decided to leave the area and head for Nechisar NP.

While driving out of town at 08:30, we saw a group of swifts, mainly **Mottled** (10), **Alpine** (15) and **Nyanza** (18), but also an unexpected 3 **White-rumped Swifts** (rather early in the year for this species in Ethiopia). Just after leaving Yabello town westwards, we searched for *Verreaux's Eagle-Owl* in the big tree at x: [YA14](#), but did not see it. A stroll in the area resulted in a **Little Rock Thrush**, **White-rumped Babbler** and two **White-cheeked Turacos**. According to the Spottiswoode guide, the area here should also be good for the still missing **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**, and sure enough, at x: [YA15](#) we found it before even leaving the car.

While driving further west, we were becoming a little bit very much worried, as we were still missing **Red-and-yellow Barbet**. Fortunately, we found it at x: YA16. More frustrating was the sight of a male *whydah* sp. flying past the car (x: YA18), which we could not relocate. This must have been either *Steel-blue* or *Straw-tailed*.

At YA_BeQ (11:45-12:40), we searched both sides of the riverbed southwest of the bridge for *Parrot-billed Sparrows*, but just like in Bogol Manyo, we could only find **Swainson's Sparrows** (were we too critical here? Well, they surely didn't look like the Parrot-billed drawings in the book). Other birds found here included many **Crested Francolins**, another **Red-and-Yellow Barbet**, **Nubian Woodpecker**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, 20 **Vulturine Guineafowl**, **Blue-naped Mousebirds**, 4 **Wattled Starlings**, **Violet-backed Starlings**, 3 **Lesser Masked Weavers** and yet two more **Black-cheeked Waxbills**. In the village a bit further on, that is also mentioned in Behrens for *Parrot-billed* (x: YA19), we again only found **Swainson's Sparrow**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Yabello area is good site: *Vulturine Guineafowl*, *Temminck's* and *Somali Coursers*, *Water Thick-Knee*, *Black-faced Sandgrouse*, *Boran Cisticola*, *Magpie Starling*, *Chestnut Weaver*, *Parrot-billed Sparrow* (although the situation is unclear, also see Bogol Manyo). Only the thick-knee, cisticola and sparrow, we didn't see elsewhere.

20. Arero Forest [13/02: 07-15h]

After picking up a guard at AR01, we left Yabello at 04h to head for Arero Forest with only one goal: catching up with the *Salvadori's Seedeater*, the only endemic we still had left. During the long drive, we saw a **Donaldson Smith's Nightjar** in the headlights of the car. We arrived at 06h at the village of Arero. Here the trouble started: we were called to a halt and were obliged to meet the director of the forest. He told us that we needed additional papers from Yabello, and were not allowed to enter the forest! A worrisome hour followed, with our driver doing his very best to get us in, making many phone calls, and trying to persuade different people around our car. In the end we were allowed to enter, but we had to take an additional guard from the village. Very happy that we could finally enter, but also a bit worried because we had lost a precious hour of early morning birding, we went into the forest. We parked the vehicle just south of AR_Sp105 at 07:15, and walked straight to the pools at AR03. During this short walk, we met a group of Swedish birders. They had been in the forest for two days, and had seen exactly one *Salvadori's Seedeater*: the day before, drinking at the main pool that was still holding water.

We installed ourselves there, and waited....waited...and waited.... **Reichenow's Seedeaters** came to drink regularly, but not one *Salvadori's* accompanied them. After a few hours of fruitless waiting, we drove to a nearby open area in the forest (AR07), hoping we might find it there. No

luck of course, but Sjoerd saw **Green-backed Eremomelas** here, and Sander had views of a *cisticola* which looked really good for a *Boran*. On the way back to the pools we saw a **Narina Trogon** in the forest. The rest of the day was spent waiting at the pool for the %&*# Seedeater. We also regularly checked the area at AR04, where quite some finches could be found, but only saw **Green-backed Eremomela** here (x: AR07; finally everyone could connect with this species).

Around 14h, the guards became really hungry and impatient -- it became clear that we had to leave, and that the *Salvadori's Seedeater* would be our only missing endemic. While we walked back to the car, Jelmer decided to take a little detour, via AR04. After waiting some ten minutes everybody became impatient, but there was Jelmer, out of breath, just capable of telling us he had seen the seedeater!! Within seconds we were at x: AR06, and some very nervous minutes later we finally all were looking at a pair **Salvadori's Serin!!!** Damn, what a relief! Finally finding and seeing this endemic was the highlight of the trip for us. Even the hungry guards lighted up when they saw us so exhilarated. We left the forest with a euphoric feeling.

Even though we had eventually seen *Salvadori's Serin* here, it is obvious that we made a mistake by skipping Sof Omar. That said, Filtu might in fact be a quite reliable spot it, and it may have been mainly due to the drought (no water for seedeaters in that area without pools) that we missed it there. But Arero is definitely not a convenient back-up site: it's troublesome to get permission, it's a considerable drive from Yabello, and the *Salvadori's Serin* does not appear to be common or easy.

The forest also gave us a few other good species, some not seen elsewhere: a male **White-breasted Cuckooshrike** (just northeast of AR03), 3 **Violet-backed Starlings**, 1 **Black Cuckooshrike**, 2 **African Hobbies**, 1 **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Broad-billed Rollers** and an **Ovambo Sparrowhawk**. The latter was a dark morph that we could identify with certainty from the pictures, mainly on the basis of the very long toes. A final reason to visit Arero Forest is the **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco**. It is not common here...it is abundant! (Although the 'guide' from Arero town still deemed it necessary to keep pointing them out to us...)

21. Nechisar National Park [14/02: 16h-dusk - 15/02: dawn-10h]

14/02:

We arrived at the HQ of the National Park at 16:10. We obtained permission for camping near the HQ. After pitching our tents we had a trickle of time left for birding the camping grounds, producing **Narina Trogon**, **Common Nightingale**, **Wahlberg's Honeybird**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**, **Red-headed Weaver** and **Greater Honeyguide**.

Unfortunately, it turned out not be possible to enter the park at all. There were problems both with roads that hadn't been maintained, and bandits that were terrorizing the neighbourhood. A bit

disappointed of course, we decided to walk around near the HQ in the morning, and then take a leisurely boat tour in the afternoon.

15/02:

At dawn, we walked (without Sander, who wasn't feeling well) from the HQ towards the fig forest and beyond, where e.g. *Yellowbill*, *Red-capped Robin-chat*, *Scaly-throated Honeyguide* should be present. While it was still dusky, we flushed a few **Freckled Nightjars** from the track. Along most of the way, the forest is rather scrubby second-growth, although unlike in many previous locations, it was green and dense. Bird activity was quite low here (once again), so we walked almost straight on to the fig forest, where we unsuccessfully looked for *Red-capped Robin-chat*. We expected a singing *tinkerbird* to be a *Yellow-fronted* in this wet habitat, but when we taped it in, it turned out to be another **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**.

The area around NE03-NE04 was supposed to be good for *Yellowbill* and the *honeyguide*, and this actually turned out to be more dense second-growth. Here we soon heard at least 3 **Scaly-throated Honeyguides** singing, and we successfully taped one in. Despite even more taping, we didn't get any *Yellowbills*. At least we initially thought so -- there were some *Yellowbill*-like calls, but we deemed them too soft and of a slightly different quality than on the tape. But later at Bishangari, it turned out that actual *Yellowbills* indeed also have rather soft, 'unconvincing' calls. Other birds that we saw in this area included 2 **Broad-billed Rollers**, a non-br **Chestnut Weaver**, many **Northern Brownbuls**, 2 **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrikes**, 1 **White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**, at least 5 **Rufous Chatterers** and as many **Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrikes**. At around 08:20, we walked back towards the camp. Some other species seen during this walk were 12 **Mottled Swifts**, **Silvery-cheeked**, **African Grey**, and **Von der Deckens Hornbills**, 1 **Beautiful**, 1 **Eastern Violet-backed**, and some 10 **Collared Sunbirds**. At the campsite, there was quite some bird activity again, with **Black Scimitarbill** being a new species for the trip.

The plan was to take a boat trip in the afternoon, but unfortunately, Bas' head had started to swell up again, and we had to act on this. We decided to get Bas on the first airplane home this time, so we drove as quickly as we could back to Awassa, where someone from Ethiopian Quadrants fetched Bas to take him to the airport. We had to do the rest of the trip without him, and Bas was about to miss some lifers, unfortunately! Some notable sightings en route included **Bare-faced Go-away Bird**, **Gray-backed Fiscals**, and **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Nechisar is a good site (when fully accessible!): *Secretary Bird*, *Black-bellied Bustard*, *Spotted Thick-Knee*, *Dusky & Star-spotted Nightjar*, *Yellowbill*, *White-tailed Lark*, *Northern Masked Weaver*, *Green-backed Twinspot*, and *Red-capped Robin-chat*. A number of these species we did not see at all during the trip.

22. Lake Awassa [16/02: dawn-11h & 17/02: 15-17h]

16/02:

We stayed in the United Africa Hotel, and from the back of the hotel grounds, there is a small gate to enter the lakeside walking path ([AW02](#)). When we came there at first light, the gate was still closed, but just before we wanted to climb over it, a guard came to open it. From the gate, we birded along the lake for a few 100m northeastwards, and later also a bit southwestwards to the end of the path just past the hotel. Both people and birds were everywhere, and here is a list of the latter: 25+ **African Pygmy-goose**, 15+ **Malachite Kingfisher**, 30+ **African Jacanas**, 2 **Hottentot Teals**, 1 **Little Bittern**, 3 **Black Crakes**, 1 **Great Reed Warbler**, 5 **Lesser Swamp Warblers**, 2 **Buff-bellied Warblers**, 1 **Pink-backed Pelican**, 30+ **Red-knobbed Coots**, 20 **Common Waxbills** and 1 **Banded Barbet**. From the southwestern end of the path along the lake, we took the road leading back to the main road that passes the front side of the hotel. Here (at x: [AW05](#)) we found a **Spotted Creeper**, and surprisingly only our first **Hadada Ibises**. The hotel gardens itself are supposed to be good for **Red-throated Wryneck**, and sure enough, we found three at the southwest corner of the gardens at x: [AW04](#) (we later also saw a few in another corner of the hotel gardens, at [AW06](#)).

After lunch at the hotel, we went to the Fish Market (09:25-10:05), where we had to pay an entrance fee. The actual market had the well-known scene of many people, dead fish, and birds. **White-winged Tern** was abundant here, and we also had 4 **Gull-billed Terns**, 1 **Marsh Sandpiper**, 4 **Garganey**, 1 **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 8 **Great White Pelicans**, 2 **Little Stints** etc. We did not see the hoped for *Allen's Gallinule* and *Purple Swamphen*. Later, upon re-checking some trip reports, we found out that we should have checked the old location of the fish market as well, which is a few 100m more to the northwest... (near [AW_Sp63](#)).

We then explored the northern shore of the lake (10:15-10:55). To get there, turn left off the main road on the north side of Awassa, at [AW_Sp61](#), and follow that road to the lake. We birded the road along the lake for ca 1km, to [AW09](#). This was not very productive, with very few birds near or on the lake, the only notable sighting being an **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear**. The afternoon was spent at Lake Bojo.

17/02:

Mainly because we hadn't seen *Lesser Jacana* yet, and had some spare time, we returned to Lake Awassa in the afternoon on the 17th (15:00-16:30, plus some time looking for Sander's stolen bag; while staying at Lake Langano). We walked the path along the lake behind the United Africa Hotel again, and this time all the way north to [AW07](#). That was a good idea: here we found a **Lesser Jacana**. Although one would think that it should be difficult to hide among the water lilies, the *Lesser Jacana* still managed to disappear from time to time, so make sure to scan the area thoroughly. Other birds seen here today, but not on the earlier visit yesterday, were a female **Southern Pochard** and 3 **White-backed Ducks**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Lake Awassa is a good site:

Allen's Gallinule, Purple Swamphen, Black Heron, Banded Snake Eagle, Pallas' Gull, Grosbeak Weaver. Except Grosbeak Weaver at Wondo, we did not see any of these species during the trip.

23. Lake Bojo [16/02: 14/16h]

Our reason for visiting this lake was *Wattled Crane*, which we missed in Bale NP; and none of us has seen it elsewhere in Africa. Not many birders know this place, and it was difficult to get information about it. Here are some directions: From Shashemene take the main road to the west. After about 60km you arrive in Alaba Kulito, where you take a right in the village at BJ02. After 1.2km, go right again at BJ03. After following this very bumpy road for ca 18 km, go left in a small settlement, at BJ04. After ca. 7km, at BJ05, go left. Then after 2.2km (including a river crossing), take a small track to the right (at BJ06). This road has a dead end after 1.6km at Lake Bojo! (Despite the short distance, this is about a 1h15min drive from Alaba Kulito.)

We walked the last 100m to the lake, adding a male winter plumage and many female-types **White-winged Widowbird** (x: BJ07) to the list. Arriving at the lake at 14:15, it immediately became clear that we had made the right choice to go to this lake: **Wattled Cranes** were hard to miss. We saw several birds, and later in the afternoon more birds flew in -- in total we counted at least 31 individuals!! But that was not all, we also found a cooperative pair of **Black-crowned Cranes** here. We followed the shore to the north, and found a big flock of **Common Cranes** (at x: BJ09), and Jelmer found a **Demoiselle Crane** among them! Four different species of cranes on the same lake! Collateral damage at the crane bonanza included 45 **African Spoonbills**, 3 **Yellow-billed Ducks**, 4 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters**, 6 **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, 1 **Openbill**, 1 **Mosque Swallow** (our only one), and 1 **Lanner Falcon**. At 16:30, we drove back to Lake Awassa.

24. Lake Langano, incl. Bishangari [17/02: 06-07h, 12-15h & 18/02: dawn-12h]

17/02:

The early morning was spent at the Bekele Mola Hotel (LA05; 05:50-07:20). This hotel is now closed, and in a bad state. However, quite a few guards are around, and for a fee we were allowed to enter the hotel grounds. First, we made our way to the cliffs at the northwest side of the hotel grounds. We searched and scanned for owls around LA08, but first couldn't find any. After a while, we did find a **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** on the cliffs outside the hotel grounds at x: LA07. Here we also welcomed 3 **White-winged Black Tits** and 2 **Red-throated Wrynecks**. On the hotel grounds itself, we found our first **Bearded Woodpecker** of the trip. Other interesting birds in the area included 2 **Abyssinian Black Wheatears**, 2 **Mocking Cliff Chats**, **Ruppell's**,

Lesser Masked and Spectacled Weavers, 1 Red-fronted Tinkerbird, 2 Little Rock Thrushes, 50 Wattled Starlings, 1 female Violet-backed Starling, 1 White-bellied Canary, 1 Rattling Cisticola, 1 Lesser Honeyguide and 1 juvenile Black-chested Snake-Eagle. The rest of the morning was spent at Lake Abiata (see that section).

At noon, we checked in at the Wabe Shebelle Hotel along Lake Langano ([LA01](#)), and got a bungalow for the five of us. One of the employees of the hotel wanted to show us *Greyish Eagle-Owl* for a fee, and since we had not seen that so far, we agreed. Within minutes we were staring at two **Greyish Eagle-Owls**... around our own bungalow (x: [LA02](#))! We found a third individual as well, and they were all rather active, also calling now and then. The birds were therefore relatively easy to find here -- you might not need a guide. We decided to relax for a while around the bungalow, and while doing so added **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (both *fuscus* and *heuglini*, x: [LA04](#)), **Great White pelicans, Black-billed Barbet, Masked Shrike, Lesser Honeyguide** and 3 **Bearded Woodpeckers**. Directly north of the main car park (at x: [LA01](#)), we found a nice group of eight day-roosting **Slender-tailed Nightjars**, giving great photographic opportunities. The rest of the afternoon was spent at Lake Awassa, see that section.

18/02 (Bishangari):

Since we had dipped both *Yellowbill* and *Green-backed Twinspot* in Nechisar NP, we had a good reason to visit Bishangari. This humid forest area is on the southeastern side of Lake Langano, and comes with a very luxurious and expensive resort. Fortunately, it possible to stay somewhere else, and merely go there in the early morning, which is what we did. Make sure to take some time to reach the place, because the road from the main road ([LA_Sp56](#)) to the entrance of the resort ([LA12](#)) is in a very bad state (in total, it took us almost an hour from the Wabe Shabelle hotel). During this bumpy ride we saw an **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** and a total of eight **Clapperton's Francolins** (e.g. at x: [LA10](#) and x: [LA11](#)).

The forest can only be entered with a guide from the hotel, for which we paid a fairly steep entrance fee (but we forgot how steep exactly...). We made our targets clear to the guide, and were off at 06:10. Compared to Wondo Genet, this place is a paradise -- the forest is well conserved and lush! When we crossed a field between the resort and the forest, a **Yellow-fronted Parrot** flew overhead. The guide knew the birds quite well and was really helpful, though we seized him on a mistake or two. It took a while before our guide heard **Yellowbill** calling (x: [LA15](#)). The call was much softer and more subtle than what we had expected from conditioning on the tape, and we were not too happy yet. We tried to find the calling bird, but did not manage. Fortunately, we later heard a second bird calling (at x: [LA18](#)), and after some patience we all had very good views! The other target, **Green-backed Twinspot**, also took some time. We spent ages waiting in suitable bushes, but could not find them (but did see **Red-capped Robin-Chat** in that habitat, at x: [LA14](#)). But at x: [LA16](#) we finally found two individuals in dense bushes. We thought we were lucky to find this species at all, but somehow, during the next hour they seemed to be common to abundant here: in total we must have seen some 30-40 **Green-backed Twinspots**! They stick to thick undergrowth and seem

to favour small streams (e.g. at x: [LA16](#), x: [LA17](#)). A bit further north, the forest became more open and cultivated, but we still had 4 **Narina Trogons** (e.g. at x: [LA19](#)) and an **Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** (x: [LA20](#)). Other birds seen during this successful walk included 20+ **Silvery-cheeked Hornbills**, 8 **Hemprich's Hornbills**, 20 **White-cheeked Turacos**, 1 **Lesser Honeyguide**, 4 **Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrikes**, 7 **African Olive Pigeons**, 10 **Lemon Doves**, 1 **Olive Sunbird**, 5 **Blue-spotted Wood Doves**, **Black Saw-wing** (common), 1 **Abyssinian Ground Thrush**, 2 **African Hill Babblers**, and 1 **Violet-backed Starling**.

After the guided walk, at 10:45, we were in for a brunch, but seeing the prices on the menu of the resort, we decided to have some food in the field. We stopped on the way back to the main road, near the container bridge, from where we had some views of the lake ([LA_Sp58](#)). Here we saw a collection of common birds, but also a **Bare-faced Go-away Bird**, and we added **Collared Pratincole** (x: [LA21](#)) to the trip list.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Lake Langano is a good site:
Freckled Nightjar, *Black Scimitarbill*, *Scaly Francolin* (Bishangari), *Scaly-throated Honeyguide* (Bishangari), *Pallas' Gull*, "*Ethiopian Cliff Swallow*", *Boran Cisticola*, *Grosbeak Weaver*. We never saw the gull, swallow and cisticola.

25. Lake Abiata [17/02: 08-10h]

We spent part of one morning at Lake Abiata (07:45-10:15). At [AB02](#), we left the main road to the gate of the park. Here we paid a reasonable fee and drove towards the lake, to [AB03](#). From there, we walked to the lake shore and scanned the lake for a while. It was packed with **Lesser Flamingos**, with some 50 **Greater Flamingos** amongst them. Other waterbirds seen here included 100 **Pied Avocets**, 10 **Black-winged Stilts**, 500 **Northern Shovelers**, 20 **Northern Pintails**, 35 **Cape Teals**, 4 **Southern Pochards**, 1 **Little Ringed Plover**, 1 **Grey Plover** (not common inland), 6 **Kentish Plovers** (also not common in Ethiopia), 7 **Dunlins** (even scarcer), 15 **Marsh Sandpipers**, 50 **Little Stints**, 20 **Curlew Sandpipers**, 4 **Crowned Plovers**, and 10 **Common Snipes**.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Lake Abiata is a good site:
Pallass' Gull, *Black Scimitarbill*, *Foxy Lark* (ssp. *intercedens*), *White-winged Black Tit*, *Black Crowned Crane*, and more rarely, *Temminck's Courser*.

26. Lake Ziway [04/02: 09-10h & 18/02: 14-15h]

We visited Lake Ziway twice, once on the way to the 'southern loop' (09:00-10:00), and once on the way back (14:10-15:05). The place is well known for the many tame birds foraging amongst

the local fishermen, giving good photo opportunities. Go off the main road at ZI01, to ZI02. Common birds seen on both visits include **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **African Pygmy Goose**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Marabou Stork**, **Yellow Wagtail** (*feldegg*), **African Jacana**, **Gull-billed Tern**, **Hamerkop**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Pied Kingfisher**, **Black Crake**, **Red-knobbed Coot** etc. Birds that we encountered only once include **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, **Blue-checked Bee-eater**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **Temminck's Stint** and **Grey Kestrel** (overhead).

Species that we did not see here, but for which Lake Ziway is a good site:

Black Heron, Lesser Jacana, Southern Pochard, Saddle-billed Stork, Black Crowned Crane.

Except for the heron, we saw all these species elsewhere.

27. Lake Koka [18/02: 16-17h30]

On the way to Lake Koka, coming from Lake Ziway, we saw a **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** and a **Black-winged Kite**. Our first stop was at KO01, where we scanned the lake: 40+ **Hottentot Teals** was the only notable sighting. A brief stop at KO_Sp52 produced a pair of **Black-crowned Cranes**, and so did a stop at KO_Sp51, where we also had a **Spur-winged Goose**, 2 **Saddle-billed Storks**, and 8 **Hottentot Teals**. We ended the day with scanning the lake at KO02. To get there, get off the main road at KO_BeA. We saw an adult **Greater Spotted Eagle**, 6 **African Spoonbills**, 1 **Tawny Pipit**, 2 **Pallid Harriers** and 4 **Black-crowned Cranes** here.

Species that we did not see here, but for which Lake Koka is a good site:

Red-chested Swallow, Chestnut Weaver, Chestnut Sparrow (all fairly rarely seen).

28. Debre Zeyt Lakes [19/02: 06-11h]

At 06:00, we were at Lake Chekelaka. We first tried to approach the lake from the western side. However, the light is -of course- very bad when looking east in the early morning. The presence of some 4000 **Common Cranes** was nonetheless impressive. This side of the lake can be reached by going north of the main road at DZ_Sp49, then right again at DZ01, then left at DZ02; then park at DZ03, and walk to the lake at DZ04. We soon decided to try the eastern side of the lake for better light conditions. To get there, turn north from the main road at DZ_Sp48, and turn left at DZ06, parking at DZ07. From here, we walked to the lake at DZ08. Scanning the lake resulted in 50 each **Lesser** and **Greater Flamingos**, 3 **Red-billed Ducks**, 1 **Greater Spotted Eagle**, 1 **Steppe Eagle**, 40 **Spur-winged Goose**, 1 **Great Sparrowhawk**, 2 **Abdim's Storks**, 15 **Yellow-billed Ducks** and 1 **Red-tailed Shrike**. So far so good, the only wildfowl box unticked had the name *Maccoa Duck* next to it.

Just after 8 o'clock, we had great views of the rather sterile Lake Bishoftu while having breakfast at a fancy place at DZ15. Despite the nice view, there wasn't much to see on the lake: 100s of **Little Grebes** and a female **Southern Pochard** were the only birds on the lake, and 5 **White-billed Starlings** (odd location?!) flew by.

We also briefly visited Bishoftu Guda Lake, but there was nothing to see there, except for our only **Osprey** of the trip. If you still want to go there: turn northeast off the main road at the roundabout at DZ11, then turn right at DZ13, and after a kilometer, there is a car park on the left hand side.

Lake Hora was the last lake that we visited in the area. To get there, also turn northeast off the main road at the roundabout at DZ11, and after 1.3km, there is an exit (DZ12) to the left, which goes to the lake. We scanned the lake, and were happy to finally attach to a pair of **Maccoa Ducks**. Also present on the lake were a **Black-necked Grebe**, three males **Southern Pochards** and an immature **Western Reef Egret** (our only one).

We also tried to find Green Lake, as described in the Spottiswoode guide. However, the road to the lake is blocked at DZ10, so it was impossible to get there. There seems to be a military basis nearby.

29. Menagesha Forest [19/02: 14h - 15h30]

We had some spare time on the 19th, and decided to spent it at Menagesha Forest, a place mentioned in Spottiswoode. We were probably quietly hoping to see *Abyssinian Crimsonwing*, a pretty and local species that we had missed at Hareenna. We got off road 7 (the road to the Gibe Gorge) at ME01, and drove to the well sign-posted office of the forest at ME_Sp06. Here we obtained tickets and walked uphill through the forest, but soon it became clear that it was quiet in the forest -- very quiet. Jelmer managed to get glimpses of a **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, but that was about it. In hindsight, visiting this place was a waste of time.

30. Gibe Gorge [20/02: all day & 21/02: dawn-10:30]

Many people visit the Gibe Gorge just one day, and all the way from Addis. We stayed in nearby Welkite however, which made it easy to be in the gorge at dawn. We slept in a fine hotel of which we unfortunately forgot the name; but it is located at GI01.

20/02:

In the early morning, we drove straight to the river down in the gorge, and started walking westwards along the south bank of the river. Directly from the bridge onwards, there are bushes

along the river, and these proved to be good for finches: **Bar-breasted Firefinch** was more common than **Red-billed Firefinch** here, and in the bushes close to the bridge we even found three **Black-faced Firefinches** (x: [GI02](#)), a very handsome near-endemic. We also found three **Snowy-crowned Robin-Chats** in the bushes a bit further (x: [GI03](#)). This area further produced 20 **Yellow-fronted Canaries**, 1 **Lesser Honeyguide**, and 1 **Black-crowned Tchagra**. The 7 *Hippos* lying in the river were also highly appreciated. On the stony riverbanks, **Senegal Thick-knee** was common.

One of the main reasons for walking here in the morning was *Yellow-throated Sandgrouse*: they drink mid-morning and we had heard they might fly by. Sure enough, twice a **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** flew past, although not very close by. From [GI03](#) we made our way to the fields to a path parallel to the river. To the west, this path goes through some fields, and along a small settlement. In this area, we saw 5 **Pale Flycatchers**, 5+ **Lesser Striped Swallows**, 2 **Isabelline** and 1 **Red-tailed Shrike**, 2 **Clapperton's Francolins**, 3 **Stout Cisticolas**, 50+ **Black-winged Red Bishops**, and 10+ **Vinaceous Doves**. The path crosses a dry river bed via a bridge that was in very bad state at [GI07](#). Near this bridge, we finally found 15 **Abyssinian Waxbills**. After the bridge, the path continues through agricultural fields, and we had information that we could find *Four-banded Sandgrouse* on the left hand side of the road, in the fields. However, as soon as we saw that the field was covered with very high, dried out vegetation, we did not expect to find them. Fortunately we were wrong, and after only a few minutes we flushed **Four-banded Sandgrouses** from these fields (x: [GI09](#)), which eventually gave great views. Sandgrouse species number five of the trip! While returning to our starting point ([GI_Sp10](#)) at the end of the morning, two of us saw a **Brown Snake Eagle** soaring over the gorge.

At 10:30 we returned to Welkite to have a proper lunch (huge chicken burger with fries) at our hotel. We were back in the Gibe Gorge, at [GI14](#), by 14h30. It was still rather hot, but a walk on both sides of the road resulted in 2 **Brown-snake Eagles**, 1 **Familiar Chat**, 4 **Green-backed Eremomelas** (again! We were lucky with this species), and a male **Klaas's Cuckoo**. The next stop was mentioned as a possible site for Red-billed Pytilia ([GI10](#)), and indeed, within minutes we briefly saw a female **Red-billed Pytilia** as well as 4 **Familiar Chats**, a pair of **Black-faced Firefinches** and 2 **Lesser Blue-eared Starlings**.

A short walk at [GI11](#) (16h15-16h45) produced 4 **Village Indigobirds**, 40+ **Ortolan Buntings**, and 30+ **Yellow-fronted Canaries**. At 17h, we arrived at [GI12](#), a spot with agricultural fields with views of the river down in the gorge. Just after leaving the car, we saw three **Yellow-throated Sandgrouses** landing on the fields. We approached them and had great views close by, what a great birds! More and more individuals landed in the same field -- in total we saw 22 birds (x: [GI13](#)). Here we also saw 2 **Long-billed Pipits** and 15+ **Clapperton's Francolins**.

21/02:

The next morning, we again walked for a few hours along the south bank of the river (from

GI_Sp10 to GI08). We saw many of the same species as yesterday, but also some new birds. We found a spot where some 35 **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** came to drink at the stony riverbank at 8am (x: GI06). **Four-banded Sandgrouse** was seen at the same place as yesterday. We also saw **Bar-breasted** and **Black-faced Firefinch** again, and while we had struggled a bit to find **Abyssinian Waxbills** yesterday, they were abundant today, with some 400 birds, most of them at x: GI04. An adult **Barred Warbler** (after several juveniles earlier during the trip) was nice, and other interesting sightings included ca 10 **Clapperton's Francolins**, 100+ **Black-winged Red Bishop** (all in non-breeding plumage, i.e. hard to ID, but the large size was quite obvious), 2 **Masked Shrikes**, 7 **Grey-headed Kingfishers**, 2 **Foxy Cisticolas** and 1 **African Hobby**.

A short stop at GI13 produced **Red-billed Pytilia** once again, and also 1 **Stout** and 2 **Foxy Cisticolas** as well as a **Pale Flycatcher**. Our final stop in the Gibe Gorge area before heading back to Addis was GI14, our last chance to see Reichard's Seedeater. No sign of this bird, but we did see two more **Pale Flycatchers**, a **Familiar Chat** and a **Greyish Eagle-Owl**. The latter was flushed from a big tree along the south side of the road (x: GI15).

On the way back to Addis, a lunch stop at Negash Lodge (GI17) produced a final new species: **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**.

We can conclude that the days spent at the Gibe Gorge were very successful. We did not see *Reichard's Seedeater*, *African Quail-Finch* and *Exclamatory Paradise Whydah*, which are possible here as well (but likely seasonal). Doing a daytrip from Addis is maybe not a good idea, as it's then hard to be in the gorge in the early morning and evening, which certainly makes the birding less enjoyable, and likely costs you some species. Welkite is close to the gorge and has a good and cheap hotel -- staying there the night before to be in the gorge at first light is recommended.

Species that we did not see here, but for which the Gibe Gorge is a good site:
Reichard's Seedeater, *African Quail-Finch* and *Exclamatory Paradise Whydah*, *Moustached Grass Warbler* (rarely), *White-throated Seedeater*, *Eastern Grey Plain-tain-eater*.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Subspecies

We have tried to accurately indicate the proper subspecies for all our observations, usually based on geographic locations with reference to *Birds of HoA* and "*Birds of Ethiopia and Eritrea*" (Ash & Atkins 2009).

Abbreviations

Common names of all Horn of Africa endemics (i.e. including Ethiopian and Ethiopia & Eritrea endemics) are given in **boldface**.

ET = Ethiopia endemic

EE = Ethiopia and Eritrea endemic

HA = Horn of Africa endemic

NE = North-East Africa endemic

[XX] = near-endemic to region between brackets

(XX) = potential split endemic to region between brackets

[Species name] = not counted e.g. because of uncertainty in identification

+ = several

++ = common

+++ = very common

GPS points

A complete list of GPS points is in a separate file, and can also be requested from Jelmer in e.g. **.kml** (for Google Maps), **.gpx** (for GPS devices and GPS software), or **.gdb** (Garmin DataBase, Garmin's own format for its software -- *this file also includes all the gps tracks from our trip*) format.

The gps points include not only those that we recorded ourselves during and after the trip, but also many points from Spottiswoode et al., Behrens et al., and several other trip reports. Many of the points are referred to in the the report and especially the species list, e.g. in all cases where they document a specific location where we see a certain species. Many other points are however not referred to, e.g. locations where other trips saw specific species. The long names in the gps list and gps files (as opposed to the truncated names referred to in the species list and the report) should be descriptive enough to figure out what each point is for.

Prefixes used in this list in front of GPS references:

- "a:", followed by the name of the GPS point (e.g.: "**a: AF01**"), means that the species was seen in the area near (at most at a short walking distance away from) this exact location.

- "x:", followed by the name of the GPS point (e.g.: "**x: AF01**") means that the GPS point was taken specifically for this species and the species was thus seen at or from this exact location.

Explanation of the names of GPS points:

The first two capital letters are abbreviations of the area (see below for a list).

- If the GPS point is our own or taken from another trip report, this abbreviation is followed immediately by a number, e.g. **AF01**.

- For GPS points from Spottiswoode et al., the area abbreviation is followed by “_Sp” and then a number, e.g. **AF_Sp30**. The numbers correspond to those in Spottiswoode et al.

- For GPS points from Behrens et al., the area abbreviation is followed by “_Be” and then a capital letter, e.g. “**AF_BeA**”. The capital letters correspond to those in Behrens et al.

Area abbreviations used in GPS point names:

With listing of GPS points; areas between square brackets were not visited:

AB = Abiata-shalla National Park (AB01 - 03, AB_Sp59)

AD = Addis Ababa (AD01 - 03, AD_Sp01, -02, -05)

AF = Afar Plains (AF01 - 07, AF_BeA - B, AF_Sp29 - 32)

AL = Ali Dege Plains (AL01 - 03, AL_Sp45 - 46)

AN = Ankober (AN01 - 04, AN_BeA, AN_Sp22 - 26)

AR = Arero forest area (AR01 - 10, AR_BeG, -H, -J, AR_Sp104 - 106)

AS = Awash area including Lake Besaka (AS01 - 17, AS_BeB, -C, -F, -G, -X, AS_Sp33 - 41)

AW = Lake Awassa (AW01 - 09, AW_Sp61 - 63)

BD = Dinsho area in Bale mountains (Bale Dinsho') (BD01 - 10, BD_Sp64 - 71)

BH = Harena forest in Bale mountains (Bale Harena') (BH01 - 08, BH_BeL, BH_Sp76 - 78)

BI = Bilen lodge are (BI01 - 05, BI_Sp42 - 44)

BO = Bogol Manyo (BO01, BO_BeB - D, -F, -G, BO_Sp91, BO_Sp93 - 99)

BS = Sanetti plateau in Bale mountains (Bale Sanetti') (BS01-14, BS_BeD, -F, -J, BS_Sp72 - 75)

DA = Dawa River area (DA01 - 07, DA_BeA, DA_Sp100 - 103)

DL = Debre Libanos area including Portuguese bridge (DL01 - 03, DL_Sp12)

DZ = Debre Zeyt lakes (Cheleleka, Hora, Bishoftu, etc) (DZ01 - 14, DZ_BeB, -C, DZ_Sp48-50)

FI = Filtu area (FI01-05, FI_BeB, -C, FI_Sp88)

GE = Genale River area (GE01-06, GE_BeD, -E, GE_Sp82)

GI = Gibe gorge (GI01-15, GI_Sp10)

JE = Jemma (JE01-12, JE_BeB, -X1, -X2, JE_Sp13-21)

KO = Lake Koka (KO01-02, KO_BeA, KO_Sp51-53)

LA = Lake Langano (Wabe Shebelle, Bekelle Molla, and Bishangari areas) (LA01-21, LA_Sp51-54)

LI = Liben Plains (LI01-12, LI_BeF, LI_Sp86-87)

ME = Menagesha Forest near Addis (ME01, ME_Sp06-07)

MG = Melka Ghebdu (MG01-03, MG_BeC - D, MG_Sp27 - 28)

NE = Nechisar (NE01-09, NE_BeE, -F, -G, -H, NE_Sp119)

[SO = Sof Omar (SO_BeE, SO_Sp79)]

SU = Sululta plains (SU01 - 02, SU_BeA - D, SU_Sp11)

[WA = Wadera forest (WA01, WA_BeF - G, WA_Sp83 - 85)]

WO = Wondo Genet (WO01 - 21, WO_BeB, WO_Sp60)

YA = Yabello area including Soda, Mega, etc (YA01 - 19, YA_BeC, -E, -F, -G, -J, -K, YA_Sp107 - 117)

ZI = Lake Ziway (ZI01-02)

ZZ = Miscellaneous (ZZ01 - 02, ZZ_Sp118)

The list

1. Common Ostrich - *Struthio camelus camelus*

01/2: 2 ♂, Afar plains - the first one standing on the road at x: AF03 (10h40), and the second one standing under a tree east of the road at x: AF06 (13h40).

2. Somali Ostrich - *Struthio molybdophanes* **NE**

03/2: 6, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)

3. Helmeted Guineafowl - *Numida m. meleagris*

30/1: 8 *meleagris*, Jemma Valley - a: JE_BeX2

02/2: 25+ *meleagris*, Awash - plains

04/2: 30 *meleagris*, Awash - entrance road
++ *meleagris*, en route in Rift Valley

17/2: 30 *meleagris*, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

18/2: 5 *meleagris*, along road from Ziway to Koka

20/2: 25+ *meleagris*, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

21/2: 80 *meleagris*, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

N. m. somaliensis occurs southeast of the Rift Valley, e.g. at Yabello and Negele. All the birds we saw were probably *N. m. meleagris* (?).

4. Vulturine Guineafowl - *Acryllium vulturinum* **NE**

10/2, 2 large groups (200 + 70) on road, Bogol Manyo to Filtu)

14/2: 20, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

5. Moorland Francolin - *Scleroptila psilolaema psilolaema* **NE**

06/2: 2 flushed, Sanetti - fourth stop (x: BS08) (Sander only)

2 flushed, Sanetti - near small pool (x: BS09)

⇒ On both occasions, the birds were only seen flying after being flushed and landed out of sight.

6. Crested Francolin - *Dendroperdix sephaena grantii* (, *D. s. spilogaster*?)

31/1: 2 *grantii*, Melka Ghebdu

01/2: 2 *grantii* HO, Melka Ghebdu

07/2: 5 *grantii/spilogaster*, en route from Genale to Negele

08/2: 4 *grantii/spilogaster*, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
+ *grantii/spilogaster*, Filtu - en route

09/2: 5, en route in Filtu area
+, Bogol Manyo

12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)

8, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

14/2: ++, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

⇒ Subspecies *grantii* occurs in the rift valley and in the north. Subspecies *spilogaster* ("Kirk's Francolin") occurs in the Bogol Manyo area, and probably in the Sof Omar area to. It is not clear to us which taxon should occur in the south (Liben, Yabello areas).

7. Scaly Francolin - *Pternistis squamatus schuetti*
 05/2: 5 HO and 2 seen, Wondo Genet (x: WO16)
8. Clapperton's Francolin - *Pternistis clappertoni nigrosquamatus*
 01/2: 3 HO, Melka Ghebdu (x: MG02)
 18/2: 6+2, on the road to Bishangari lodge (x: LA11)
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 15+, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (x: GI12)
 21/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
9. Harwood's Francolin - *Pternistis harwoodi* **ET**
 30/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot (x: JE03). Only limited calling activity,
 but birds were easily seen on the fields below us in the early morning.
 31/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20), downstream (x: JE11)
10. Chestnut-naped Francolin - *Pternistis c. castaneicollis* **HA**
 06/2: 1, Sanetti - first stop (x: BS02)
 11, Sanetti - second stop (x: BS04)
 4, Sanetti - third stop (x: BS06)
 8, Sanetti - fourth stop (a: BS07 and BS08)
 ⇒ Subspecies *castaneicollis* occurs in the Bale Mountains, whereas subspecies *atrifrons* should occur in the Yabello area.
11. Erckel's Francolin - *Pternistis erckelii* **[EE]**
 29/1: 1 seen and several heard (latter far down in valley), Portuguese Bridge area
 30/1: ca10, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot (a: JE03). Only limited calling activity,
 but birds were easily seen on the fields below us in the early morning.
12. Yellow-necked Spurfowl - *Pternistis leucoscepus* **NE**
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 04/2: 5, Awash - entrance road
 07/2: 1, en route from Genale to Negele
 08/2: ++, Filtu - en route
 09/2: +, Bogol Manyo
 11/2: 12, en route from Negele to Dawa River
 ⇒ This species was often seen on or from the road in early mornings and just before dusk.
13. White-faced Whistling Duck - *Dendrocygna viduata*
 04/2: 40+, Lake Ziway - pier
 18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier
14. Fulvous Whistling Duck - *Dendrocygna bicolor*
 04/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
15. White-backed Duck - *Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*

- 17/2: 3, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
16. Spur-winged Goose - *Plectropterus gambensis gambensis*
 15/2: 1 flying over, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (NE02) to NE04.
 18/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier
 1, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)
 19/2: 40, Lake Chelekleka
17. Knob-billed Duck - *Sarkidiornis melanotos melanotos*
 18/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
18. **Blue-winged Goose** - *Cyanochen cyanoptera* **ET**
 29/1: 10, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 05/2: 15, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)
 06/2: 9, Sanetti - near small pool (x: BS09)
19. Egyptian Goose - *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
 Fairly common throughout in wetlands.
20. Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea*
 06/2: 2, Sanetti - x: BS12. At a small pool on the east side of the road.
21. African Pygmy-goose - *Nettapus auritus*
 04/2: 11, Lake Ziway - pier
 16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03) & lakeside (a: AW02)
 17/2: 20+, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
 18/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
22. Cape Teal - *Anas capensis*
 17/2: 35, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
23. African Black Duck - *Anas sparsa*
 29/1: 2, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11). In a stream north of the road.
 05/2: 3, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - first stop (a: BD_Sp64). In stream S of the road.
 ⇒ Another good spot for this species is the Shaya River crossing between Dinsho and Robe, at x: BD10.
24. Yellow-billed Duck - *Anas undulata rueppelli*
 29/1: 90, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 05/2: 15, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)
 06/2: 9, Sanetti - near small pool (x: BS09)
 16/2: 3, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 19/2: 15, Lake Chelekleka
25. Northern Shoveler - *Anas clypeata*

- 29/1: 6, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
- 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
- 17/2: 500+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 18/2: 30+, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)
- 19/2: ++, Lake Chelekleka

26. Red-billed Teal - *Anas erythrorhyncha*

- 19/2: 3, Lake Chelekleka

27. Northern Pintail - *Anas acuta acuta*

- 17/2: 20, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 19/2: 5, Lake Chelekleka

28. Garganey - *Anas querquedula*

- 16/2: 4, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
- 18/2: 15, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)
- 19/2: 35, Lake Chelekleka

29. Hottentot Teal - *Anas hottentota*

- 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 17/2: 12, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
- 18/2: 40+, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)
- 8, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)

30. Southern Pochard - *Netta erythrophthalma brunea*

- 17/2: 4, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
- 19/2: 1 female, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
- 1, Lake Hora

31. Maccoa Duck - *Oxyura maccoa*

- 19/2: 2, Lake Hora

32. Little Grebe - *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

- 31/1: 2, en route Jemma Valley to Ankober
- 16/2: 10+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 19/2: 100s, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
- ++, Lake Hora

33. Black-necked Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi*

- 17/2: 5+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 19/2: 1, Lake Hora

34. Greater Flamingo - *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*

- 17/2: 50+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 19/2: 30, Lake Chelekleka

35. Lesser Flamingo - *Phoeniconaias minor*
 17/2: 1000s, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
 19/2: 20, Lake Chelekleka
36. Yellow-billed Stork - *Mycteria ibis*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
 18/2: 2, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)
 19/2: 40, Lake Chelekleka
 21/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
37. African Openbill - *Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus*
 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
38. Black Stork - *Ciconia nigra*
 29/1: 1, Sululta - at a river crossing
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 31/1: 3 (2 ad and 1 juv), Melka Ghebdu
 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu
39. Abdim's Stork - *Ciconia abdimii*
 04/2: 1, en route from Awash to Besaka
 1, en route in Rift valley
 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet to Dinsho
 08/2: 2, Filtu town (a: FI03)
 12/2: 3 overflying, Dubuluk
 14/2: 6 + 3, Konso to Arba Minch
 19/2: 2, Lake Chelekleka
 20/2: 5, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
40. Woolly-necked Stork - *Ciconia episcopus microscelis*
 30/1: 3 flying over, Jemma Valley - along main river
41. White Stork - *Ciconia ciconia ciconia*
 29/1: 2, Sululta plains
42. Saddle-billed Stork - *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
 03/2: 2, Bilen lodge - in the marshes that are visible from lodge terrace (far away)
 17/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
 18/2: 2, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)
43. Marabou - *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*
 04/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier
 16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
 18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier

19/2: +++, Lake Chelekleka.

44. African Sacred Ibis - *Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: +, Addis city
2, Sululta (a: SU01)
04/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
++, Along lake, just north of Awassa (a: AW09_Lake)
17/2: +, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier

45. Hadada Ibis - *Bostrychia hagedash nilotica*

16/2: +, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
19/2: 3, Lake Chelekleka.

46. Wattled Ibis - *Bostrychia carunculata* **EE** [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 1, Addis city
++, Sululta
31/1: +, en route from Jemma to Ankober

47. Glossy Ibis - *Plegadis falcinellus*

29/1: 4, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
04/2: 10+, Lake Ziway - pier
17/2: 10, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
19/2: 30, Lake Chelekleka

48. African Spoonbill - *Platalea alba*

29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
10/2: 1, pool near thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
16/2: 40+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
18/2: 6, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

49. Little Bittern - *Ixobrychus minutus*

16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02), at the large pool on the eastern side of the walking path, north of the hotel.

50. Striated Heron - *Butorides striata atricapilla*

31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

51. Squacco Heron - *Ardeola ralloides*

30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - along main river
03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)
04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 3, Awassa lakeside (a: AW02)
1, Lake Awassa - Fish Market

18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk
2, Lake Ziway - pier

52. Western Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis ibis* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: +, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
17/2: 10+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
19/2: +++, Lake Chelekleka

53. Grey Heron - *Ardea cinerea cinerea* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river

54. Black-headed Heron - *Ardea melanocephala* [sightings list incomplete]

31/1: 1, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
10/2: 1, Filtu to Negele
19/2: 6, Lake Chelekleka

55. Goliath Heron - *Ardea goliath*

16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
2, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)
1, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

56. Purple Heron - *Ardea purpurea purpurea*

01/2: 1, Lake Besaka
18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk

57. Great Egret - *Ardea alba melanorhynchos* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 1, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
01/2: 1, Lake Besaka
03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
04/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 5, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
17/2: 1, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

58. Intermediate Egret - *Egretta intermedia brachyrhyncha*

29/1: 5, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
17/2: 1, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)

59. Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta garzetta* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 5, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
04/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
19/2: 1, Lake Hora

60. Western Reef Heron - *Egretta gularis schistacea*

19/2: 1 dark morph, Lake Hora

61. Hamerkop - *Scopus umbretta umbretta* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area
30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
31/1: + (also nests), Melka Ghebdu
04/2: 10+, Lake Ziway - pier
13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR03)
16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier

62. Great White Pelican - *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 8, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
50+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
17/2: 30+, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
18/2: 10+, Lake Ziway - pier

63. Pink-backed Pelican - *Pelecanus rufescens*

16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
3, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
19/2: 1, Lake Hora
⇒ Surprisingly few sightings!

64. Reed Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax africanus africanus*

01/2: 20, Lake Besaka
04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 10+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

65. White-breasted Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax lucidus* [sightings list incomplete]

04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 10+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
++, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
++, Lake Awassa, northern side (a: AW09_Lake)

18/2: 1, Lake Langano, lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)

18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

66. African Darter - *Anhinga melanogaster rufa*

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Jemma River

04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

67. Western Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

19/2: 1, Bishoftu Guda Lake

68. Black-winged Kite - *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

12/2: 2, enroute from Mega to Yabello

14/2: 1 fly-by, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

18/2: 1, along road from Ziway to Koka

69. Scissor-tailed Kite (African Swallow-tailed Kite) - *Chelictinia riocourii*

02/2: 1, Awash - plains (along track mentioned in Behrens) (x: AS14)

70. Black Kite - *Milvus migrans migrans*

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot (a: JE03)

19/2: 1, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)

71. Yellow-billed Kite - *Milvus aegyptius*

Common to abundant throughout, especially ubiquitous near any human habitation.

72. African Fish Eagle - *Haliaeetus vocifer*

04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier

15/2: +, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

16/2: +, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

3, Lake Awassa - northern side (a: AW09_Lake)

18/2: 2, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)

5, Lake Ziway - pier

73. Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) - *Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis*

29/1: 1, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)

2, Portuguese Bridge area

1, Debre Libranos - near Monastery

19/2: 1, between Lake Bishoftu and Green Lake

74. Egyptian Vulture - *Neophron percnopterus percnopterus*

29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area

30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18

01/2: +, Afar plains

03/2: 1, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)

+ , Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)

1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

17/2: 3, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

75. Hooded Vulture - *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Common throughout, especially in more densely populated areas.

76. White-backed Vulture - *Gyps africanus*

Fairly common throughout.

77. Rüppell's Vulture - *Gyps rueppellii*

Fairly common throughout.

78. Griffon Vulture - *Gyps fulvus fulvus*

29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area. Sitting on a cliff.

79. White-headed Vulture - *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

29/1: 1 ♀, Sululta (a: SU_BeC)

11/2: 1, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)

13/2: 1, en route from Arero to Yabello

80. Lappet-faced Vulture - *Torgos tracheliotus nubicus*

02/2: 1, Awash - plains (x: AS13)

05/2: 1, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)

08/2: 1, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)

08/2: 2, en route from Liben area (LI_BeF) to Filtu

81. Short-toed Snake Eagle - *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*

31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu

01/2: 1, Melka Ghebdu

03/2: 1, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)

08/2: 1, Liben plain (a: LI09)

82. Black-chested Snake Eagle - *Circaetus pectoralis*

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 ⇒ JE_Sp18

02/2: 1, Awash - near park entrance (a: AS04)

08/2: 2, Liben plain (a: LI09)

11/2: 1, Dawa - en route from 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100) to Dawa River (DA_Sp101)

17/2: 1 juv, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

18/2: 1, along road from Ziway to Koka

21/2: 1, along road from Gibe to Addis

83. Brown Snake Eagle - *Circaetus cinereus*

20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

2, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)

84. Bateleur - *Terathopius ecaudatus*

02/2: 1, Awash - plains

- 09/2: 1, en route to Bogol Manyo (a: BO01)
- 11/2: 1, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03)
- 1, en route from Wachile to Soda
- 13/2: 3, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)

85. Western Marsh Harrier - *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

- 29/1: 2, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
- 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- 17/2: 2, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).

86. Pallid Harrier - *Circus macrourus*

- 30/1: 1 ad male, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot (a: JE03)
- 02/2: 1 ad male, Awash - southern part of loop
- 03/2: 1 ad male, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
- 2 males, Awash - southern part of loop
- 16/2: 1 ad male, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- 17/2: 1 2nd cy, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
- 1, along road from Ziway to Koka
- 1, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

87. Montagu's Harrier - *Circus pygargus*

- 29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area
- 02/2: 2cy and 3cy ♀♀, Awash - southern part of loop
- 03/2: 1 male, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
- 06/2: 1, Sanetti - fourth stop, (a: BS08)
- 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
- 1, along road from Ziway to Koka
- 3, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

88. African Harrier-Hawk - *Polyboroides typus typus*

- 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
- 06/2: 1, Sanetti - at southern end of plateau
- 2, Harena - Katcha camp area
- 17/2: 1 juv, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
- 18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk

89. Dark Chanting Goshawk - *Melierax metabates metabates* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 05/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
- 18/2: 1, along road from Ziway to Koka

90. Eastern Chanting Goshawk - *Melierax poliopterus* **NE**

Fairly common in southern savannas.

91. Gabar Goshawk - *Micronisus gabar aequatorius*

- 01/2: 1, Melka Ghebdu
- 07/2: 1, Genale to Negele
- 09/2: 1, Bogol Manyo - River (a: BO_Sp9)
- 11/2: 2, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
1, catching Short-tailed Lark in mid-air, 2nd stop near Soda (a: YA05)
- 12/2: 2, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 13/2: 1 dark phase, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 15/2: 1 flying by, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

92. African Goshawk - *Accipiter tachiro unduliventer*

- 05/2: 2, Wondo Genet - calling at dawn in eucalyptus just S of Wabe Shabelle hotel (x: WO21), seen well with some spotlighting.

93. Shikra - *Accipiter badius sphenurus*

- 07/2: 1, Genale to Negele
- 09/2: 1, Bogol Manyo - River (a: BO_Sp9)
- 12/2: 1 overflying, Dubuluk
- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

94. Little Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter minullus minullus*

- 07/2: 6+, Harena - river in southern part (x: BH06)
- 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
- 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)

95. Ovambo Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter ovampensis*

- 13/2: 1 dark morph, Arero forest (a: AR03). Identified with certainty on the basis of pictures.

96. Eurasian Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter nisus nisus*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - at a river crossing
- 11/2: 1, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

97. Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter rufiventris perspicillaris* (ET)

- 31/1: 1, crossing the road just before Ankober (x: AN03)
- 19/2: 1, just up the road from the HQ (a: ME_Sp06)

98. Black Sparrowhawk (Great) - *Accipiter melanoleucus melanoleucus*

- 07/2: 1, Harena - around Katcha Camp
- 19/2: 1, Lake Chelekleka

99. Common Buzzard (Steppe) - *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

- 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)

- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
100. Mountain Buzzard - *Buteo oreophilus oreophilus* **NE**
06/2: 1 flying over, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-Bel)
101. Long-legged Buzzard - *Buteo rufinus rufinus*
15/2: 1, along the road from Nechisar to Awassa.
102. Augur Buzzard - *Buteo augur augur*
Common in highlands.
103. Lesser Spotted Eagle - *Aquila pomarina pomarina*
31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
104. Greater Spotted Eagle - *Aquila clanga*
29/1: 1 ad, Portuguese Bridge
11/2: 1 ad, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
18/2: 3, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)
19/2: 1, Lake Cheleleka
105. Tawny Eagle - *Aquila rapax*
Fairly common throughout, seen on most days.
106. Steppe Eagle - *Aquila nipalensis orientalis*
05/2: 1 ad, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)
06/2: 4 ad, Sanetti
19/2: 1 subad, Lake Cheleleka
⇒ Rather few sightings and individuals of this species that is usually quite common in the Bale Mountains. Large numbers are often seen on the Sanetti Plateau.
107. Verreaux's Eagle - *Aquila verreauxii*
29/1: 2 + 1 chick on nest, Portuguese Bridge area
31/1: 2, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober at x: JE14
1, en route near Ankober
07/2: 1, Harena - Katcha camp area
108. African Hawk-Eagle - *Hieraaetus spilogaster*
08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at a: LI11
10/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at a: LI11. Presumably same birds as on 8/2
109. Wahlberg's Eagle - *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
7/2: 1, Ge_BeE
20/2: 1, near Gibe Gorge
110. Booted Eagle - *Hieraaetus pennatus*
30/1: 1 (pale morph), Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18

16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - Fish Market

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

04/2: 1, Wondo Genet - at start of track to northern valley still in town

07/2: 1, Dolo Mena - flying above the town, while we were getting a coke

18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk (x: LA20)

112. Martial Eagle - *Polemaetus bellicosus*

02/2: 1, Awash - plains

10/2: 1, Bogol Manyo to Filtu

11/2: 1, en route from Negele to Dawa - 1st river stop (DA_Sp100)

1, en route from YA05 stop to Mega

113. Long-crested Eagle - *Lophaetus occipitalis*

04/2: 1, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)

1, Wondo Genet (perched in tree)

114. Crowned Eagle (Crowned Hawk-Eagle) - *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

04/2: 3 (pair with chick on nest), Wondo Genet (x: WO09). The adults were flying around and perched in trees near the nest, but were not on it.

07/07: 1, Harena - south of Katcha camp (x: BH05)

115. Pygmy Falcon - *Polihierax semitorquatus castanotus*

11/2: 1, en route from Negele to 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

1, 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100) to Dawa River (DA_Sp101)

1, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)

1, en route from Dawa River to Wachile

1, en route from Wachile to Soda

12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)

1f, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

116. Common Kestrel - *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*, *F. t. rufescens*

What appeared to be nominate migrant birds were fairly common throughout the country.

Some sightings were had of clearly darker birds of the local resident subspecies

rufescens (Rock Kestrel, *F. (t.) rupicolus*, is now considered a distinct species by the IOC, and *rufescens* may in fact be grouped with this species):

30/1: 3 *rufescens*, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 ⇒ JE_Sp18

31/1: 1 *rufescens*, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20).

117. Fox Kestrel - *Falco alopex*

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha to Jemma River at x: JE13. Quite a relief to see this species on our way out of Jemma, after not finding it the previous day.

118. Grey Kestrel - *Falco ardosiaceus*

18/2: 1 flying past, Lake Ziway - pier

119. African Hobby - *Falco cuvierii*
 13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 18/2: 1, Lake Koka to Mojo
 21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
120. Lanner Falcon - *Falco biarmicus abyssinicus* [sighting list incomplete]
 29/1: 2, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 03/2: 6+, Ali Dege plains - first stop (a: AL01)
 08/2: 1, Filtu town (a: FI03)
 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- [Barbary Falcon - *Falco pelegrinoides pelegrinoides*]
 29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge. Possibly this species, twice brief views of a bird flying by.
121. Peregrine Falcon - *Falco peregrinus minor*
 17/2: 2, Lake Langan - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06). *minor* is the resident subspecies.
122. Arabian Bustard - *Ardeotis arabs arabs*
 01/2: 1, Afar plains - before 1st stop
 02/2: 6, Awash - plains (e.g. at x: AS10)
 03/2: 1, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01), flying over the road
 03/2: 1, Bilen - first stop (a: BI02)
123. Kori Bustard - *Ardeotis kori struthiunculus*
 02/2: 6, Awash - plains (e.g. at a: AS_BeB, where also standing under trees at the junction with the side track and at x: AS10, where we had both Arabian and Kori Bustard)
 03/2: 2, Awash - plains
 08/2: 1, Liben Plains - eastern part (x: LI10)
 11/2: 2, en route from Negele to Dawa River
 1, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF).
124. White-bellied Bustard - *Eupodotis senegalensis canicollis*
 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road
 10/2: 2, Filtu to Negele at x: FI01
 11/2: 10, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
 12/2: 3, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
125. Buff-crested Bustard - *Lophotis gindiana* **NE**
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop 1, Awash - northern part of loop
 03/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
 08/2: 1, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 3, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

- 09/2: 2, en route in Filtu area
3, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
1 calling, en route to Bogol Manyo
2, Bogol Manyo
- 12/2: 2, en route from Mega to Yabello
1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
- 13/2: 1, en route from Arero to Yabello
- 14/2: 1, west of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

126. Hartlaub's Bustard - *Lissotis hartlaubii* **NE**

- 02/2: 1 male + 1 probable female, Awash - plains (along side track) (x: AS12).

127. Rouget's Rail - *Rougetius rougetii* **EE**

- 05/2: 1, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)
1, Dinsho - Webb River (a: BD_Sp69)
2, en route from Dinsho to Robe
 - 06/2: 1, Sanetti - second stop (a: BS04)
1, Sanetti - third stop (a: BS06)
1, Sanetti - fourth stop (a: BS07).
- ⇒ Rather few sightings of this usually (hopefully not formerly?) common rail.

128. Black Crake - *Amaurornis flavirostra*

- 04/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
- 16/2: 4, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 17/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
- 18/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier

129. Common moorhen - *Gallinula chloropus*

- 16/2: 15-20, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02).

130. Red-knobbed Coot - *Fulica cristata*

- 04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
- 05/2: 10, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68)
- 16/2: 30+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
100+, Lake Awassa - nothern part (a: AW09_Lake)

131. Black Crowned Crane - *Balearica pavonina ceciliae*

- 16/2: 2, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- 18/2: 2, Lake Koka - 2nd stop (x: Sp52_S)
2, Lake Koka - 3rd stop (x: KO_Sp51)
4, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

132. Demoiselle Crane - *Anthropoides virgo*

- 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08). Among the large group of Common Cranes at the north western side of the lake, viewed from a distance at the north eastern side (x: BJ09).

133. Wattled Crane - *Bugeranus carunculatus*
 16/2: 31+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08). In small groups and pairs scattered along the eastern side of the lake.
134. Common Crane - *Grus grus grus*
 31/1: 13, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
 16/2: 400+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 19/2: 4000, Lake Chelekleka.
135. Senegal Thick-knee - *Burhinus senegalensis*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 20/2: 7, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 5+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.
136. Black-winged Stilt - *Himantopus himantopus himantopus*
 04/2: 20, Lake Ziway - pier
 17/2: 10+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
137. Pied Avocet - *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 17/2: 100+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
138. Spur-winged Lapwing - *Vanellus spinosus*
 29/1: 10, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 30/1: 5+, Jemma Valley - along main river
 17/2: +, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
139. Black-winged Lapwing - *Vanellus melanopterus melanopterus*
 29/1: 3, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
 35, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 31/1: ++, Jemma Valley to Ankober
 08/2: ++, Liben plain (a: LI09).
140. Crowned Lapwing - *Vanellus coronatus coronatus*
 02/2: 2, Awash - northern part of loop
 03/2: 2, Bilen - entrance road
 08/2: 2, Liben plain (a: LI09)
 11/2: 4, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
 5, 2nd stop near Soda (a: YA05)
 16/2: +, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo
 17/2: 4, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
141. African Wattled Lapwing - *Vanellus senegallus major*
 10/2: 2, thickets between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.

142. **Spot-breasted Lapwing** - *Vanellus melanocephalus* **ET**
 29/1: 15, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 05/2: 26, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68).
143. Grey Plover - *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*
 17/2: 1, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
144. Common Ringed Plover - *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*
 29/1: 2, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 17/2: 5, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
145. Little Ringed Plover - *Charadrius dubius curonicus*
 04/2: 3, Lake Ziway - pier
 17/2: 1 juv, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
146. Kittlitz's Plover - *Charadrius pecuarius*
 16/2: 3, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 17/2: 50+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
147. Three-banded Plover - *Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris*
 29/1: 2, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
 1, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 04/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier
 18/2: 1, lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21).
148. Kentish Plover - *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*
 17/2: 6, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
149. Caspian Plover - *Charadrius asiaticus*
 08/2: 5, Liben plain (x: LI09). Together with Temminck's Coursers directly adjacent to the Liben Lark 'enclosure'.
150. Lesser Jacana - *Microparra capensis*
 17/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African hotel (x: AW07).
151. African Jacana - *Actophilornis africanus*
 04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier
 16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
 17/2: 20+, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
 18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier.
152. Common Snipe - *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*
 17/2: 10, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
153. African Snipe - *Gallinago nigripennis*

- [05/2: 2, Dinsho - pond (BD_Sp68) - probably this species]
06/2: 2, Sanetti - near small pool (x: BS09)
07/2: 1, Harenna - around Katcha Camp

154. Black-tailed Godwit - *Limosa limosa limosa*

- 04/2: 10, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 75+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
17/2: 10+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).

155. Spotted Redshank - *Tringa erythropus*

- 19/2: 2, Lake Chelekleka.

156. Marsh Sandpiper - *Tringa stagnatilis*

- 04/2: 4, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 1+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
1, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
3, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
17/2: 15+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
18/2: 1, Lake Langanu - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
4, Lake Ziway - pier
7, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)
19/2: 30, Lake Chelekleka.

156. Common Greenshank - *Tringa nebularia*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
17/2: 5+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
18/2: 5, Lake Ziway - pier.

157. Green Sandpiper - *Tringa ochropus* [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: +, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
3, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
31/1: +, Melka Ghebdu
05/2: +, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)
06/2: 1, Sanetti plateau
07/2: 1, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
16/2: +, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08).

158. Wood Sandpiper - *Tringa glareola*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
04/2: 5, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
5+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
18/2: ++, Lake Ziway - pier
19/2: 10+, Lake Chelekleka.

159. Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos* [sightings list incomplete]
 29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 31/1: +, Melka Ghebdu
 05/2: +, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)
 16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
 +, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 17/2: 3, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA04).
160. Little Stint - *Calidris minuta*
 04/2: ca10, Lake Ziway - pier
 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
 17/2: 50+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
 18/2: 7, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
 +, Lake Ziway - pier
 19/2: 300+, Lake Chelekleka
 3, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02).
161. Temminck's Stint - *Calidris temminckii*
 18/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier
 30+, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02).
162. Curlew Sandpiper - *Calidris ferruginea*
 17/2: 20+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
 18/2: 5, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02).
163. Dunlin - *Calidris alpina*
 17/2: 7, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
164. Ruff - *Philomachus pugnax*
 29/1: +, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
 ca30, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
 16/2: 25+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
 40+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
 17/2: 750+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).
165. Somali Courser - *Cursorius somalensis littoralis* **NE**
 09/2 3, en route from Filtu to Bogol Manyo (x: BO01)
 10/2: 2, en route from Bogol Manyo to Filtu.
166. Temminck's Courser - *Cursorius temminckii*
 8/2: 8, Liben plain (a: LI04). Together with Caspian Plovers directly adjacent to the Liben Lark 'enclosure'.
167. Three-banded Courser (Heuglin's) - *Rhinoptilus cinctus*
 02/2: 3, Awash - entrance road Kereyou (x: AS15). Roosting under bushes on the

eastern side of the road, discovered while driving

11/2: 1, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF, x: YA03). Ran out in front of us in open thornbush thickets while we were searching for *cisticola*'s.

168. Collared Pratincole - *Glareola pratincola*

18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (x: LA21)

⇒Both the migrant nominate subspecies and the resident *fuelleborni* subspecies occur in the Rift valley. Our bird was quite dark, reminiscent of Black-winged Pratincole (but with chestnut underwing coverts and a white trailing edge to the secondaries), and hence may have been *fuelleborni*?

169. Black-headed Gull - *Larus ridibundus*

04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

170. Grey-hooded Gull (Grey-headed Gull) - *Larus cirrocephalus poicephalus*

04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

16/2: +, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

17/2: 10+, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA04).

171. Lesser Black-backed Gull - *Larus fuscus fuscus* & *heuglini*

04/2: 1 imm probably *heuglini*, Lake Ziway - pier

16/2: 1 3cy, Lake Awassa - Fish Market

17/2: + *fuscus*, 2 *heuglini*, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (x: LA04).

172. Gull-billed Tern - *Sterna nilotica nilotica*

01/2: 1, Lake Besaka

04/2: 3, Lake Ziway - pier

16/2: 3+, Lake Awassa - Fish Market

17/2: 5+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03).

173. Caspian Tern - *Sterna caspia*

16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)

174. Whiskered Tern - *Chlidonias hybrida*

16/2: 1, northern side of Lake Awassa (a: AW09_Lake)

18/2: 2, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)

175. White-winged Tern - *Chlidonias leucopterus*

04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier

16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

100+, Lake Awassa - Fish Market

17/2: 10+, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)

10+, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

18/2: 10, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)

[Sandgrouse sp. - *Pterocles* sp.]

10/2: 1, Bogol Manyo to Filtu

176. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse - *Pterocles exustus ellioti*
 02/2: +/- 200 flying by, Awash - plains
 03/2: 100+, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
 03/2: 65 flying by, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
 04/2: 6 flying by, just north of Lake Ziway along road.
 =>Subspecies *olivascens* occurs in the Bogol Manyo area but was not observed.
177. Yellow-throated Sandgrouse - *Pterocles gutturalis saturator*
 20/2: 2 flying over, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 22, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop, foraging on threshing floor in fields (x: GI13)
 21/2: 35, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river (drinking at x: GI06).
178. Black-faced Sandgrouse - *Pterocles decoratus ellenbecki* **NE**
 09/2: 1, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)
 11/2: 24, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100). Flying by in several groups.
179. Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse - *Pterocles l. lichtensteinii*
 01/2: 9 flying over at dusk, Awash - Falls Lodge
 03/2: 4 (2♂, 2♀), Bilen - lodge area (x: BI06).
 => Subspecies *sukensis* occurs in southern Ethiopia (Yabello, etc) but was not observed.
180. Four-banded Sandgrouse - *Pterocles quadricinctus*
 20/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - in field with high stalks (x: GI_09)
 21/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - in field with high stalks (x: GI_09).
181. Speckled Pigeon - *Columba guinea guinea*
 Common throughout.
182. **White-collared Pigeon** - *Columba albitorques* **EE**
 Common in highlands.
183. African Olive Pigeon (Rameron Pigeon) - *Columba arquatrix*
 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet
 06/2: 1, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
 07/2: 1, Harena - Katcha camp area
 18/2: 7, Bishangari - guided walk.
184. Lemon Dove - *Columba larvata bronzina*
 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
 18/2: 10+, Bishangari - guided walk.
185. Dusky Turtle Dove - *Streptopelia lugens* **[NE]**
 Common in highlands.
186. **African Collared Dove** - *Streptopelia roseogrisea arabica* **HA**

01/2: 3, Afar plains - x: AF05. On the ground at a tiny settlement. We could not find them at a: AF_BeA.

187. White-winged Collared Dove - *Streptopelia reichenowi* **NE**

11/02: 3, Dawa River (x: DA02 and x: DA04).

188. Mourning Collared Dove (African Mourning Dove) - *Streptopelia d. decipiens*

Common throughout.

⇒ *S. d. decipiens* is widespread throughout northern Ethiopia and the Rift Valley; *S. d. elegans* occurs only in the (far) southeast, and was probably not seen by us.

189. Red-eyed Dove - *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Common throughout.

190. Ring-necked Dove - *Streptopelia capicola*

Common throughout.

191. Vinaceous Dove - *Streptopelia vinacea*

30/1: 1 singing, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)

31/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

20/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

21/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.

192. Laughing Dove - *Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis*

Fairly common throughout.

193. Emerald-spotted Wood Dove - *Turtur chalcospilos* [sightings list incomplete]

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

1, Melka Ghebdu

05/2: +, Wondo Genet

13/2: 3+, Arero forest (a: AR03)

15/2: +, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04) .

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

01/2: 5, Awash - riverine woodland near Falls Lodge

04/2: 1, Wondo Genet

13/2: 5+, Arero forest (a: AR03)

15/2: +, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)

18/2: 5, Bishangari - guided walk

20/2: +, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.

195. Tambourine Dove - *Turtur tympanistris*

04/2: 2, Wondo Genet

06/2: 1, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)

07/2: 2, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76).

196. Namaqua Dove - *Oena capensis capensis* [sightings list incomplete]
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 5+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 31/1: 5+, Melka Ghebdu
 03/2: ++, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)
 20/2: 10+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.
197. Bruce's Green Pigeon - *Treron waalia*
 29/1: 2, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20).
198. **Black-winged Lovebird** - *Agapornis taranta* **EE** [sightings list incomplete]
 31/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 19/2: 3, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland).
 05/2: +, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06).
199. Red-bellied Parrot (African Orange-bellied Parrot) - *Poicephalus rufiventris rufiventris* **NE**
 Fairly common in dry lowlands.
200. **Yellow-fronted Parrot** - *Poicephalus flavifrons* **ET**
 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet (x: WO14)
 18/2: +, Bishangari lodge and guided walk.
201. **White-cheeked Turaco** - *Tauraco l. leucotis* **[EE]**
 29/1: 2, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
 06/2: 15, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
 07/2: 5, Harena - Katcha camp area
 14/2: 2, West of Yabello (a: YA14)
 18/2: 20+, Bishangari - guided walk.
 ⇒ Subspecies *donaldsoni* occurs in some parts of the Bale mountains however, also all the birds at Harena appeared to be of the nominate subspecies.
202. **Ruspoli's Turaco** - *Tauraco ruspolii* **ET**
 07/2: 2, Genale - 2nd stop (x: GE04)
 10/2: 1, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87; x: LI02)
 13/2: 15+, Arero forest (a: AR03).
203. Bare-faced Go-away Bird - *Corythaixoides personatus personatus* **NE**
 14/2: 4, West of Yabello (x: YA15)
 15/2: 1, along the road from Nechisar to Awassa
 18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
204. White-bellied Go-away Bird - *Corythaixoides leucogaster* **NE** [sightings list incomplete]
 01/2: 5, Melka Ghebdu 20, Awash, riverine woodland near Falls Lodge

- 03/2: +, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
- 07/2: +, en route from Genale to Negele
- 08/2: +, Liben area - en route east of plains
- 11/2: ++, en route from Negele to Dawa - 1st river stop (DA_Sp100)

205. Eastern Plantain-eater - *Crinifer zonurus* [NE]

- 31/1: 6, Melka Ghebdu.

206. Blue-headed Coucal - *Centropus monachus fischeri*

- 29/1: 1 HO, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
- 04/2: 2 HO, Wondo Genet
- 16/2: 6, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

207. White-browed Coucal - *Centropus superciliosus superciliosus*

- 01/2: 2, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
- 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop.

208. Green Malkoha (Yellowbill) - *Ceuthmochares australis*

- 18/2: 2, 1 HO, Bishangari - guided walk (x: LA15 & LA18)

209. Great Spotted Cuckoo - *Clamator glandarius*

- 02/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop (only by Jelmer)

210. Klaas's Cuckoo - *Chrysococcyx klaas*

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 01/2: 2, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA)
- 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet
- 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)

211. African Emerald Cuckoo - *Chrysococcyx cupreus cupreus*

- 05/2: 1 male, Wondo Genet (x: WO19). First only seen briefly, then whistled back in by our guide.
- 06/2: 1 HO, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)

212. Red-chested Cuckoo - *Cuculus solitarius*

- 06/2: 2, very vocal, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: 2, very vocal, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 1, very vocal, Harenna - 2 km south of Katcha camp

213. Western Barn Owl - *Tyto alba affinis*

- 30/1: 1, en route between Ethio-German hotel to Jemma Valley. This bird appears to be seen only very rarely in Ethiopia

214. Cape Eagle-Owl (ssp. *dilloni*, 'Mackinder's Eagle Owl') - *Bubo capensis dilloni*

- 05/2: 1, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)

- 06/2: 1, Sanetti - fourth stop (x: BS07), flushed from a small cliff next to a pond.
215. Greyish Eagle-Owl - *Bubo cinerascens*
 17/2: 3, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (x: LA02), quite active, easily flushed and also calling.
 21/2: 2, flushed, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (x: GI14)
216. Verreaux's Eagle-Owl - *Bubo lacteus*
 05/2: 1 Goba - Wabe Shabelle hotel parking lot, on a lamp post at dusk (a: BS01).
 This is at 2645m asl, much higher than the upper limit Birds of HoA give for this species (1800m).
 17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (x: LA07)
217. African Wood Owl - *Strix woodfordii umbrina*
 05/2: 2, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area at x: BD09. Roosting just NE of the HQ (not in the trees above the toilets where they are often reported).
218. Pearl-spotted Owlet - *Glaucidium perlatum licua*
 01/2: 2, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA) (coming in & calling after playing tape)
 2, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05) (coming in & calling after playing tape)
 02/2: 1, Awash - riverine woodland near Falls lodge (a: AS07)
 07/2: 2, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
219. Abyssinian Owl (African Long-eared) - *Asio abyssinicus abyssinicus* **[NE]**
 05/2: 1, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area at x: BD07. Shown to us by guide Abdullah for 450 birr. The bird appears to have quite high site fidelity: in 2009, De Temmerman et al saw it at x: BD08, at less than 50m from where we had it.
220. Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar - *Caprimulgus donaldsoni* **NE**
 09/2: 1 flushed, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track at x: FI04
 13/2: 1 on the road between Yabello and Arero
221. Montane Nightjar - *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* **NE**
 01/2: 1, on the road near Palace lodge near Ankober
 06/2: 1 singing briefly at dusk, Harena - Katcha camp (x: BH_Sp76)
222. Freckled Nightjar - *Caprimulgus tristigma tristigma*
 11/2: 1, calling twice, Negele town near hotel in early morning
 14/2: +, calling, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 5, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02), on the road at dusk
223. Slender-tailed Nightjar - *Caprimulgus clarus*
 03/2: 1, Bilen lodge, flushed directly next to parking lot
 17/2: 8, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (x: LA01)

224. African Palm Swift - *Cypsiurus parvus*
 01/2: 2, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 06/2: 1, Hareenna - Katcha camp area
 08/2: 1, en route from Liben area to Filtu
225. Alpine Swift - *Tachymarptis melba africanus*
 07/2: 5+, en route from Hareenna to Genale at x: GE01
 14/2: 15, in mixed swift flock along road just east of Yabello
 16/2: 5+, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo.
226. Mottled Swift - *Tachymarptis aequatorialis aequatorialis*
 07/2: 2, en route from Hareenna to Genale at x: GE01
 12/2: 9, Yabello - hotel gardens
 14/2: 10, in mixed swift flock along road just east of Yabello
 15/2: 10+2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04
 16/2: 50+, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo.
227. Nyanza Swift - *Apus niansae niansae* **NE**
 29/1: 2, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 15, Portuguese Bridge area
 14/2: 18, in mixed swift flock along road just east of Yabello
 16/2: 10+, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo
228. Little Swift - *Apus affinis galilejensis*
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 8, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
229. White-rumped Swift - *Apus caffer*
 14/2: 3 in mixed swift flock along road just east of Yabello. An early record for this species, which normally reaches Ethiopia in March.
230. Speckled Mousebird - *Colius striatus leucotis*
 Common to abundant throughout.
 ⇒ Subspecies *mombassicus* occurs in the Bogol Manyo area but was not observed.
231. Blue-naped Mousebird - *Urocolius macrourus abyssinicus*
 Fairly common in dry lowlands: Awash and especially the southern part of the country.
 ⇒ Subspecies *pulcher* occurs in the Bogol Manyo area but was not observed.
232. Narina Trogon - *Apaloderma narina narina*
 07/2: 1, Hareenna - river in southern part (x: BH06)
 13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR_SP106)
 14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 1, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)

- 18/2: 4, Bishangari - guided walk (x: LA19).
233. Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned Roller) - *Coracias naevius naevius* [sightings list incomplete]
 02/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
 07/2: 1, en route from Genale to Negele
 08/2: 1, Liben area - en route east of plains
 08/2: 2, en route from Liben area (LI_BeF) to Filtu
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
234. Lilac-breasted Roller - *Coracias caudatus lorti*
 Fairly common in the southern savannas.
235. Abyssinian Roller - *Coracias abyssinicus*
 Fairly common throughout.
236. Broad-billed Roller - *Eurystomus glaucurus afer*
 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet - near Crowned Eagle nest (x: WO12)
 13/2: 5, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
237. Grey-headed Kingfisher - *Halcyon leucocephala*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 11/2: +, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
 20/2: 3, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 7+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
238. Striped Kingfisher - *Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 31/3: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 03/2: 1, Awash - Southern loop
 11/2: 1, en route from Negele to Dawa - 1st river stop (DA_Sp100)
239. Woodland Kingfisher - *Halcyon senegalensis senegalensis*
 01/2: 1, Awash - riverine woodland near Falls Lodge
 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet
 16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
240. African Pygmy Kingfisher - *Ceyx pictus pictus*
 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 31/1: 2, Melka Ghebdu
 03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
 18/2: 5, Bishangari - guided walk
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 3, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

241. Malachite Kingfisher - *Alcedo cristata galerita*

- 29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area
- 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
- 04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier
- 16/2: ++, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 18/2: 3, Bishangari - guided walk
- 18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

242. Half-collared Kingfisher - *Alcedo semitorquata*

- 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu (x: MG01).
- ⇒ At Wondo Genet, Half-collared Kingfishers are often seen near the pool (WO04) and the quarry (WO05), and our guide there wanted to lead us to another stream at WO20, but we carried on as we had seen the species already at Melka Ghebdu.

243. Pied Kingfisher - *Ceryle rudis rudis*

- 29/1: 2, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
- 30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - along main river
- 04/2: 10+, Lake Ziway - pier
- 16/2: 10+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 5+, Lake Awassa - Fish Market
- ++, Along lake, just north of Awassa (a: AW09_Lake)
- 17/2: 1, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 18/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier

244. Little Bee-eater - *Merops pusillus*

Fairly common throughout.

245. Blue-breasted Bee-eater - *Merops variegatus lafresnayi* **([ET])** [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: 2, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
- 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
- 30/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 31/1: 10, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
- 5+, Melka Ghebdu
- 17/2: 3, Lake Langanu - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
- 18/2: 1, lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
- 19/2: +, Lake Chelekleka

246. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater - *Merops persicus persicus*

- 03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
- 04/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
- 16/2: 4, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- 18/2: 3, Lake Ziway - pier

247. European Bee-eater - *Merops apiaster*

- 16/2: 5, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)

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

- 01/2: +, Afar plains
- 02/2: 1, Awash - plains (piggybacking on Kori's as well as Arabian Bustard)
- 15/2: +, along the road from Nechisar to Awassa
- 16/2: 10+, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo
5+, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
- 18/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier

249. Eurasian Hoopoe - *Upupa epops epops*

Fairly common in lowlands, e.g. seen at Jemma, Melka Ghebdu, Liben, Filtu, Yabello.
⇒ All Hoopoes that could be positively identified were of the nominate subspecies *epops*, though some birds of the African subspecies *senegalensis* could have easily been overlooked.

250. Black-billed Wood Hoopoe - *Phoeniculus somaliensis* **NE**

- 04/2: 2, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
- 07/2: 1, Genale to Negele
- 11/2: 6, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 12/2: ca. 5, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 13/2: 1, en route from Arero to Yabello

251. Black Scimitarbill - *Rhinopomastus aterrimus notatus*

- 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04.

252. Abyssinian Scimitarbill - *Rhinopomastus minor minor*, *R. m. cabanisi*

- 02/2: 2 *minor*, Awash - southern part of loop
- 08/2: ca5 *minor/cabanisi*, Filtu - stop ca 88km E of Negele (a: FI02). Interestingly, these birds had some white in the primaries -- less than *minor*, but clearly not with all-black wings as in *cabanisi*, which should occur in all of southern Ethiopia.
- 09/2: 4 *minor/cabanisi*, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 11/2: 1 *cabanisi*, en route from Dawa River to Wachile

253. Hemprich's Hornbill - *Tockus hemprichii* **NE**

- 29/1: 3, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 06/2: 2, Goba - on a building in town
- 17/2: +, Lake Langanu - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
- 18/2: 8+, Bishangari - guided walk

254. African Grey Hornbill - *Tockus nasutus nasutus*

Common in dry lowlands.

255. Northern Red-billed Hornbill - *Tockus erythrorhynchus erythrorhynchus*

Fairly common in dry lowlands.

256. Northern Yellow-billed Hornbill - *Tockus flavirostris* **NE** [sightings list incomplete]
 01/2: 1, Afar plains
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 03/2: 3, Bilen - entrance road
257. Von der Decken's Hornbill - *Tockus deckeni* **NE**
 07/2: 3, Genale to Negele
 09/2: 2, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
 14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: +, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
258. Silvery-cheeked Hornbill - *Bycanistes brevis*
 04/2: ++, Wondo Genet
 15/2: +, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
 18/2: 20+, Bishangari - guided walk
259. Abyssinian Ground Hornbill (Northern Ground Hornbill) - *Bucorvus abyssinicus*
 02/2: 2, Awash - plains
 05/2: 2, Wondo Genet to Dinsho
 07/2: 2, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
 12/2: 1, enroute from Mega to Yabello
 18/02: 1, along the road to Bishangari lodge
260. Red-fronted Tinkerbird - *Pogoniulus pusillus*
 01/2: 1, Melka Ghebdu
 11/2: 1, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03)
 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
 17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 18/2: 3, Bishangari - guided walk
 ⇒ Some of these records were in surprisingly humid habitat, such as at Awassa, Nechisar, and Bishangari. Here we had expected to find Yellow-fronted. These birds were often found on song and then looked for or taped in to check identity.
261. Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird - *Pogoniulus chrysoconus xanthosticus*
 21/2: 1, Negash lodge (a: GI17), singing and taped in. Last new bird of the trip.
262. Red-fronted Barbet - *Tricholaema diademata diademata* **NE**
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
263. Black-throated Barbet - *Tricholaema m. melanocephala*, *T. m. stigmatothorax* **NE**
 03/2: 1 *stigma*, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
 1 *stigma*, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)

- 08/2: 1 *melanocephala*, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 3 *melanocephala*, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 09/2: 1, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
 11/2: 1, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03)
 12/2: 3, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

264. **Banded Barbet** - *Lybius u. undatus*, *L. u. leucogenys* **EE**

- 29/1: 1 *undatus*, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 31/1: 1 *undatus*, Melka Ghebdu
 04/2: 2 *leucogenys*, Wondo Genet
 16/2: 1 *leucogenys*, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
 17/2: 1 *leucogenys*, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 21/2: 2 *undatus*, Addis, gardens Bel Air Hotel
 ⇒ *L. u. undatus* occurs in central Ethiopia, *leucogenys* in southern Ethiopia. Two further subspecies in Ethiopia are *thiogaster* (in the far north) and *squamatus* (in the east).

265. **Black-billed Barbet** - *Lybius guifsobalito* **NE**

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 2, Jemma Valley - along main river
 31/3: 3, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 2, Melka Ghebdu
 13/2: 3, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)

266. **Double-toothed Barbet** - *Lybius bidentatus aequatorialis*

- 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet - Wabe Shebelle hotel grounds (a: WO03)
 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet - in same trees as Abyssinian Woodpecker (x: WO10)
 13/2: 4, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
 18/2: 10+, Bishangari - guided walk

267. **Red-and-yellow Barbet** - *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus versicolor*

- 14/2: 1, west of Yabello (x: YA16)
 1, west of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

⇒ This species is most often seen between Hareenna and Negale, as well as on the Liben Plains, but we did not pay much attention at the former site (we were in a hurry to get to the Ruspoli), and missed it at the latter. We then paid quite some attention to barbets and termite mounds in the Yabello area, to no avail, but were happy to finally see them on our way out to Nechisar.

⇒ Subspecies *shelleyi* occurs in the Awash area and at Sof Omar, but was not observed.

268. **Yellow-breasted Barbet** - *Trachyphonus margaritatus margaritatus*

- 31/1: 5+, Melka Ghebdu
 01/2: 1, Melka Ghebdu
 02/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
 1, Awash, entrance road

03/2: +, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

⇒ Some Yellow-breasted Barbets had a white ear patch which led to some confusion, as this should be a character of Red-and-yellow Barbet.

269. D'Arnaud's Barbet - *Trachyphonus darnaudii darnaudii* **NE**

12/2: 3, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)

20, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)

+, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

13/2: 1, en route from Arero to Yabello

14/2: 4, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

⇒ Subspecies *boehmi* occurs at Liben, Bogol Manyo and Sof Omar, but was not observed.

270. Green-backed Honeybird (Eastern Honeybird) - *Prodotiscus zambesiae ellenbecki*

04/2: 2, Wondo Genet - x: WO06

18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

271. Brown-backed Honeybird (Wahlberg's Honeybird) - *Prodotiscus regulus regulus*

01/2: 1, Awash - near Falls Lodge (x: AS08)

14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)

272. Lesser Honeyguide - *Indicator minor diamedatus*

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

06/2: 2, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)

17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

1, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk.

273. Scaly-throated Honeyguide - *Indicator variegatus*

15/2: 3, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04. Singing constantly, one taped in.

274. Greater Honeyguide - *Indicator indicator*

11/2: 1, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

14/2: 1, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)

275. Eurasian Wryneck - *Jynx torquilla torquilla*

16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)

276. Red-throated Wryneck (Rufous-breasted Wryneck) - *Jynx ruficollis aequatorialis*

16/2: 1+3, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (3 at x: AW04)

17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

277. Nubian Woodpecker - *Campethera nubica nubica* **NE** [sightings list incomplete]

01/2: 2, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA)

01/2: 1, Afar plains - en route

02/2: +, Awash

- 08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 - 1, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 - 3, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 09/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
- 10/2: 5, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 11/2: 1, en route from Negele to Dawa - 1st river stop (DA_Sp100)
- 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
- 18/2: 1 calling, lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

278. **Abyssinian Woodpecker** - *Dendropicos abyssinicus* **EE**

- 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet - x: WO10
- 05/2: 2 (pair), Wondo Genet - x: WO18
- 06/2: 1, Hareenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: 4+, Hareenna - 2 km south of Katcha camp

279. **Cardinal Woodpecker** - *Dendropicos fuscescens*

- 02/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
- 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road
- 12/2: 1 pari, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

280. **Bearded Woodpecker** - *Dendropicos namaquus schoensis*

- 17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
- 17/2: 3, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

281. **Eastern Grey Woodpecker** (African Grey-headed) - *Dendropicos spodocephalus* **[HA]**

- 29/1: 1, Debre libranos - on post of electricity wires along road to Monastery
- 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
- 04/2: 1, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
- 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
 - 1, Lake Awassa, northern part (a: AW09_Lake)
- 17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

282. **Grey-headed Batis** - *Batis orientalis orientalis* **[NE]**

Fairly common throughout.

283. **Western Black-headed Batis** - *Batis erlangeri*

- 10/2: 2 singing, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
- 18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk
- 20/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 - 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)

284. Pygmy Batis - *Batis perkeo* **NE**
 08/2: 5, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 +, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
285. Brown-throated Wattle-eye - *Platysteira cyanea aethiopica*
 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet (one near a: WO06)
 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet
 18/2: 4 Bishangari - guided walk
286. White-crested Helmet-shrike - *Prionops plumatus vinaceigularis*
 07/2: 30 *vinaceigularis*, Genale (a: GE03)
 11/2: 3 *vinaceigularis*, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
 14/2: 10 *vinaceigularis/cristatus*, west of Yabello (a: YA_BeO).
 ⇒ Subspecies *vinaceigularis* occurs in southeastern Ethiopia, e.g. the Liben, Filtu and Bogol Manyo areas. Subspecies *cristatus* occurs in the Rift valley including the Awash area. The situation in the Yabello area is unclear to us.
287. Grey-headed Bushshrike - *Malaconotus blanchoti approximans*
 12/2: 1, Yabello - hotel gardens
 13/2: 1, Yabello - hotel gardens
 14/2: 1, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
288. Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-breasted) - *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis*
 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
 07/2: 2, Genale (a: GE03)
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 14/2: 1, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 5, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04
 18/2: 3, Bishangari - guided walk
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
289. Rosy-patched Bushshrike - *Rhodophoneus cruentus hilgerti* **NE**
 02/2: 5+, Awash - southern part of loop
 08/2: 3, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 2, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 12/2: 3, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
 13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR03)
290. Three-streaked Tchagra - *Tchagra jamesi jamesi* **NE**
 08/2: 1, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 09/2: 1, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)

291. Black-crowned Tchagra - *Tchagra senegalus habessinicus* [sightings list incomplete]
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
 17/2: +, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 19/2: 1, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 +, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)
292. Northern Puffback - *Dryoscopus gambensis erythrae*
 01/2: 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
 05/2: 2, Wondo Genet - near Abyssinian Woodpecker (a: WO18)
 2, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
 13/2: 3, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 14/2: +, west of Yabello (a: YA14)
293. Pringle's Puffback - *Dryoscopus pringlii* **NE**
 08/2: 2 (pair), Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 1f, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 09/2: 1, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 3, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 1f, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
294. Slate-coloured Boubou - *Laniarius funebris*
 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
 07/2: 3, Genale - 1st stop(a: GE03)
 2, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
 10/2: 2, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
 11/2: 3, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
 15/2: ++, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
295. Red-naped Bushshrike - *Laniarius ruficeps rufinuchalis* **NE**
 09/2: 3, Filtu - stop on route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp8)
 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
296. Ethiopian Boubou - *Laniarius aethiopicus aethiopicus* [sightings list incomplete]
 31/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu
 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
 04/2: 3, Wondo Genet
 05/2: +, Wondo Genet
 13/2: 3, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 17/2: +, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 18/2: 10, Bishangari - guided walk

297. Brubru - *Nilaus afer* [sightings list incomplete]
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
 08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 09/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
 14/2: 1, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 +, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
298. White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike - *Coracina pectoralis*
 13/2: 1 male, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 15/2: 1, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04
299. Black Cuckoo-shrike - *Campephaga flava*
 07/2: 1 female, Genale (a: GE03)
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
300. Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike - *Campephaga phoenicea*
 04/2: 1♂ 2 ♀♀, Wondo Genet
 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HHQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
 18/2: 4, Bishangari - guided walk
301. Northern White-crowned Shrike - *Eurocephalus rueppelli* **NE**
 Common in lowland savannas, both in the north and south. First seen on the Afar Plains.
- [Isabelline shrike spec. - *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides*]
 31/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha to Jemma River
 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
302. Isabelline Shrike - *Lanius isabellinus*
 02/2: 1, Awash - plains
 08/2: 1, en route from Liben area (LI_BeF) to Filtu
 10/2: 1, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
 18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 1, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (a: GI12)
 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
303. Red-tailed Shrike (Turkestan Shrike) - *Lanius phoenicuroides* [sightings list incomplete]
 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 5+, Awash - plains
 08/2: 1, en route from Liben area (LI_BeF) to Filtu
 18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)
 19/2: 1, Lake Chelekleka

- 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (a: GI12)
304. Southern Grey Shrike - *Lanius meridionalis aucheri*
 01/2: 1, Afar plains
305. Steppe Grey Shrike - *Lanius pallidirostris*
 02/2: 2 *pallidirostris*, Awash - plains
 03/2: 1 *pallidirostris*, Awash - southern part of loop
 ⇒ A few more grey shrikes in the Awassa area were left unidentified.
306. Grey-backed Fiscal - *Lanius excubitoroides*
 14/2: 2, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 15/2: 1, along the road from Nechisar to Awassa
 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
 5+, along road from Awassa to lake Bojo
 3, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)
307. Taita Fiscal - *Lanius dorsalis* **NE**
 08/2: 1, Liben area - en route east of plains
 1, en route from Liben area (LI_BeF) to Filtu
 11/2: +, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
308. Somali Fiscal - *Lanius somalicus* **NE**
 02/2: 50+, Awash - plains
 03/2: ++, Awash - southern part of loop
 11/2: +, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
309. Common Fiscal - *Lanius collaris humeralis**
 Fairly common throughout.
 ⇒ Fuchs et al 2011 ("Phylogeography of the fiscal shrike (*Lanius collaris*): a novel pattern of genetic structure across the arid zones and savannas of Africa", *Journal of Biogeography* 38 (11): 2210-2222), propose to split Common Fiscal into a northern and a southern species (although the evidence appears rather weak...). The taxon occurring here would then belong to the more widespread northern species and become *Lanius humeralis humeralis*.
310. Woodchat Shrike - *Lanius senator niloticus*
 31/1: 1 female, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 02/2: 4, Awash - plains
311. Masked Shrike - *Lanius nubicus*
 01/2: 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05) 1, Besaka - Awash
 17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
312. **Ethiopian Oriole** (Abyssinian Oriole) - *Oriolus monacha meneliki* **EE**

- 29/1: 1, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
- 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
- 06/2: 1 HO, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: 7, Harena - Katcha camp area

313. Black-headed Oriole - *Oriolus larvatus rolleti*

- 07/2: 5, Genale - 1st stop (a: GE03)
- 11/2: 1, en route from Dawa River to Wachile
- 13/2: 5+, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 15/2: ++, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)

314. Fork-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus adsimilis divaricatus*

Fairly common in the lowlands.

315. African Paradise-flycatcher - *Terpsiphone viridis ferreti* [sightings list incomplete]

- 31/3: 10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
- +, Melka Ghebdu
- 04/2: 3, Wondo Genet
- 10/2: 1, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 11/2: 1, Dawa - en route from 1st river stop (DA_Sp100) to Dawa River (DA_Sp101)
- 15/2: +++, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
- 18/2: ++, Bishangari - guided walk

316. **Stresemann's Bush Crow** - *Zavattariornis stresemanni* **ET**

- 11/2 5, en route from Soda to Mega (x: YA02)
- 12/2: 5+, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 13/2: 15+, en route from Arero to Yabello.

317. Red-billed Chough - *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax baileyi*

- 05/2: + groups, Dinsho - near the pass (a: BD03), e.g. at x: BD04
- 06/2: 10+, Sanetti

318. Cape Crow (African Rook) - *Corvus capensis cordofanensis*

Fairly common in the highlands.

319. Pied Crow - *Corvus albus*

Common throughout, but mostly absent from southern savannas only in Filtu town we saw a few. Apparently hybridizes with Somali Crow in areas where they meet.

320. Somali Crow (Dwarf Raven) - *Corvus edithae* **NE**

Common in southern savannas (Liben, Filtu, Bogol, and Yabello areas). First seen on the Liben plains on 08/2.

321. Fan-tailed Raven - *Corvus rhipidurus rhipidurus*

Common throughout, especially in the highlands.

322. Thick-billed Raven - *Corvus crassirostris* [EE]
 04/2: 6, Wondo Genet
 05/2: 4 (engaged in ferocious fight), Wondo Genet
 06/2: +, Goba
 07/2: 3, Harena - Katcha camp area
 21/2: 10+, common in gardens Negash lodge (a: GI17)
323. White-winged Black Tit - *Parus leucomelas*
 17/2: 3, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (x: LA07)
324. White-backed Black Tit - *Parus leuconotus* EE
 29/1: 1, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
 05/2: 7, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
325. Acacia Tit (Northern Grey / Somali Tit) - *Parus thruppi* [sightings list incomplete]
 08/2: 5, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 09/2: 4, Filtu - stop on route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp8)
 11/2: 2, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03)
 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
326. Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit - *Anthoscopus musculus*
 Common in Awash and southern savannas.
327. Singing Bush Lark - *Mirafra cantillans marginata*
 02/2: 10, Awash - plains
 03/2: +, Awash - plains.
 ⇒ Most were flushed from grassy areas, there was only very little singing activity.
328. Gillett's Lark - *Mirafra gilletti degodiensis* [HA]
 09/2: 1, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB).
 ⇒ This subspecies was formerly considered a distinct species, Degodi Lark.
329. Sidamo Lark (Liben Lark) - *Heteromirafra sidamoensis* ET
 8/2: 4, Liben plain (x: LI04 and LI05).
330. Foxy Lark - *Mirafra alopex intercedens*, *M. a. macdonaldi* NE
 02/2: 2 *intercedens*, Awash - northern part of loop (x: AS11). Performing a kind of dancing display on the road; seen here both in the morning and evening.
 12/2: 1 *macdonaldi*, just south of Dubuluk (x: YA11_GH).
 ⇒ The Awash birds were initially identified as Gillett's Larks, until we noticed the red in the wings. However, Red-winged Lark and Singing Bush Lark (the only other larks occurring here) did not fit either, and we were quite puzzled. Ken Behrens and Christian Boix eventually identified them as Foxy Lark on the basis of the pictures. Previously not known from Awash.

331. Greater Short-toed Lark - *Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla*
 03/2: 3, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
 7+, Bilen - entrance road at x: BI03
 ⇒ In both cases the birds were amidst the flocks of Chestnut-backed Sparrow-larks, and were picked up by their calls (only seen in flight).
332. Erlanger's Lark - *Calandrella erlangeri* **ET**
 29/1: 1, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 1, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
 31/1: +, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
333. Somali Short-toed Lark - *Calandrella somalica megaensis* **[HA]**
 8/2: 1, Liben plain (x: LI04). We had been forewarned by a group visiting the Liben Plains just days earlier, that they had not seen this species. So when a short-toed type lark flew over while watching Liben Larks, we followed it and ran to where it landed. The bird was indeed Somali Short-toed and was pretty quickly chased away by yet more Liben Larks. Presumably many Somali Short-toeds move away during droughts.
334. Short-tailed Lark - *Pseudalaemon fremantlii megaensis* **NE**
 11/2: 36 (1 killed by Gabar Goshawk), 2nd stop near Soda (x: YA05)
 ⇒ The nominate subspecies occurs at Bogol Manyo but was not observed.
335. Thekla Lark - *Galerida theklae praetermissa*, *G. t. huei* **(NE)**
 29/1: 5 *praetermissa*, Sululta (a: SU01)
 31/1: ++ *praetermissa*, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
 06/2: 10+ *huei*, Sanetti - third stop (a: BS06)
 + *huei*, Sanetti - fourth stop, (a: BS08)
 ⇒ Subspecies *elliotti* should occur in the Bogol Manyo area but was not observed.
336. Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark - *Eremopterix leucotis leucotis*
 03/2: 100s in loose groups, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
 200+, Bilen - entrance road second stop (x: BI03).
337. Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark - *Eremopterix signatus signatus* **NE**
 09/2 ++, Bogol Manyo - River (a: BO_Sp9)
 + groups, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)
 10/2: +, (near) Bogol Manyo to Filtu.
338. Common Bulbul - *Pycnonotus schoanus*
 Abundant throughout the northern loop and the Rift valley. Contrary to what is usually stated, birds at Awash and the Afar Plains appeared to be 'normal' Common Bulebuls and bird at Bilen appeared to be intergrades with Somali Bulebuls (rather than intergrades and pure Somali, respectively).

[**Somali Bulbul** - *Pycnonotus somaliensis*] **HA**

03/2: + intergrades with Common Bulbul, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05). One of us briefly saw one distant bird that appeared to have a fairly clear white neck patch at a: BI03, so some better-looking birds than those that we have photographed are probably present. Still, would such birds then be tickable as Somali's...?

339. Dodson's Bulbul - *Pycnonotus dodsoni* **NE**

Common to abundant in southern savannas (Liben, Filtu, Bogol, Yabello area, Arero).

340. Dark-capped Bulbul - *Pycnonotus tricolor spurius*

05/2: 1, en route from Dinsho to Robe
07/2: +++, Hareenna - Katcha camp area
08/2: +++, Hareenna

341. Northern Brownbul - *Phyllastrephus strepitans* **NE**

07/2: 2, Genale (x: GE03)
10/2: 2, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
11/2: 4, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
2, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
15/2: 20+, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)

342. Black Saw-wing (ssp. *antinorii*, 'Brown Saw-wing') - *Psalidoprocne (pristoptera) antinorii*

04/2: +++, Wondo Genet
05/2: ++, Wondo Genet
07/2: ++, Hareenna - Katcha camp area
18/2: ++, Bishangari - guided walk
⇒ Subspecies *pristoptera* ('Blue Saw-wing') may occur in the northern mountains -- Black Saw-wings that are reported as such are often seen at Debre Libanos and Jemma.

343. Grey-rumped Swallow - *Pseudhirundo griseopyga griseopyga*

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river (flying by, Sander only)
31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - along main river (flying by, Jelmer only)
05/2: 3, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64). Foraging above fields just E of the road and S of the stream along which one can walk.

344. Brown-throated Martin (Plain Martin) - *Riparia paludicola schoensis* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 50, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
10, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
04/2: 25+, Lake Ziway - pier
20/2: 20+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

345. Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) - *Riparia riparia riparia*

17/2: 2, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)

18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

346. Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica rustica*

29/1: 10, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)

03/2: 5, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

04/2: 20+, Lake Ziway - pier

05/2: 1, Wondo Genet

347. Ethiopian Swallow - *Hirundo aethiopica*

30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)

01/2: 4, Lake Besaka - lava fields along northern track (near a: AS01)

02/2: 1, Awash - northern part of loop

03/2: 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

08/2: 3, Liben plains (a: LI09)

10/2: 5, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)

20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

348. Wire-tailed Swallow - *Hirundo smithii smithii*

29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area

30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

03/2: 2, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

20/2: 15+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

349. White-tailed Swallow - *Hirundo megaensis* **ET**

10/2: possibly this species, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)

12/2: 5+, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

13/2: +, Soda area (a: YA12)

350. Eurasian Crag Martin - *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

06/2: 2, Sanetti - fourth stop (a: BS08_MoorFranco1). Surprising sighting, Crag Martins are mostly seen in the northern part of the country.

351. Rock Martin - *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)

2, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02

30/1: 25, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18

11/2: 5, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

352. Common House Martin - *Delichon urbicum*

29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)

20/2: 50+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

353. Lesser Striped Swallow - *Cecropis abyssinica abyssinica*

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

11/2: 2, en route from Negele to 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

10, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)

- 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 14/2: +, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
- 20/2: 5+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
- 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

354. Mosque Swallow - *Cecropis senegalensis saturiator*

- 16/2: 1, Lake Bojo (a: BJ08)

355. Red-rumped Swallow - *Cecropis daurica*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
- 2, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
- 20/2: +, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
- ⇒ Resident subspecies *melanocrissa* is by far the most common in Ethiopia, though migrant subspecies *rufula* is sometimes also seen in the northern part of the country.

356. Northern Crombec - *Sylvietta brachyura leucopsis* [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area
- 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

357. Red-faced Crombec - *Sylvietta whytii loringi* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
- 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
- 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu
- 04/2: 3, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
- 08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at a: LI11
- 10/2: 2, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
- 3, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 13/2: 4, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 17/2: 5, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
- 4, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
- 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

358. Somali Crombec (Long-billed Crombec) - *Sylvietta isabellina* **NE**

- 08/2: 5+, Filtu / Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
- 09/2: 4, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

359. Brown Woodland Warbler - *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* **NE**

- 06/2: 1, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: 3, Harena - around Katcha Camp

360. Common Chiffchaff - *Phylloscopus collybita* [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: +, Addis city - EthQua office
- 3, Portuguese Bridge area
- 30/1: +, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)

- 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 01/2: 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
 04/2: +, Lake Ziway - pier
 ++, Wondo Genet
 05/2: 20+, Wondo Genet
 +, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)
 06/2: +++, Harena - Katcha camp area
 20/2: 5+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
361. Lesser Swamp Warbler - *Acrocephalus gracilirostris parvus*
 16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
362. Great Reed Warbler - *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
363. Sedge Warbler - *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 04/2: 2, Lake Ziway - pier
 17/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
364. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler - *Iduna pallida* [sightings list incomplete]
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 1, Jemma Valley - along main river
 01/2: 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
 03/2: 5+, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
 12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
 2, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
 14/2: 2, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 17/2: +, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 +, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
365. Upcher's Warbler - *Hippolais languida*
 08/2: 1, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02) (Jelmer only)
366. Cinnamon Bracken Warbler - *Bradypterus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus*
 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 05/2: 1, Dinsho - HQ entrance
 06/2: 1, Sanetti - fourth stop, (a: BS08_MoorFranco1)
 5, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
 07/2: 5, Harena - Katcha camp area
367. Red-faced Cisticola - *Cisticola erythrops pyrrhomitra*
 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet - scrubby area south of pool
 16/2: 3, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
368. Singing Cisticola - *Cisticola cantans cantans* (**EE**)
 29/1: 2 singing, Portuguese Bridge area

1 singing, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)

369. Rattling Cisticola - *Cisticola chiniana fricki*

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
02/2: 1, Awash - plains
04/2: 1, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
07/2: 1, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
10/2: 2, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
12/2: 5, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
13/2: +, Arero forest (a: AR07)
14/2: 1 (singing), Yabello - morning walk around hotel
17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk
19/2: 2, Lake Chelekleka

[Boran Cisticola - *Cisticola bodessa bodessa*] **NE**

13/02: 1, almost certainly this species at Arero (a: AR07)

370. Ashy Cisticola - *Cisticola cinereolus* **NE**

02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
5+, Awash - plains
11/2: 10, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF, x: YA04)

371. Ethiopian Cisticola - *Cisticola (galactotes) lugubris*

29/1: 1 Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
3, Sululta - stream crossing (a: SU02)
05/2: 2, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
05/2: 7, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
06/2: 1, Sanetti - first stop (a: BS_SP73)
⇒ This species used to be considered a subspecies of Winding Cisticola, *Cisticola galactotes*, and is indicated as such in Ash & Atkins 2009.

372. Stout Cisticola - *Cisticola robustus robustus*

29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area, in scrub along path from the hotel to the bridge
20/2: 3, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
2, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)

373. Tiny Cisticola - *Cisticola nana* **NE**

12/2 2, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

374. Foxy Cisticola - *Cisticola troglodytes ferrugineus*

30/1: 3+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
31/3: 6, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20).

- 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)
 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 2, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
 => Behrens et al recommend searching the fields above the Jemma River at a:
 JE_BeX2; we briefly visited spot on 30/1 without success.

375. Zitting Cisticola - *Cisticola juncidis uropygialis*

- 02/2: 2, Awash - northern part of loop

376. Desert Cisticola - *Cisticola aridulus lavendulae*

- 11/2: 3, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF, x: YA04)

377. Pectoral-patch Cisticola - *Cisticola brunnescens brunnescens*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 1, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
 08/2: 3, Liben plain (a: LI09)

378. Tawny-flanked Prinia - *Prinia subflava subflava*

Fairly common throughout.

379. Pale Prinia - *Prinia somalica erlangeri* **NE**

- 08/2: ca10, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 ++, Filtu area
 09/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
 +, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

380. Buff-bellied Warbler - *Phyllolais pulchella*

- 14/2: 4, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03) & lakeside (a: AW02)

381. Yellow-breasted Apalis - *Apalis flavida flavocincta* [sightings list incomplete]

- 08/2: ++, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 ++, Filtu area
 09/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 10/2: 1, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
 13/2: 4, Arero forest (a: AR03)

=> Subspecies *flavocincta* belongs to a complex that is sometimes split from other Yellow-breasted Apalis taxa and is then called 'Brown-tailed Apalis'. Subspecies *vidiriceps*, that occurs in the Awash area, also belongs to this complex. Subspecies *abyssinica*, that occurs e.g. in the Rift valley and the Gibe area, on the other hand, is in this treatment retained under Yellow-breasted Apalis. We only observed *flavocincta*, which is widespread in southern Ethiopia.

382. Red-fronted Warbler - *Urhopis rufifrons smithii* **[NE]**

- 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)
- 08/2: 1, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
- ++, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 09/2: 10+, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

383. Grey-backed Camaroptera - *Camaroptera brachyura abessinica*

Common throughout the country, in many different, though preferably shrubby, habitats.
First seen at Debre Libanos.

384. Grey Wren-Warbler - *Calamonastes simplex* [sightings list incomplete]

- 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
- 03/2: +, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
- 08/2: 3, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
- +, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
- ++, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 09/2: 3, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 1, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
- 11/2: +, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

385. Yellow-bellied Eremomela - *Eremomela icteropygialis griseoflava* [sightings list incomplete]

- 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu
- 02/2: 10+, Awash - plains
- 05/2: 1, Wondo Genet
- 08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens E
- 4, Liben area - east of plains at a: LI11
- 5+, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 09/2 2, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)
- 11/2: 2, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
- 12/2 +, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
- +, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 14/2: 2, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

386. Yellow-vented Eremomela - *Eremomela flavicrissalis* **NE**

- 09/2 1, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)

387. Green-backed Eremomela - *Eremomela canescens abyssinica*

- 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20) (Sjoerd only)
 - 13/2: 3, Arero forest - x: AR04 and x: AR07
 - 20/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)
- ⇒ Known as a scarce resident from Jemma, and we read about just one other recent sighting at Gibe. We were therefore surprised to see this species three times.

388. Scaly Chatterer - *Turdoides aylmeri* **NE**

- 12/2: 1 group, Yabello - a: YA_Sp111

389. Rufous Chatterer - *Turdoides rubiginosa* **NE**

- 01/2: 3, Melka Ghebdu - a: MG03
- 11/2: 5, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
- 12/2: 5+, Yabello - a: YA_BeB
- 13/2: 5+, Arero forest - a: AR03
- 14/2: +, west of Yabello - a: YA_BeO
- 15/2: 5+, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04.

390. White-rumped Babbler - *Turdoides leucopygia lacuum*, *T. l. limbata*, *T. l. omoensis*,
T. l. smithii **[HA]**

- 31/1: 2 *limbata*, Ankober to Melka Ghebdu - a few km before Melka Ghebdu
- 01/2: 2 *limbata*, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
- 05/2: 2 groups *lacuum*, Wondo Genet
- 07/2: 5 *smithii*, Genale - a: GE03
- 14/2: + *omoensis*, west of Yabello - a: YA14
- 16/2: 3 *lacuum*, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
- 18/2: 10 *lacuum*, Bishangari - guided walk
- 20/2: + of unknown subspecies, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

Five subspecies of White-rumped Babbler occur in Ethiopia, and no less than four of those can be encountered on the standard birding routes. *T. l. lacuum* occurs in the Rift Valley, *T. l. limbata* along the northern loop and much further to the north, *T. l. omoensis* occurs south and southwest of the Rift Valley, and *T. l. smithii* in the east including Sof Omar and Genale. It's not clear to us which subspecies should occur in Gibe Gorge.

391. Abyssinian Catbird - *Parophasma galinieri* **ET**

- 05/2: 2 HO, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
- 06/2: ca10, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: ++, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)

392. African Hill Babbler - *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

- 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet - x: WO08
- 06/2: 2, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: 3, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
1, Harenna - river in southern part (x: BH06)
- 18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk.

393. Eurasian Blackcap - *Sylvia atricapilla*

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
- 05/2: 5+, Wondo Genet
- 06/2: 30+, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: +++, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 11/2: 1, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 18/2: ++, Bishangari - guided walk

394. Barred Warbler - *Sylvia nisoria*

- 11/2: 1 2cy, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 12/2: 1 2cy, Yabello - a: YA_Sp111
- 21/2: 1 ad, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

395. Lesser Whitethroat - *Sylvia curruca* [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area
- 01/2: 2, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
- 03/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop
- 08/2: 2, Filtu - stop ca88km east of Negele (a: FI02)
- 09/2: 1, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
- 11/2: 1, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 15/2: 5+, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
- 16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
- 20/2: +, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)
- 21/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

396. Common Whitethroat - *Sylvia communis* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
- 31/3: 3, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 08/2: 2, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
- 09/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 2, Filtu - stop on route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
- 11/2: 1, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 14/2: 1, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
- 21/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

397. Brown Warbler (Brown Parisoma) - *Sylvia lugens griseiventris* **(ET)**

- 06/2: 1 *griseiventris* ('Bale Parisoma'), Sanetti - first stop (x: BS03)
- ⇒ No Brown Parisomas of the nominate subspecies *lugens* were observed. These can be seen e.g. in Addis (Ghion hotel grounds), at Wondo Genet (Wabe Shebelle hotel grounds) and west of Dinsho at BD_Sp64 and BD_Sp65. Some other spots at the edge of the Sanetti plateau where *griseiventris* has been seen include x: BS13 (De Temmerman et al 2009) and x: BS14 (De Keersmaecker et al 2010).

398. Banded Warbler (Banded Parisoma) - *Sylvia boehmi marsabit* **NE**

- 08/2: 1, Liben area - east of plains at a: LI_BeF
- 12/2: 1, Yabello - a: YA_BeB
- 6, Yabello - a: YA_Sp110
- 3, Soda area - a: YA_BeG

399. Abyssinian White-eye - *Zosterops a. abyssinicus*, *Z. a. jubaensis*, *Z. a. omoensis* **NE**

- 30/1: 5 *abyssinicus*, Jemma Valley - along main river
- 31/1: 1 *abyssinicus*, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
- + *abyssinicus*, Melka Ghebdu
- 09/2: 5 *jubaensis*, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)
- 14/2: ++ *jubaensis*, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

16/2: 2 *abyssinicus*, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
20/2: + *omoensis*, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
⇒ *Z. a. abyssinicus* occurs in northern Ethiopia and the Rift Valley, *Z. a. jubaensis* occurs south of the Rift Valley, and *Z. a. omoensis* west of the Rift Valley.

400. Montane White-eye - *Zosterops poliogastrus poliogastrus* **NE**

29/1: 2, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
30/1: 5, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
04/2: 3, Wondo Genet
05/2: +, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)
++, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
07/2: ++, Harena - Katcha camp area
19/2: +, Menagesha Forest

401. Spotted Creeper - *Salpornis spilonotus erlangeri*

04/2: 3, Wondo Genet (x: WO07)
16/2: 1+1, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (x: AW05)

402. Wattled Starling - *Creatophora cinerea*

03/2: ca10, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
14/2: 4, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)
17/2: 50, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
18/2: 20+, Bishangari - guided walk

403. Greater Blue-eared Starling - *Lamprotornis chalybaeus cyaniventris* [sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
30/1: 10, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
10, Jemma Valley - along main river
10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
03/2: 5, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
10/2: +, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
13/2: 30+, Arero forest (a: AR03)

404. Lesser Blue-eared Starling - *Lamprotornis chloropterus chloropterus*

30/1: 5, Jemma Valley - along main river
31/1: 4, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)

405. Rüppell's Starling - *Lamprotornis purpuroptera purpuroptera* **NE**

01/2: +, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA)
12/2: 1, Yabello - hotel gardens
14/2: +, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
16/2: 5, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
17/2: +, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
10+, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

406. Golden-breasted Starling - *Lamprotornis regius regius* **NE**
 07/2: 1, Genale to Negele (Rob only)
 08/2: 2, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
 09/2: 2, Bogol Manyo - River (a: BO_Sp9)
 10/2: 10, Bogol Manyo to Filtu
 11/2: 10, en route from Negele to Dawa 1st river stop (DA_Sp100)
 25, Dawa - en route from 1st river stop (DA_Sp100) to Dawa River (DA_Sp101)
 20, en route from Dawa River to Wachile
 5, en route from Wachile to Soda
 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
407. Superb Starling - *Lamprotornis superbus* **NE**
 Common to abundant at lower altitudes (lacking in Addis, from Sululta to Melka Ghebdu, and in the Bale Mountains).
408. Shelley's Starling - *Lamprotornis shelleyi* **NE**
 Common in southern savannas.
409. White-crowned Starling - *Spreo albicapillus* **NE**
 Common in southern savannas.
410. Violet-backed Starling - *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
 31/1: 8, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR07)
 17/2: 1 female, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
411. Red-winged Starling - *Onychognathus morio rueppelii*
 05/2: 6, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
 06/2: 2, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
 13/2: 1, Yabello - hotel gardens
 14/2: x, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
412. Slender-billed Starling - *Onychognathus tenuirostris tenuirostris*
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
413. Bristle-crowned Starling - *Onychognathus salvadorii* **NE**
 [02/2: 2 probably this species flying past, Awash - Kereyou]
 04/2: 5, Lake Besaka - lavafields along northern track (near a: AS01)
 11/2: 4, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
414. White-billed Starling - *Onychognathus albirostris* **EE**
 29/1: 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 30/1: +, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
 19/2: 5, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland). Surprising sighting, this species is not known to occur as far south as this as far as we are aware.

415. Sharpe's Starling - *Pholia sharpii* **NE**
04/2: 2, Wondo Genet - x: WO11
416. Magpie Starling - *Spreo bicolor* **NE**
11/2: 1, en route from Dawa 1st river stop to Dawa River, at x: DA01.
417. Red-billed Oxpecker - *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
29/1: 1, Sululta plain - first stop (a: SU01)
30/1: 10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
05/2: 3, Wondo Genet
09/2: 5, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
418. Abyssinian Ground Thrush - *Zoothera piaggiae piaggiae* **NE**
04/2: 1, Wondo Genet (x: WO13)
05/2: 1, Wondo Genet - near pool (x: WO15)
06/2: 2, Harenna - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
07/2: 3, Harenna - Katcha camp area
18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk
419. Groundscraper Thrush - *Psophocichla litsitsirupa simensis* **(EE)**
29/1: ++, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
05/2: +, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (BD_Sp67)
06/2: ++, Sanetti
19/2: +, en route to Menagesha Forest
420. African Thrush - *Turdus pelios*
Fairly common in lowlands. First seen at the Afar Plains.
421. Bare-eyed Thrush - *Turdus tephronotus* **NE**
12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
422. Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain Thrush) - *Turdus abyssinicus* [sightings list incomplete]
29/1: +, Addis City
10, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
31/1: 1, en route near Ankober
05/2: 1, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
06/2: +, Sanetti - first stop (a: BS_SP73)
50+, Harenna - Katcha camp area
07/2: +++, Harenna - Katcha camp area
19/2: +, Menagesha Forest
423. Thrush Nightingale - *Luscinia luscinia*
01/2: 1 singing, Awash - riverine woodland near Falls Lodge

424. Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
 14/2: 1 singing, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 1 singing, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (NE02) to NE04
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
425. Rüppell's Robin-Chat - *Cossypha semirufa* **NE** [sightings list incomplete]
 29/1: 2, Debre Libranos - near Monastery
 04/2: 8, Wondo Genet
 07/2: 5+, Harena - Katcha camp area
 13/2: 1, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA14)
 18/2: 3, Bishangari - guided walk
426. White-browed Robin-Chat - *Cossypha heuglini heuglini*
 14/2: + heard, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
427. Red-capped Robin-Chat - *Cossypha natalensis intensa*
 18/2: 5, Bishangari - guided walk (x: LA14)
 ⇒ We could not find this species in the Nechisar fig forest.
428. Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat (Snowy-headed) - *Cossypha niveicapilla niveicapilla*
 20/2: 2+1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river (x: GI03 & GI05)
 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
 21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
429. Spotted Palm Thrush (Spotted Morning Thrush) - *Cichladusa guttata* **NE**
 12/2: 5, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 + Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
 14/2: 3, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 1, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (NE02) to NE04.
430. White-browed Scrub Robin - *Cercotrichas leucophrys leucoptera*
 Common in savanna areas (Awash and the south).
431. Black Scrub Robin - *Cercotrichas podobe*
 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu - in fields next to river crossing (a: MG_Sp28), flushed a couple of times and last seen in riverside vegetation at the crossing.
432. Common Redstart - *Phoenicurus p. phoenicurus*, *P.p. samamiscus* [sightings list incomplete]
 31/3: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 04/2: 1, *phoenicurus*, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
 16/2: 1, *samamiscus*, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)
 17/2: 1, *samamiscus*, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

- 19/2: 1, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
 20/2: 5+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 5+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river.

433. Whinchat - *Saxicola rubetra*

- 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 2, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (a: GI12)
 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)

434. African Stonechat - *Saxicola torquatus albofasciatus*

- 29/1: 1 ♂, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
 31/1: 1, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
 1, en route near Ankober
 05/2: 2, en route from Dinsho to Robe
 ⇒ We only saw *albofasciatus* African Stonechats and no Siberian Stonechats (*Saxicola (torquatus) maura*).

435. Red-breasted Wheatear (Botta's Wheatear) - *Oenanthe bottae frenata* **NE**

Common in highlands.

436. Isabelline Wheatear - *Oenanthe isabellina*

Fairly common throughout.

437. Northern Wheatear - *Oenanthe oenanthe*

- 29/1: +, Sululta plains
 08/2: 1, Liben plains (a: LI09)
 11/2: 1, 2nd stop near Soda (a: YA05)

438. Pied Wheatear - *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Common to abundant throughout. Only at Filtu, a fairly rufous individual, reminiscent of Cyprus Wheatear, was observed, but the ID was not clinched.

439. [Eastern] Black-eared Wheatear - *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca*

- 14/2: 1, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 16/2: 1, Lake Awassa - northern part (a: AW09_Lake)

440. Desert Wheatear - *Oenanthe deserti deserti*

- 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03) (Sander only)

441. Abyssinian Wheatear - *Oenanthe lugubris lugubris* **HA**

- 30/1: +, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
 31/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha to Jemma river
 3, Melka Ghebdu
 04/2: 1, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
 17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

442. Blackstart - *Cercomela melanura lypura*
 01/2: 5+, Lake Besaka - lava fields along southern and northern tracks
443. Familiar Chat - *Cercomela familiaris falkensteini*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 ⇒ JE_Sp18
 3, Jemma Valley - along main river (in large trees just beyond the entrance of the wadi)
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
 4, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: G110)
 21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: G110)
 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
444. Brown-tailed Rock Chat - *Cercomela scotocerca* **[NE]**
 11/2: 1, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03). Nice to see this species here, as we skipped the best place for it: Sof Omar.
445. Sombre Rock Chat - *Cercomela dubia* **[HA]**
 01/2: 1, Lake Besaka - lava fields between northern track and lake (x: AS01). Together with a Blackstart allowing for comparison.
 ⇒ De Temmerman et al (2009) have seen it at lava fields further west (x: AS05).
446. Moorland Chat - *Cercomela sordida sordida* **NE**
 29/1: 1, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 1, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
 31/1: +, en route from Jemma to Ankober
 05/2: 1, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
 06/2: 10+, Sanetti - first stop (a: BS_Sp73)
 +, Sanetti - fourth stop, (a: BS08)
447. Rüppell's Black Chat - *Myrmecocichla melaena* **EE**
 29/1: 3, Portuguese Bridge area
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot (a: JE03)
448. Mocking Cliff Chat - *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris albiscapulata*
 29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
 3, Jemma Valley - along main river
 31/1: 3, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 14/2: + possibly *subrufipennis*, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 19/2: 2, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
 ⇒ According to Ash & Atkins (2009), subspecies *subrufipennis* should occur from the Rift Valley (except the northernmost part of it) southwards. However, even at Langano, the birds looked like *albiscapulata*. We did not see the Yabello bird well enough for subspecific ID, but this likely was *subrufipennis*.

449. **White-winged Cliff Chat** - *Thamnolaea semirufa* **EE**
 29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area (at the cliffs near the bridge)
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 ⇒ JE_Sp18
450. **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** - *Monticola saxatilis*
 31/1: 1, en route near Ankober
 08/2: 1, en route in Filtu area
 14/2: 1, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
 1, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (a: G112).
451. **Little Rock Thrush** - *Monticola rufocinereus rufocinereus* **NE**
 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
 04/2: 2, Wondo Genet
 14/2: 1, West of Yabello (a: YA14)
 17/2: 2, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
452. **Blue Rock Thrush** - *Monticola solitarius*
 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
 01/2: 1, en route from Melka Ghebdu to Afar plains
453. **Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher** - *Melaenornis c. chocolatinus* **EE** [sightings list incomplete]
 29/1: 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 05/2: 10+, Wondo Genet
 05/2: +, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06) area
 06/2: +, Harena - Katcha camp area
 07/2: 5+, Harena - Katcha camp area
454. **Northern Black Flycatcher** - *Melaenornis edolioides* [sightings list incomplete]
 01/2: 1, en route from Melka Ghebdu to Afar plains
 07/2: 2, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)
 10/2: 5, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 14/2: +, West of Yabello (a: YA14)
455. **Pale Flycatcher** - *Bradornis pallidus bowdleri*
 20/2: 5, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: G110)
 1, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: G114)
456. **African Grey Flycatcher** - *Bradornis microrhynchus pumilus*, *B. m. neumanni* **NE**
 [sightings list incomplete]

- 02/2: 8 *pumilus*, Awash - southern part of loop
 04/2: 1 *pumilus*, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
 08/2: 5 *neumanni*, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
 + *neumanni*, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 12/2: + *neumanni*, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
 + *neumanni*, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

⇒ Until very recently, the IOC list somehow had *pumillus* and *neumanni*, whose geographical ranges and field characters aren't even clear, split as two different species, but the current version (3.1) has them as subspecies, as in most other lists.

457. African Dusky Flycatcher - *Muscicapa adusta minima*

- 29/1: 1, Addis city
 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
 05/2: 5+, Wondo Genet
 18/2: 5, Bishangari - guided walk
 06/2: 30+, Hareenna - Katcha camp area
 07/2: +++, Hareenna - Katcha camp area

458. Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird - *Anthreptes orientalis* [NE]

- 09/2 2, Bogol Manyo - River (a: BO_Sp9)
 11/2: 1, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
 4, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
 4, Dawa River, in a dry gully west of the river (x: DA03)
 12/2: 5+, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
 14/2: 1, west of Yabello - a: YA_BeO
 15/2: +, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ to a: NE04

459. Collared Sunbird - *Anthodiaeta collaris djamdjamensis*

- 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
 07/2: 2, Genale (a: GE03)
 11/2: +, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
 14/2: 1, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 10+, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (NE02) to NE04.

460. Nile Valley Sunbird - *Anthodiaeta metallica*

- 02/2: 2 ♂ 1 ♀, Awash - southern part of loop at x: AS09
 4, Awash - near park entrance (a: AS04)
 03/2: 10+, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)

461. Olive Sunbird - *Cyanomitra olivacea*

- 07/2: 2 (begging juvenile, briefly fed by adult), Hareenna - x: BH03
 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

462. Scarlet-chested Sunbird - *Chalcomitra senegalensis proteus* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)

- 31/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 03/2: 1, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02)
- 04/2: 1, Wondo Genet
- 08/2: 5, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
- 09/2: 1, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 11/2: +, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)
- 16/2: 5+, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03)

463. Hunter's Sunbird - *Chalcomitra hunteri* **NE**

- 12/2 1 male, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

464. Tacazze Sunbird - *Nectarinia tacazze tacazze* **NE**

- 29/1: +, Addis city - EthQua office
- 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
- 04/2: 7, Wondo Genet
- 05/2: 10, Wondo Genet
- 06/2: 5+, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: ++, Harena - Katcha camp area

465. Beautiful Sunbird - *Cinnyris pulchellus pulchellus*

- 05/2: 3, Wondo Genet - Wabe Shebelle hotel gardens (a: WO03)
- 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 14/2: +, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
- 15/2: 1, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
- 16/2: 20+ (incl. males in breeding plumage), Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
- 17/2: 4, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
- 19/2: 1, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)

466. Marico Sunbird - *Cinnyris mariquensis osiris*

- 31/1: 1, Melka Ghebdu
- 02/2: 1, Awash - northern part of loop
- 08/2: 1m, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (a: LI_BeF)
- 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

467. Black-bellied Sunbird - *Cinnyris nectarinioides erlangeri*

- 11/02: 3 males in breeding plumage, Dawa River (x: DA02 and x: DA04)

468. Shining Sunbird - *Cinnyris habessinicus* **NE**

- 01/2: 1, Melka Ghebdu
- 1, Afar plains - second stop (a: AF05)
- 03/2: 5+, Bilen - entrance road first stop (a: BI02),
- 1, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
- 17/2: 5, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

469. Variable Sunbird - *Cinnyris venustus fazolensis*, *C. v. albiventris*

- 29/1: 1 *fazolensis*, Portuguese Bridge area
- 30/1: 1 *fazolensis*, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
 - 2 *fazolensis*, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 - 3 *fazolensis*, Jemma Valley - along main river
- 31/3: 3 *fazolensis*, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 04/2: 3 *fazolensis*, Wondo Genet
- 05/2: 5 *fazolensis*, Wondo Genet
- 06/2: + *fazolensis*, Harena - Katcha camp area (a: BH-BeL and BH_Sp76)
- 07/2: + *fazolensis*, Harena - Katcha camp area
- 08/2: 5 *albiventris*, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (a: LI_BeF)
- 09/2: 7 *albiventris*, Filtu - stop on route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp8)
- 19/2: 2, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)

470. White-browed Sparrow Weaver - *Plocepasser mahali melanorhynchus*

Common in dry lowlands, both in the north and south. First seen at Melka Ghebdu.

471. Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver - *Plocepasser superciliosus*

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
- 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)

472. Grey-capped Social Weaver - *Pseudonigrita arnaudi australoabyssinicus* **NE**

- 12/2: 65, just south of Dubuluk (a: YA_BeG)
- 13/2: 3, en route from Arero to Yabello

473. Black-capped Social Weaver - *Pseudonigrita cabanisi* **NE**

- 11/2: +, en route from Wachile to Soda (x: DA08).
- 12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 10+, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

[House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*]

- 12/2: 10+, Dubuluk (x: YA10). First record for Ethiopia, most likely these are birds that are spreading from the (introduced) Kenyan population.

474. Shelley's Sparrow (Kenya Rufous Sparrow) - *Passer shelleyi* **NE**

- 08/2: 1, Liben plain (a: LI04)
- 08/2: 8, Liben plain - eastern part between Behrens D and E
- 08/2: 2, Liben area - en route east of plains
- 11/2: ca. 20, 2nd stop near Soda (a: YA05)
- 12/2: 2 flying by, Dubuluk
- 5+, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)

475. Swainson's Sparrow - *Passer swainsoni* **NE**

Common throughout, especially near human habitation. Surprisingly, we also saw this species (or at least birds that resembled it more than Parrot-billed, in our opinions) at Filtu, Bogol Manyo, and at the river crossing west of Yabello (YA_Be0

and YA19), where we had hoped to see Parrot-billed Sparrows.

476. Chestnut Sparrow - *Passer emini* **NE**

12/2: ca.50, just south of Dubuluk (x: YA12)

13/2: a flock, en route from Arero to Yabello

477. Bush Petronia - *Gymnoris dentata*

30/1: 5+, Jemma Valley - stop at a: JE08

10+, Jemma Valley - along main river

++, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

20/2: +, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

21/2: +, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

478. Yellow-spotted Petronia - *Gymnoris pyrgita pyrgita* [sightings list incomplete]

01/2: 2, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA)

03/2: 4, Awash - southern part of loop

08/2: 1, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)

3, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

09/2: 5, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

4, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)

479. Red-billed Buffalo Weaver - *Bubalornis niger intermedius*

Fairly common in lowlands in north and south. First seen at Awash.

480. White-headed Buffalo Weaver - *Dinemellia dinemelli dinemelli* **NE**

Fairly common in lowlands in north and south. First seen near Melka Ghebdu.

481. Speckle-fronted Weaver - *Sporopipes frontalis frontalis*

30/1: 10, Jemma Valley - stop at a: JE08

30/1: 10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

482. Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak Weaver) - *Amblyospiza albifrons melanota*

04/2: 50, Wondo Genet - same spot as Abyssinian Woodpecker (x: WO10). One large group briefly landed in canopy, and then moved on again.

⇒ Surprisingly, we did not see this species at Lake Awassa.

483. Baglafaecht Weaver - *Ploceus b. baglafaecht*, *P.b. reichenowi*, *P.b. emini*

[sightings list incomplete]

29/1: 2 *baglafaecht/emini*, Addis city - EthQua Office

1 *baglafaecht/emini*, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)

05/2: 5+ *reichenowi*, Wondo Genet

+ *reichenowi*, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)

+ *reichenowi*, Wondo Genet - Bale, Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)

1 *reichenowi*, Dinsho HQ - entrance

16/2: + *emini/reichenowi*, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

⇒*P.b. baglafaecht* is the most widespread subspecies and occurs in western and northern Ethiopia (e.g. Gibe, Northern loop). *P. b. emini* occurs in the Rift Valley and northeast of it; it is not clear to us whether *baglafaecht* or *emini* occurs in Addis Ababa. *P.b. reichenowi* occurs e.g. in the Bale Mountains and Yabello.

484. Little Weaver (Little Masked Weaver) - *Ploceus luteolus luteolus*

02/2: 1, Awash - near park entrance (a: AS04) (Sander only)

16/2: 4, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

18/2: 4, Bishangari - guided walk

485. Spectacled Weaver - *Ploceus ocularis crocatus*

05/2: 1, Wondo Genet

16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03) & lakeside (a: AW02)

17/2: 5+, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

18/2: 5, Bishangari - guided walk

486. Rüppell's Weaver - *Ploceus galbula* **NE**

30/1: 5, Jemma Valley - along main river

5+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

31/1: 30, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

+, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

5, Melka Ghebdu

01/2: 5+, Melka Ghebdu

04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier

16/2: 2, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03) & lakeside (a: AW02)

17/2: 10+, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

5+, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)

19/2: 5, Lake Chelekleka

⇒ Several males were building nests.

487. Northern Masked Weaver - *Ploceus taeniopterus taeniopterus* **NE**

11/2: 1 male in breeding plumage, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)

14/2: 20, west of Yabello - a: YA18.

488. Lesser Masked Weaver - *Ploceus intermedius intermedius*

01/2: 5, Afar plains - first stop (a: AF_BeA)

10/2: 1, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)

11/2: 5+, Dawa River (a: DA_Sp100)

14/2: 3, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

17/2: 15+, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

18/2: 2, Bishangari - guided walk

489. Vitelline Masked Weaver - *Ploceus vitellinus uluensis*

11/2: 2, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)

12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)

14/2: +, Yabello - morning walk around hotel

490. Speke's Weaver - *Ploceus spekei* **NE**
 08/2: 1 male in breeding plumage, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)
 12/2: 1 male in breeding plumage, Dubuluk
 14/2: +, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
491. Village Weaver - *Ploceus cucullatus abyssinicus* [sightings list incomplete]
 30/1: 5, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 3, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
 04/2: 5+, Lake Ziway - pier
 16/2: 20+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
492. Juba Weaver (Salvadori's Weaver) - *Ploceus dicrocephalus* **NE**
 11/2: 20+ including males in breeding plumage, Dawa River (x: DA04 & DA05).
493. Chestnut Weaver - *Ploceus rubiginosus rubiginosus*
 15/2: 1 female type, Nechisar - morning walk from HQ to NE04.
494. Red-headed Weaver - *Anaplectes rubriceps*
 31/1: 1 female, Melka Ghebdu - at river crossing (a: MG_Sp28)
 11/2: 1, en route from Dawa River to Wachile
 13/2: 2, Arero forest (a: AR03)
 14/2: +, Nechisar HQ (a: NE02)
 15/2: 2, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
 18/2: 1 male, Bishangari - guided walk
495. Red-billed Quelea - *Quelea quelea aethiopica*
 30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
 03/2: 50+, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
 19/2: 10, Lake Chelekleka
 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 30+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)
 ⇒ All in non-breeding plumage.
496. Black-winged Red Bishop - *Euplectes hordeaceus craspedopterus*
 20/2: 50+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 25+, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
 50+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)
 10+, Gibe Gorge - in field with high stalks (a: GI_09B)
 21/2: 100+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
 150, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
 ⇒ All in non-breeding plumage.
497. Northern Red Bishop - *Euplectes franciscanus*
 31/1: 3, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

- 03/2: 5, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
 - 16/2: 15+, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
 - 17/2: 15+, Lake Awassa - lakeside north of United African (a: AW07)
 - 18/2: 10-15, Bishangari - guided walk
 - 19/2: + groups, Lake Chelekleka
- ⇒ All in non-breeding plumage.

498. Yellow Bishop - *Euplectes capensis xanthomelas*

- 29/1: 15, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
 - 2, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
 - 31/1: +, en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
 - 05/2: 25, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
- ⇒ All in non-breeding plumage.

499. Yellow-mantled Widowbird - *Euplectes macroura macrocecus*

- 07/2: 1 male breeding plumage, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04). Flying by.

500. White-winged Widowbird - *Euplectes albonotatus eques*

- 16/2: 30+ (1 non-breeding male, most females), Lake Bojo - x: BJ07.

501. Red-collared Widowbird - *Euplectes ardens laticauda*

- 30/1: 1 non-breeding male, Jemma Valley - between JE04 and JE_Sp18

502. **Red-billed Pytilia** - *Pytilia lineata* [ET]

- 30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River, just upstream of bridge (x: JE10)
 - 31/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River, just upstream of bridge (x: JE10)
 - 20/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (x: GI10)
 - 21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (x: GI10).
- ⇒ Presumably we twice saw the same birds twice.

503. Green-winged Pytilia - *Pytilia melba soudanensis*

- 03/2: 1 male, Ali Dege plains (a: AL01)
- 4, Awash - southern part of loop
- 09/2: 1, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)
- 11/2: 2, Dawa - en route from 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100) to Dawa River (DA_Sp101)
- 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)

504. Cut-throat Finch - *Amadina fasciata alexanderi* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: 5, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
- 02/2: 5+ Awash - near park entrance (a: AS04)
- 03/2: 25+, Awash - southern part of loop
- 3, Bilen - lodge area (a: BI05)
- 08/2: ca20, Liben Plains - eastern part
- 20/2: 40+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)

505. Green Twinspot - *Mandingoa nitidula chubbi*

18/2: 30-40, Bishangari - guided walk (x: LA13, LA16 and LA 17, especially many around the latter two locations)

506. Bar-breasted Firefinch - *Lagonosticta rufopicta rufopicta*

20/2: 20, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river (x: GI02)

21/2: 20, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

507. Red-billed Firefinch - *Lagonosticta senegala*

Common throughout. First seen at Debre Libanos.

508. African Firefinch - *Lagonosticta rubricata ugandae*

04/2: 2, Wondo Genet - near quarry at x: WO13

05/2: 2 (1 singing male), Wondo Genet - x: WO17

509. Black-faced Firefinch (Black-throated Firefinch) - *Lagonosticta larvata larvata* **([ET])**

20/2: 3, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river (a: GI02)

2, Gibe Gorge - 1st afternoon stop (a: GI14)

21/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

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

Fairly common throughout. First seen at Debre Libanos.

511. Purple Grenadier - *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* **NE**

03/2: 4, Awash - southern part of loop

08/2: 2, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)

09/2: 4, Filtu - stop en route to Bogol Manyo (a: FI_Sp88)

12/2: +, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)

512. Yellow-bellied Waxbill - *Estrilda quartinia quartinia*

29/1: 10+, Debre Libanos - near Monastery

30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)

07/2: 6+, Harena - in roadside 2 km south of Katcha camp

513. Abyssinian Waxbill (Fawn-breasted Waxbill) - *Estrilda ochrogaster* **([ET])**

20/2: 15, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

21/2: 400+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river (x: GI04)

514. Crimson-rumped Waxbill - *Estrilda rhodopyga centralis* **[NE]**

30/1: 15+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

31/1: 10+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

+, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)

01/2: 20+, Melka Ghebdu

07/2: 1, Genale - 2nd stop (a: GE04)

515. Common Waxbill - *Estrilda astrild peasei*

05/2: 2, Wondo Genet (Jelmer only)

8, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
16/2: 15, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)

516. Black-cheeked Waxbill (Red-rumped Waxbill) - *Estrilda chamosyna chamosyna* **NE**

08/2: ca10, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)
11/2: 4, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
12/2: 2, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
14/2: 2, West of Yabello (a: YA_BeO)

517. African Silverbill - *Lonchura cantans orientalis*

30/1: 5+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
31/3: 5+, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
03/2: 8, Bilen - entrance road second stop (a: BI03)

518. Grey-headed Silverbill - *Lonchura griseicapilla* **NE**

12/2: 6, just south of Dubuluk (x: YA11)
4, Soda area (x: YA12)

519. Bronze Mannikin - *Lonchura cucullata scutata* [sightings list incomplete]

01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu
04/2: 5, Wondo Genet
15/2: multiple groups, Nechisar, morning walk from HQ (a: NE02 to NE04)
16/2: 10+, Lake Awassa - United African hotel gardens (a: AW03) & lakeside (a: AW02)
10+, Along lake, just north of Awassa (a: AW09_Lake)
19/2: 2, Lake Bishoftu (Dreamland)
21/2: 8, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

520. Black-and-white Mannikin - *Lonchura bicolor poensis*

04/2: 5+, Wondo Genet - Wabe Shebelle hotel gardens

521. Village Indigobird - *Vidua chalybeata ultramarina*

30/1: 5+, Jemma Valley - along main river
31/1: 5, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)
20/2: 4, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: G111)
21/2: 1, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river

[Whydah sp. - *Vidua* sp.]

14/2: 1 long-tailed male (Straw-tailed or Steel-blue) seen flying from car, west of Yabello (x: YA18)

522. Pin-tailed Whydah - *Vidua macroura*

29/1: 6 ♂ non-breeding, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
31/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)

- 1, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
523. Steel-blue Whydah - *Vidua hypocherina* **NE**
12/2: 1, Soda area (a: YA_BeG) (Sander only)
524. Long-tailed Paradise Whydah - *Vidua paradisaea*
03/2: 2, breeding plumage male and a female, Awash - Southern loop. Very mobile and only seen briefly.
525. Western Yellow Wagtail - *Motacilla flava*
29/1: 25, including 10 ♂ *flava*, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
2 ♂ *flava*, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
40 ♂ *feldegg*, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
31/1: ++ (presumably *flava*), en route from Jemma Valley to Ankober
04/2: 30+ *feldegg*, 1 *flava*, Lake Ziway - pier
16/2: 1 *thunbergi*, Lake Awassa - lakeside walk (a: AW02)
18/2: +, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)
19/2: 5 *feldegg*, 10 *flava*, Lake Chelekleka
Highly anticipated by Sander, subspecies *lutea* was unfortunately not observed.
526. Grey Wagtail - *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* [sightings list incomplete]
29/1: 1, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area
05/2: 2, Wondo Genet
07/2: +, Harena - Katcha camp area
527. Mountain Wagtail - *Motacilla clara clara*
29/1: 2, Portuguese Bridge area
30/1: 2, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
31/1: 3, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
1, Melka Ghebdu
05/2: 2, Wondo Genet
528. White Wagtail - *Motacilla alba alba* [sightings list incomplete]
29/1: 1, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
1, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
1, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - along main river
31/1: 2, Melka Ghebdu
08/2: 1, Filtu town (a: FI03)
11/2: 1, Dawa - 1st river stop (a: DA_Sp100)
17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Wabe Shabelle (a: LA01)
529. African Pied Wagtail - *Motacilla aguimp vidua* [sightings list incomplete]
30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - along main river
20/2: +, Gibe

21/2: +, Gibe

530. Abyssinian Longclaw - *Macronyx flavicollis* ET

- 29/1: 2, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
- 2, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
- 2, Sululta - Red-chested Swallow stream crossing (a: SU_BeC)
- 05/2: 2, Dinsho - pond (a: BD_Sp68).

531. African Pipit (Grassland Pipit)- *Anthus cinnamomeus*

- 29/1: 1, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
- 1, Sululta - N of Muketuri (a: SU_BeD)
- 10/2: +, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 17/2: 1, Lake Abiata - northern side (a: AB03)
- 18/2: 4, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

532. Tawny Pipit - *Anthus campestris campestris* [sightings list incomplete]

- 02/2: 5, Awash - plains
- 03/2: ++, Awash - southern part of loop
- 12/2: +, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 18/2: 1, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

533. Long-billed Pipit - *Anthus similis hararensis*

- 29/1: 1, Portuguese Bridge area - amidst scrub along path from hotel to bridge
- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Lomi River (a: JE_Sp20)
- 20/2: 2, Gibe Gorge - 4th afternoon stop (a: GI12)
- ⇒ These birds were strikingly dark overall, i.e. clearly darker than drawn in the *Birds of HoA* -- but it is indeed mentioned in the text that worn birds can be very dark.

534. Plain-backed Pipit - *Anthus leucophrys*

- 02/2: 2, Awash - southern part of loop
- 08/2: +++, Liben plain (a: LI09)
- 11/2: 1, stop near Soda (a: YA_BeF)
- 12/2: 1, Soda area (a: YA_BeG)
- 14/2: +, Yabello - morning walk around hotel
- 18/2: 1, Lake Langano - lakeside near container bridge (a: LA21)

535. Tree Pipit - *Anthus trivialis trivialis* [sightings list incomplete]

- 30/1: +, Jemma valley
- 04/2: 1, Rift valley stop (a: ZZ02)
- 20/2: +, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
- 5+, Gibe Gorge - 2nd afternoon stop (a: GI10)
- 20+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)

536. Red-throated Pipit - *Anthus cervinus rufogularis* [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: ++, Sululta
- 04/2: 1, Lake Ziway - pier

- 05/2: +, Wondo Genet to Dinsho - stop near Dodola (a: BD_Sp64)
- 16/2: 3, Along lake, just north of Awassa (a: AW09_Lake)
- 18/2: ++, Lake Koka - 1st stop (x: K001)
- 10+, Lake Koka - 4th stop (x: KO02)

537. Yellow-crowned Canary (Cape Canary) - *Serinus flavivertex*

- 06/2: 2, Harena - along main road near Katcha camp (close to a: BH-BeL)
- 07/2: 10+, Harena - along main road near Katcha camp, foraging in roadside

538. **Ethiopian Siskin** (Black-headed / Abyssinian Siskin) - *Serinus nigriceps* **ET**

- 29/1: 5, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
- 10, Sululta - Duber River (a: SU_Sp11)
- 06/2: 10+, Sanetti - first stop (a: BS_SP73)
- +, Sanetti - fourth stop, (a: BS08)

539. African Citril - *Crithagra citrinelloides citrinelloides* **NE**

- 29/1: 1, Debre libranos - fig tree (a: DL_Sp12)
- 30/1: 3, Jemma Valley - a: JE04 → JE_Sp18
- 04/2: 5, Wondo Genet
- 07/2: 2, Harena - Katcha camp area
- 19/2: 30, Lake Chelekleka

540. Yellow-rumped Seedeater (White-throated Seedeater) - *Serinus xanthopygius*

- 31/1: 15, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21).
- ⇒ We did not find this species in the area where De Temmerman et al (2009) had it (at x: JE07), nor along the Jemma river or at the Lomi river. Hence we were very relieved to eventually find them at Awar Wuha, where they appeared to be easy. We also did not see them in the Gibe Gorge, another potential site.

541. Reichenow's Seedeater - *Crithagra reichenowi* **NE**

- 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu - along the road beyond the river crossing (a: MG03)
- 08/2: 1 singing male, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)
- 10/2: 5, thicket between Negele and Liben plains (a: LI_Sp87)
- 12/2: 1, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
- 13/2: 30+, Arero forest (a: AR03)
- 18/2: 1, Bishangari - guided walk

542. **Yellow-throated Seedeater** - *Crithagra flavigula* **ET**

- 31/1: 3, Melka Ghebdu - on fields left (north) of the road immediately before the river crossing (a: MG_Sp28)
- 01/2: 2, Melka Ghebdu - along the road beyond the river crossing (x: MG03).

543. **Salvadori's Seedeater** - *Crithagra xantholaemus* **ET**

- 13/2: 2, Arero Forest, with a group of red-cheeked cordon-bleus (GSPx: AR05 & AR06)

544. Yellow-fronted Canary - *Crithagra mozambica*

- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - dry riverbed (a: JE09)
- 31/1: 5+, Jemma Valley - Awar Wuha (a: JE_Sp21)
1, Melka Ghebdu
- 20/2: 20, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
30+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)

545. Northern Grosbeak-Canary - *Crithagra donaldsoni* **NE**

- 12/2: 1 male, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
1, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)

546. White-bellied Canary - *Crithagra dorsostriata maculicollis* **NE**

- 12/2: 5+, Yabello (a: YA_BeB)
3, Yabello (a: YA_Sp110)
5+, Yabello (a: YA_Sp111)
- 17/2: 1, Lake Langano - Bekele Molla Hotel (a: LA05 & LA06)

547. Brown-rumped Seedeater - *Crithagra tristriatus* **EE** [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: +, Addis city - EthQua office
+, Sululta - stream crossing at a: SU02
- 30/1: 10, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 05/2: +, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
- 05/2: +, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)

548. Ankober Serin - *Crithagra ankoberensis* **ET**

- 30/1: ca10, Jemma Valley - at cliffs at x: JE04, 8am. De Temmerman et al (2009) saw Ankober Serins at almost exactly the same location (JE05), which is why we searched here.

549. Streaky Seedeater - *Crithagra striolatus striolatus* **NE** [sightings list incomplete]

- 29/1: +, Addis city - EthQua office
- 29/1: +, Portuguese Bridge area
- 30/1: 1, Jemma Valley - Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE04)
- 05/2: +, Dinsho - Cape Eagle-Owl spot (a: BD_Sp67)
- 05/2: +, Dinsho - guided walk around HQ area (a: BD06)
- 06/2: 10+, Sanetti - first stop (a: BS_SP73)

550. Ortolan Bunting - *Emberiza hortulana*

- 29/1: 10, Sululta - first stop (a: SU01)
- 19/2: +, along road through plains to Menagesha
- 20/2: 50+, Gibe Gorge - morning walk along river
40+, Gibe Gorge - 3rd afternoon stop (a: GI11)

551. Striolated Bunting - *Emberiza striolata striolata*

- 01/2: 2, Lake Besaka - lava fields along northern track (a: AS01)

552. Cinnamon-breasted Bunting - *Emberiza tahapisi tahapisi*

30/1: 10, Jemma Valley - Harwood's spot & Ankober Serin cliffs (a: JE03 & JE04)

553. Somali Bunting - *Emberiza poliopleura*

03/2: 1, Awash - southern part of loop

08/2: 4, Liben area - east of plains at Behrens F (LI_BeF)

ca10, Filtu - stop ca88km E of Negele (a: FI02)

09/2: 5+, Filtu - Salvadori's Serin track (a: FI_BeB)

09/2 +, Bogol Manyo - 2nd stop (a: BO_BeB)

Birds not seen (either searched for, or seen by many other trips):

Black Heron -- Lake Ziway, Lake Awassa, by over two thirds of the trips

Common Teal -- Rift Lakes, by over half of the trips

Tufted Duck -- Rift Lakes, by over two thirds of the trips

Lesser Kestrel -- throughout the country, by almost all trips

Secretary Bird -- Awash, Nechisar (, Ali Dege, Yabello), by over half of the trips

Golden Eagle -- Sanetti, by over half of the trips

Common Quail -- Awash, by over two thirds of the trips

Harlequin Quail -- Awash, by about a third of the trips

Common Buttonquail -- Awash and Nechisar, by about a quarter of the trips

Spotted Thick-knee -- Awash, Bilen, Filtu, Nechisar, by about half of the trips

Purple Gallinule -- Awassa, by about half of the trips

Allen's Gallinule -- Awassa, by about a quarter of the trips

African Scops Owl -- Awash, Bilen, Sof Omar, Yabello, Nechisar, by most trips

Giant Kingfisher -- Jemma and Melka Ghebdu, by almost all trips

Red-winged Lark -- Awash, by over two thirds of the trips

Red-chested Swallow -- Sululta and Dinsho, by about half of the trips

Grey Cuckoo-shrike -- Wondo Genet and Hareenna, by over two thirds of the trips

Somali Bulbul -- Afar Plains, Awash, Bilen, by three quarters of the trips (see main species list)

Willow Warbler -- throughout the country, seen by almost all trips

Boran Cisticola -- Liben, Yabello (, Awash, Langano), by all trips (see main species list)

Abyssinian Crimsonwing -- Hareenna, by over two thirds of the trips

Straw-tailed Whydah -- Awash, Arero, and Yabello, by over two thirds of the trips