



# ETHIOPIA TOUR REPORT

28<sup>th</sup> Nov to 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

## SUMMARY:

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

## Days 1 - 2 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November

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



The endemic Wattled Ibis

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

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



The stunning view at Debre Libanos

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

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

## Day 3 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November

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



The endemic Abyssinian Wheatear

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



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

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



Another endemic - Erlanger's Lark

## Day 4 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December

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



There was a mass of birds at the Cheleklaka Wetlands

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Saddle-billed Storks



## Day 5 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

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

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



African Pygmy Goose



An agitated Lesser Swamp Warbler

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

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

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



Cape Eagle Owl

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

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

## Day 6 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

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

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



Abyssinian Owl

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



## Day 7 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December



The Sanetti Plateau

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

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

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

## Day 8 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

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



Moorland Francolins



Chestnut-naped Francolins



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

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

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

## Day 9 Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

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



The very rare endemic Sidamo Lark

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

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

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

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

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

## Day 10 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

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

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



Golden-breasted Starling

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

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



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

## Day 11 Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December

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



Stresemann's Bushcrow can only be found in southern Ethiopia

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

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

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

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

## Day 12 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

## Day 13 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

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

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



Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

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

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



Northern Carmine Bee-eater

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



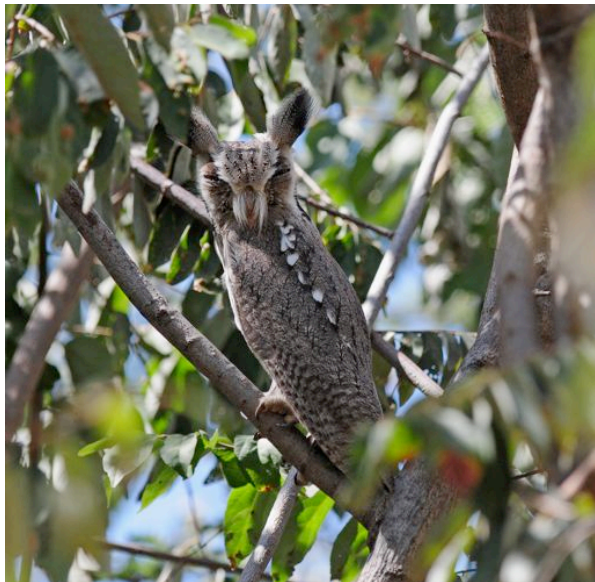
bush right above one of the bird baths and lingered just long enough for me to fire off a couple of shots. Stunning! Right after this bird had flown off, a superb **Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike** appeared in the acacia right next to us as well. And all of this had taken place whilst we sipped excellent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

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

## Day 14 Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

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

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



Northern White-faced Owl

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

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

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

## Day 15 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December

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



Hartlaub's Bustard at Awash National Park

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

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



Star-spotted Nightjar



## Day 16 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

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



Arabian Bustard

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

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

## Day 17 Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

# SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR ETHIOPIA

## NOV/DEC 2014

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

### STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae

Somali Ostrich

*Struthio molybdophanes*

### ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

Spur-winged Goose

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Knob-billed Duck

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

**Blue-winged Goose (Et)**

*Cyanochen cyanoptera*

Egyptian Goose

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Ruddy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea*

African Pygmy Goose

*Nettapus auritus*

Cape Teal

*Anas capensis*

Yellow-billed Duck

*Anas undulata*

Northern Shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

Red-billed Teal

*Anas erythrorhyncha*

Northern Pintail

*Anas acuta*

Garganey

*Anas querquedula*

Eurasian Teal

*Anas crecca*

Hottentot Teal

*Anas hottentota*

### GALLIFORMES: Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

*Numida meleagris*

Vulturine Guineafowl

*Acryllium vulturinum*

### GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Moorland Francolin

*Scleroptila psilolaema*

Crested Francolin

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

Scaly Francolin

*Pternistis squamatus*

**Harwood's Francolin (Et)**

*Pternistis harwoodi*

**Chestnut-naped Francolin (Et, So)**

***Pternistis castaneicollis***

**Erckel's Francolin (Et, Er)**

***Pternistis erckelii***

Yellow-necked Spurfowl

*Pternistis leucoscepus*

Common Quail (Heard Only)

*Coturnix coturnix*

### PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

### PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus roseus*

Lesser Flamingo

*Phoeniconaias minor*



**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

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

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

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

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

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*  
*Bostrychia hagedash*  
*Bostrychia carunculata*  
*Plegadis falcinellus*  
*Platalea alba*

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**

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

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

**PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae**

Hamerkop

*Scopus umbretta*

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**

Great White Pelican  
Pink-backed Pelican

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
*Pelecanus rufescens*

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Reed Cormorant  
White-breasted Cormorant

*Microcarbo africanus*  
*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

**SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**

African Darter

*Anhinga rufa*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Sagittariidae**

Secretarybird

*Sagittarius serpentarius*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Western Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

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

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

**OTIDIFORMES: Otididae**

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

*Ardeotis arabs*  
*Ardeotis kori*  
*Eupodotis senegalensis*  
*Lophotis gindiana*  
*Lissotis hartlaubii*

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Rouget's Rail (Et, Er)

*Rougetius rougetii*



Black Crane  
Common Moorhen  
Red-knobbed Coot

*Amaurornis flavirostra*  
*Gallinula chloropus*  
*Fulica cristata*

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Black Crowned Crane  
Wattled Crane  
Common Crane

*Balearica pavonina*  
*Grus carunculata*  
*Grus grus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Senegal Thick-knee

*Burhinus senegalensis*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt  
Pied Avocet

*Himantopus himantopus*  
*Recurvirostra avosetta*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

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

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

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

African Jacana

*Actophilornis africanus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

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

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

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

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

*Cursorius temminckii*  
*Rhinoptilus cinctus*  
*Glareola pratincola*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

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

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

**PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae**

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

*Pterocles exustus*  
*Pterocles decoratus*  
*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

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

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

**MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae**

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

*Tauraco leucotis*  
*Tauraco ruspolii*  
*Corythaixoides personatus*  
*Corythaixoides leucogaster*

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

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

*Centropus monachus*  
*Centropus superciliosus*  
*Clamator glandarius*  
*Clamator levaillantii*  
*Chrysococcyx caprius*

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

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

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

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

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

*Caprimulgus fraenatus*  
*Caprimulgus donaldsoni*  
*Caprimulgus stellatus*  
*Caprimulgus clarus*

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

African Palm Swift  
Alpine Swift  
Mottled Swift  
Common Swift  
Nyanza Swift

*Cypsiurus parvus*  
*Tachymarptis melba*  
*Tachymarptis aequatorialis*  
*Apus apus*  
*Apus niansae*

**COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird  
Blue-naped Mousebird

*Colius striatus*  
*Urocolius macrourus*

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Narina Trogon

*Apaloderma narina*

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Purple Roller  
Lilac-breasted Roller  
Abyssinian Roller

*Coracias naevius*  
*Coracias caudatus*  
*Coracias abyssinicus*

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

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

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

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

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

*Merops pusillus*  
*Merops variegatus*  
*Merops apiaster*



Northern Carmine Bee-eater

*Merops nubicus*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe

*Upupa epops*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae**

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe

*Phoeniculus somaliensis*

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

*Rhinopomastus minor*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Hemprich's Hornbill

*Tockus hemprichii*

African Grey Hornbill

*Tockus nasutus*

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

*Tockus flavirostris*

Von der Decken's Hornbill

*Tockus deckeni*

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

*Bycanistes brevis*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae**

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

**PICIFORMES: Lybiidae**

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

Red-fronted Barbet

*Tricholaema diademata*

Black-throated Barbet

*Tricholaema melanocephala*

**Banded Barbet (Et, Er)**

*Lybius undatus*

Black-billed Barbet

*Lybius guifsobalito*

Double-toothed Barbet

*Lybius bidentatus*

Red-and-yellow Barbet

*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

Yellow-breasted Barbet

*Trachyphonus margaritatus*

D'Arnaud's Barbet

*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

Green-backed Honeybird

*Prodotiscus zambesiae*

Scaly-throated Honeyguide

*Indicator variegatus*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Eurasian Wryneck

*Jynx torquilla*

Red-throated Wryneck

*Jynx ruficollis*

Nubian Woodpecker

*Campethera nubica*

Cardinal Woodpecker

*Dendropicos fuscescens*

Bearded Woodpecker

*Dendropicos namaquus*

Eastern Grey Woodpecker

*Dendropicos spodocephalus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Pygmy Falcon

*Polihierax semitorquatus*

Lesser Kestrel

*Falco naumanni*

Common Kestrel

*Falco tinnunculus*

Grey Kestrel

*Falco ardosiaceus*

Amur Falcon  
Lanner Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon

*Falco amurensis*  
*Falco biarmicus*  
*Falco peregrinus*

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

*Agapornis taranta*  
*Poicephalus flavifrons*

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

*Batis orientalis*  
*Batis erlangeri*  
*Batis perkeo*  
*Platysteira cyanea*

**PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae**  
White-crested Helmetshrike

*Prionops plumatus*

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

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**  
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike

*Campephaga phoenicea*

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

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

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

*Oriolus monacha*  
*Oriolus larvatus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

Fork-tailed Drongo

*Dicrurus adsimilis***PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

African Paradise Flycatcher

*Terpsiphone viridis***PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae****Stresemann's Bushcrow (Et)**

Red-billed Chough

Cape Crow

Pied Crow

Somali Crow

Fan-tailed Raven

**Thick-billed Raven (Et, Er)***Zavattariornis stresemanni**Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax**Corvus capensis**Corvus albus**Corvus edithae**Corvus rhipidurus**Corvus crassirostris***PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

White-winged Black Tit

**White-backed Black Tit (Et, Er)**

Acacia (Northern Grey) Tit

*Melaniparus leucomelas**Melaniparus leuconotus**Melaniparus thruppi***PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae**

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit

*Anthoscopus musculus***PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark

Foxy Lark

**Sidamo Lark (Et)**

Singing Bush Lark

Gillett's Lark

Short-tailed Lark

Thekla Lark

**Erlanger's Lark (Et)**

Somali Short-toed Lark

*Eremopterix leucotis**Eremopterix signatus**Calendulauda alopex**Heteromiraфра sidamoensis**Miraфра cantillans**Miraфра gilletti**Spizocorys fremantlii**Galerida theklae**Calandrella erlangeri**Alaudala somalica***PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Common Bulbul

Dodson's Bulbul

Dark-capped Bulbul

Northern Brownbul

*Pycnonotus barbatus**Pycnonotus dodsoni**Pycnonotus tricolor**Phyllastrephus strepitans***PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Black Saw-wing

Brown-throated Martin

Sand Martin

Barn Swallow

Ethiopian Swallow

Wire-tailed Swallow

*Psalidoprocne pristoptera**Riparia paludicola**Riparia riparia**Hirundo rustica**Hirundo aethiopica**Hirundo smithii*



**White-tailed Swallow (Et)**

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

*Hirundo megaensis*  
*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
*Delichon urbicum*  
*Cecropis abyssinica*  
*Cecropis daurica*

**PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae**

Northern Crombec  
Red-faced Crombec  
Somali Crombec

*Sylvietta brachyura*  
*Sylvietta whytii*  
*Sylvietta isabellina*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Brown Woodland Warbler (Heard Only)  
Willow Warbler  
Common Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus umbrovirens*  
*Phylloscopus trochilus*  
*Phylloscopus collybita*

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Lesser Swamp Warbler  
Sedge Warbler  
Marsh Warbler  
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*  
*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
*Acrocephalus palustris*  
*Iduna pallida*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler

*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

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

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

Rufous Chatterer  
White-rumped Babbler

*Turdoides rubiginosa*  
*Turdoides leucopygia*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

**Abyssinian Catbird (Et)**

*Parophasma galinieri*

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

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

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

*Zosterops abyssinicus abyssinicus*  
*Zosterops abyssinicus jubaensis*  
*Zosterops poliogastrus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

African Spotted Creeper

*Salpornis salvadori*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

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

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae**

Red-billed Oxpecker

*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

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

*Geokichla piaggiae*  
*Turdus litsitsirupa*  
*Turdus pelios*  
*Turdus tephronotus*  
*Turdus abyssinicus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

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

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

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

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

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

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

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

*Bubalornis niger*  
*Dinemellia dinemelli*  
*Sporopipes frontalis*  
*Amblyospiza albifrons*  
*Ploceus baglafecht*  
*Ploceus luteolus*



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

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae**

Village Indigobird  
Straw-tailed Whydah  
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

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

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

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

*Vidua chalybeata*  
*Vidua fischeri*  
*Vidua paradisaea*

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

Red-throated Pipit

*Anthus cervinus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**

African Citril

**Yellow-rumped Seedeater (Er, Et)**

Reichenow's Seedeater

White-bellied Canary

Northern Grosbeak-Canary

Brown-rumped Seedeater

Streaky Seedeater

Yellow-crowned Canary

**Ethiopian Siskin (Et)**

*Crithagra citrinelloides*

*Crithagra xanthopygia*

*Crithagra reichenowi*

*Crithagra dorsostriata*

*Crithagra donaldsoni*

*Crithagra tristriata*

*Crithagra striolata*

*Serinus flavivertex*

*Serinus nigriceps*

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

Ortolan Bunting

Striolated Bunting

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Somali Bunting

*Emberiza hortulana*

*Emberiza striolata*

*Emberiza tahapisi*

*Emberiza polioptera*

## **SYSTEMATIC MAMMAL & OTHER ANIMALS LIST**

Eastern Black-and-white Colobus

Hamadryas Baboon

Olive Baboon

Gelada Baboon

Vervet Monkey

Abyssinian Hare

Starck's Hare

Unstriped Ground Squirrel

Gambian Sun Squirrel

Giant Root Rat

Blick's Grass Rat

Golden Jackal

Black-backed Jackal

Ethiopian Wolf

Bat-eared Fox

Dwarf Mongoose

White-tailed Mongoose

Spotted Hyena

Common Genet

Wild Cat

Ethiopian Rock Hyrax

Yellow-spotted Hyrax

Common Warthog

Menelik's Bushbuck

*Colobus guerza*

*Papio hamadryas*

*Papio Anubis*

*Papio gelada*

*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

*Lepus starcki*

*Xerus rutilus*

*Heliosciurus gambianus*

*Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

*Arvicanthis blicki*

*Canis aureus*

*Canis mesomelas*

*Canis simensis*

*Otocyon megalotis*

*Helogale parvula*

*Ichneumia albicauda*

*Crocuta crocuta*

*Genetta genetta*

*Felis sylvestris*

*Procavia habessinica*

*Heterophyrax brucei*

*Phacochoerus Africana*

*Tragelaphus meneliki*

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

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



Ethiopian Wolves on the Sanetti Plateau





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