



## ETHIOPIA TOUR REPORT

18<sup>th</sup> Nov to 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Moorland Francolin
- 90+ Abdim's Storks
- Lammergeier
- Verreaux's Eagle
- Great Sparrowhawk
- Rouget's Rail
- Arabian Bustard
- Double-banded Courser
- Somali Courser
- Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse
- Lesser Jacana
- Spot-breasted Lapwing
- African White-winged Dove
- Ruspoli's Turaco
- Abyssinian Owl
- Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar
- Plain Nightjar
- Banded Barbet
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide
- Abyssinian Woodpecker
- Yellow-fronted Parrot
- Yellow-breasted Barbet
- Abyssinian Oriole
- Stresemann's Bushcrow
- Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit
- Sidamo Lark
- White-tailed Swallow
- Red-naped Bush-shrike
- African Spotted Creeper
- Abyssinian Catbird
- Sharpe's Starling
- Abyssinian Ground Thrush
- Spotted Palm-Thrush
- White-winged Cliff Chat
- Abyssinian Wheatear
- Nile Valley Sunbird
- Red-billed Pytilia
- Purple Grenadier
- Abyssinian Longclaw
- Salvadori's Seedeater
- Hippopotamus
- Bat-eared Fox
- Serval
- Simien Wolf

### SUMMARY:

Once again Ethiopia proved to be a superb birding destination and quite literally birds were everywhere! Despite the drought affecting most of the wetlands we recorded more birds than ever before on this tour and we saw 472 species, of which 35 were endemics. The tour began amidst the stunning landscapes of Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley and produced Harwood's Francolin, Half-collared Kingfisher, Abyssinian Wheatear, Red-billed Pytilia and the first of two sightings of Serval during the tour. Moving south into the African Rift Valley we visited Lake Ziway where you get incredible close encounters with pelicans, storks and ibis. As ever, Spotted Creeper was a star find alongside Lake Hawassa before we headed up into the Bale Mountains and the spectacular scenery of the Sanetti Plateau. Such stars as Abyssinian Owl, Abyssinian Oriole, Abyssinian Catbird, Abyssinian Woodpecker and the ridiculously tame Rouget's Rail showed very well, as did Salvadori's Seedeater at Sof Omar. The journey south was sprinkled with stardust in the shape of Ruspoli's Turaco and Sidamo Lark. And Yabello didn't disappoint with White-tailed Swallow, Stresemann's Bushcrow, Red-naped Bushshrike and a Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar in my spotlight. It's a long trek north to fabulous Bishangari where Yellow-fronted Parrot, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Lesser Jacana, 3 Hippos and a fantastic shorebird-filled marsh stand out in our memories. We ended up at Awash National Park with Arabian Bustard, Nile Valley Sunbird and a surprise find in Double-banded Courser being the stand-out birds. Our tours to fabulous bird-filled Ethiopia just keep getting better and better!

### Days 1 - 2 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November

Following a direct, seven hour flight from London to Addis Ababa we arrived at 6.30am and once our vehicles arrived we quickly loaded our luggage and headed the short distance to the Ghion Hotel. We met up with Barbara who had flown in from Canada last night, had a quick breakfast and enjoyed some nice birds in the garden such as **Mountain Thrush, Dusky Turtle Dove, Brown-rumped** and **Streaky Seedeaters, Baglafaecht Weaver, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, Wattled Ibis, Speckled Mousebird** and some other common species. Then we headed up and out of Addis Ababa and onto the wide open Sululta Plain and stopped at some pools where we enjoyed a nice little session with **African Snipe, Yellow-billed Duck, Blue-winged Goose, more Wattled Ibis, Wood, Marsh and Green Sandpipers, African Snipe, Temminck's Stints** and lots of the endemic **White-collared Pigeon**. Nearby a long-dead carcass was attracting numerous **Hooded Vultures**, with 4 **Lappet-faced**, several **Ruppell's Griffon**, some **White-backed** and overhead a fine **White-headed Vulture** was quite stunning in the sunshine. There were plenty of **Tawny Eagles** flying around and some landed nearby, with a 1<sup>st</sup> year **Steppe Eagle** and the first of several **Lanner** sightings here as well.

Then we drove a short distance and took a side track towards a 'wet' area where **Three-banded Plover, White-winged Tern, African Spoonbill, White Stork, Black-headed Heron, Nyanza Swift**, lots of **Isabelline Wheatears**, and best of all **Black Crowned Crane** and **Erlanger's Lark**. We walked around the grassland in search of longclaws, which frustratingly turned up a blank although our first **Ethiopian Cisticola** was rather obliging and **Red-throated Pipits** were numerous. We spent the next few hours continuing our drive across the plains and stopping for anything noteworthy with **Red-breasted Wheatear** and a group of **Black-winged Lapwings** being the pick of good bunch.



Lappet-faced Vulture

But events then got even better when we stopped to scan along a small stream and found a flock of **Yellow Bishops** in non-breeding plumage, as well as **Tawny-flanked Prinia, Ethiopian Swallow, Thekla Lark**, a couple of **Ortolan Buntings** and a pair of stunning **Abyssinian Longclaws**. Result!

Upon reaching the Ethio-German Hotel at Debre Libanos we ordered our rather late lunch and savoured the amazing view. Lots of **Ruppell's Griffon Vultures** were patrolling the skies, a superb **Lammergeier** showed well, and we also saw **African Goshawk**, both **Wahlberg's** and **Tawny Eagles, Common Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon** and **Pallid Harrier** as well. A troop of **Gelada Baboons** were the non-avian highlight, much to Mark's delight. In fact we spent the remainder of the day just scanning the skies and enjoying closer and closer vultures and **Fan-tailed Ravens**. In the bushes in front of us we had **Common Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap**, some showy **Ethiopian Boubous, Northern Fiscal, Variable Sunbird**, whilst **Ruppell's Robin-Chat** was also seen by a few of the group. Walking down to the Portuguese Bridge we found **Verreaux's Eagle, Blue Rock Thrush, Slender-billed** and the endemic **White-billed Starling, Hemprich's Hornbill**, a group of endemic **White-winged Cliff-Chats** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. Just before it got dark a **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** flew by and a skein of **Common Cranes** flying in V-formation flew over as well. The day was capped off nicely with a buffet in a nearby restaurant and some nice cold beers. What a day!

### Day 3 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

It always hurts to get up stupidly early and when my alarm sounded at 3.30am – it did hurt. With no electricity on and thus no lights I groped around in the dark to pack my case. But all was well and we left just after 4 am on the 1h 45 min drive to the Jemmu Valley but what a drive this turned out to be as we had numerous **Starck's Hares, Ethiopian Klipspringer, Common Jackal** and best of all a superb **Serval** walking next to the road before crossing right in front of us. We arrived at the Jemmu Valley at first light and then with the help of

several local lads scored with scope views of a pair of the endemic and much-wanted **Harwood's Francolins** below us. An **Erckel's Francolin** quickly followed, along with **Abyssinian Wheatear** and **Long-billed Pipit**. A nice field breakfast with hot coffee was much appreciated before we drove down through the valley and boy was the scenery spectacular. At some cliffs we had a close flyover from a **Verreaux's Eagle**, another **Lammergeier**, with **African Harrier Hawk**, **Egyptian Vulture** and **Booted Eagle** also at the same spot, and a surprising **Blue-headed Coucal** in totally untypical habitat. Moving lower into the valley we made a few stops, seeing **Dark-chanting Goshawk**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Turkestan Shrike**, **Steppe Grey Shrike**, **Woodchat Shrike**, lots of **African Silverbills** and **Speckle-fronted Weavers**, and quite a few **Mocking Cliff Chats**.

A quick check at a dry riverbed produced **Northern Crombec**, **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, **Bush Petronia** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. Along the main river were 2 **Woolly-necked Storks**, a **Yellow-billed Stork**, and several **Wire-tailed Swallows** flying around, plus our first **Black-billed Barbets**. But we didn't linger as the day was getting really warm and I still wanted to spend the rest of the morning at a different location.

Along a narrow stream we set off in search of some truly rare birds and got really lucky with a **Half-collared Kingfisher** perched up nicely in the scope for ages, and next to it was a **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, 2 **Malachite Kingfishers** and a **Hamerkop**. As we staked this area out, birds just kept appearing but the other biggie was a stunning **Red-billed Pytilia** perched above us for a few minutes and the views in the scope were very nice to say the least. Another bogey bird bites the dust! The same area was buzzing and we also had more whydahs, **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**, **Village Indigobird**, **Bruce's Green-Pigeon**, **Blue-spotted Wood-Dove**, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Northern Black Flycatcher**, **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-backed Cameroptera**, and more **Red-billed Firefinches**



Wattled Ibis

and **Crimson-rumped Waxbills**. But by now it was hot and lunch was overdue so we returned to the vehicles, seeing **Black Stork**, **Black-winged Red Bishop**, an immature **Klaas's Cuckoo**, and amazingly a **Foxy Cisticola** before driving on down to the river. Here we were treated to a fine trio of **African Fish Eagle**, **Bateleur** and **Martial Eagle** flying by, followed by a pair of **Senegal Thick-knees** - a great spot from Mark. After a good picnic lunch sat in our chairs underneath a large, leafy tree we drove back towards Addis Ababa, seeing **Pallid Harrier**, another **Abyssinian Longclaw**, several huge **Thick-billed Ravens**, and some more **Wattled Ibis**.

#### Day 4 Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Having 'bigged up' the potential birding opportunities of the rift Valley Lakes today it was a little deflating to see how the drought had reduced water levels and hence the number of birds. Lake Cheleklaka was virtually dry and we had to find a few secluded pools where we did actually see a decent selection of birds. A pair of **African Quailfinches** were probably the best birds, but there was also **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Glossy Ibis**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Greater Spotted**, **Lesser Spotted**, **Booted** and **Steppe Eagles**, **European Honey Buzzard**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Little Stints**, **Pied Avocet**, **Ruffs** and **Gull-billed Tern**. Numerous **Marabou Storks** were also in evidence, as well as a few **Common Cranes**, a non-breeding flock of **Northern Red Bishops** & **Red-billed Queleas**, lots of **African Citril Finches** feeding in the weeds, **Chestnut Sparrow**, **Vitelline Masked Weaver**, **Grassland Pipit** and a **Sedge Warbler**.

So we drove to a viewpoint over the other side of the lake and scoped lots of distant blobs in the haze and amongst the species we could identify were both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **White-faced** and **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks**, **Red-billed Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, **Shoveler**, **Common Teal**, **Crested Coot**, **Little Grebe** and **Alpine Swift**. Leaving here we drove to Koka Dam, where again the dry conditions meant the lakeshore was a distant shimmering haze but we did see our first **Ruppell's Starling**, **Common Snipe** and

**Abyssinian Roller**, whilst a **Long-crested Eagle** was seen on the drive. From here we drove to Ziway and had a nice lunch with **African Harrier Hawk**, **Black-billed Wood-Hoopoe**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Beautiful Sunbird**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers** and **African Thrush** in the garden. The nearby fish market held the usual amazingly close **Great White Pelicans** and **Marabou Storks**, with **African Sacred Ibis**, **Little Egret**, **Little Ringed Plover** and a fine **Northern Carmine Bee-eater** perched up in the scope. Moving on we stopped in a nice part of Acacia forest and quickly scored **Red-fronted Barbet**, **Little Rock Thrush**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **White-winged Black Tit**, **Brubru**, **Superb** and **Wattled Starlings**, and a confiding **Stout Cisticola**. It was then a longish drive to our usual hotel on the shores of Lake Hawassa.

#### Day 5 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December



White-backed Duck

Birded the gardens before breakfast and walked out onto the trail alongside Lake Hawassa turning up a fine selection of great birds including **African Pygmy Goose**, **White-backed Duck**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **African Reed Warbler**, **African Hobby**, **Northern Grosbeak Weaver**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Common Waxbill**, **African Darter**, **Black Crake**, **Nubian Woodpecker**, **Double-toothed Barbet**, **Little and Spectacled Weavers**, **Woodland Kingfisher** and **Dark-capped Yellow Warbler**. There were also lots of other previously seen species with **Montagu's Harrier** and **African Fish Eagle** showing well. Back in the gardens we saw **Buff-bellied Warbler**, **Western Black-headed Batis** and during breakfast our main target bird, **Spotted Creeper** put in an appearance, along with the endemic **Banded Barbet** at a nest hole.

Breakfast was a stop-start affair as we kept being interrupted by all of these birds! Even loading the luggage into the vehicles wasn't straightforward as a few **Black-winged Lovebirds** were seen and provided our best views so far.

Then we drove up into the Bale Mountains seeing more roadside **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**, **Grey-backed Fiscal**, a fine **Pallid Harrier**, with some superb close views of a **White-headed Vulture** feeding on a carcass. Lunch was taken at Dodola with **Thick-billed Ravens** flying around the rooftops of the village and then we drove higher up, stopping to watch a very low flying **Lammergeier** and another pair of **Thick-Billed Ravens**. The **Cape Eagle Owl** has now disappeared at its traditional haunt so we continued on to a small pool where **Rouget's Rail** and a very impressive flock of **Spot-breasted Lapwings** totalling 87 were present, and there was also **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Blue-winged Goose** and **Yellow-billed Duck** on view. At Dinsho we had a route march to see a **Cape Eagle Owl**, before a superb **Abyssinian Owl** was shown to us by the local ranger at its day roost in a thick conifer, followed by a roosting **African Wood Owl**. We also managed to find the endemic **White-backed Black Tit** and get a brief look at the endemic **Abyssinian Catbird** here as well.

#### Day 6 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

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**. We drove up to the Sanetti plateau after breakfast and spent a pleasant morning in beautiful clear sunshine beginning with the sometimes-tricky **Abyssinian Woodpecker** and a very confiding **Abyssinian Catbird** en-route. Higher up we had **African Snipe**, **Rouget's Rail**, **Chestnut-naped Francolin**, and a group of **Moorland Francolins** skulking beside a small pond. **Augur Buzzards** were common up here, and there was also **Tawny Eagle**, **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Green** and **Wood Sandpipers**, **Thekla Lark**, **Moorland Chats**, **Ethiopian Siskin**, and numerous close views of **Ethiopian Wolf**. Dropping down into Haremma Forest we found **Bale Parisoma** quite easily and even a **Malachite Sunbird** before stopping in the village where **Yellow-crowned Canary**, **Cinnamon-bracken Warbler** and a flyover **Golden Eagle** showed well.

Lunch was taken beside the road and we tried hard to find some birds but in the hot weather couldn't pick out anything new, so returned back over the Sanetti Plateau and birded the lower slopes above Goba. There were

lots of birds around a small puddle where we saw a flock of **Common Waxbills**, a **Blackcap**, some fine **Yellow-bellied Waxbills** and a **Baglafaecht Weaver** coming to drink and a **Cinnamon-bracken Warbler** even put in a brief appearance. In the field next to us a displaying **Yellow Bishop** was very nice, and a male **Pin-tailed Whydah** was displaying to his harem. We ended the day with a **Rufous-throated Wryneck** spotted by Mark and a scope view of a probable **Barbary Falcon** perched at the top of a distant tree.

#### Day 7 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Left hotel at 4.20am and drove for 3 hours along a really uncomfortable bumpy road to Sof Omar. We had one stop along the way for a toilet break but this is Ethiopia and there are birds everywhere, so it's always dangerous to stop! But it was nice to see species such as **Bristle-crowned Starling**, **Slate-coloured Boubou**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike** and **White-browed Coucal** here. As soon as we arrived at Sof Omar we quickly located **Grey-headed Batis**, the endemic **Brown-tailed Rock-Chat**, male **Red-headed Weaver**, **Shining Sunbird** and **Acacia Tit**. We walked along a rocky track and came across a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** perched nearby in an Acacia along with a rather showy **Northern Brownbul**, before Jenny spotted the singing **Salvadori's Seedeater** we were trying to locate and then Martin picked it up again on the hillside above us, and boy did it show off its yellow throat and black stripe well.



Salvadori's Seedeater

Around the pool we had another owlet, with a pair of **Collared Sunbirds**, a noisy gang of **White-crested Helmetshrikes**, **Yellow-spotted Petronia** and a **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**. We enjoyed a cracking field breakfast cooked by our excellent drivers in the shade of some large Acacias, accompanied by great coffee, a calling **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** and **Orange-bellied Parrot**. Then we walked further up the valley and saw a flyover **African Hawk-Eagle** and a noisy group of **White-rumped Babblers**. Having been chilly when we first arrived it was now getting hot and bird activity dropped quite dramatically, but we still managed to pull out a **Black-throated Barbet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker** and **African Grey Flycatcher**. In

a shady spot there were numerous **Crimson-rumped Waxbills**, firefinches and cordon-bleus, and amazingly another **Salvadori's Seedeater**.

So we left on the long and bumpy drive back to Goba and on to Dinsho, seeing **Pallid Harrier**, **Straw-tailed Whydah**, **Golden-breasted Starling**, **Northern White-crowned Shrike**, **White-headed buffalo-Weavers**, **White-bellied Go-Away-Bird** and **Red-breasted Wheatears**, but we didn't want to stop too much and got back to Dinsho at 3.30pm. Here we met up with a local guide who took us to a site where a pair of **Abyssinian Woodpeckers** showed very well, but we were all amazed with a daytime **Serval** walking through the tall grass at the edge of the forest. There were also **Mountain Nyala**, **Menelik's Bushbuck**, **Warthogs** and **Colobus Monkeys** here as well. We also got another **White-backed Black-Tit** which Martin appreciated, as well as **Montane White-eyes**, **Abyssinian Catbird** and **Brown Woodland Warbler** before heading back to the 'Wobby Shabelle' Hotel in Goba accompanied by some great tunes.....!

#### Day 8 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Breakfast was at 5am before heading back across the Sanetti Plateau and down into Harena Forest, seeing **Chestnut-naped Francolin**, **Spot-breasted Lapwing**, **Abyssinian Longclaw** and **Rouget's Rail** along the way. After a very cold start the day began to warm up once we began birding, seeing our first **Eastern Grey Woodpecker**, whilst another **White-backed Black Tit** was also seen well. Moving lower we quickly located a singing **Ethiopian Oriole** and watched it feeding in the canopy of moss-encrusted branches for a while and followed this with great views of a cracking **White-cheeked Turaco**. What a bird that is! Further down we

began a longish walk and this turned out to be very slow apart from **Ruppell's Robin-Chat** and a couple views of **Abyssinian Crimsonwing** for some of the group. We drove on a bit lower and promptly produced a pair of **Sharpe's Starlings** that were visiting a nesting hole – star bird! We also saw **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** and **Black-and-white Mannikin** here as well.

Driving out of the forest into the lowlands dominated by Acacia forest we stopped in Dolomena for some cool sodas, and saw a high-flying **Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** with a **Grey-headed Batis** in a tree right next to us. Our first **Red-collared Widowbird** was next up before stopping for lunch in the shade of some trees, which turned into a great affair as this area was alive with birds. In between mouthfuls of sandwiches we found **Von Der Decken's Hornbill**, **Straw-tailed** and **Pin-tailed Whydahs**, **Shelley's Starling**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Grey-headed** and **Rosy-patched Bush-Shrikes**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**, **Cardinal** and **Nubian Woodpeckers**, **White-headed Buffalo-Weaver** and **Somali Bunting**.

There followed a long drive into the late afternoon, with just a couple of stops for a close **Red-and-yellow Barbet** perched on a Termite mound and a fine **Purple Roller**, before we got to our appointed spot. Here with the help of a 'few' locals notched up one of the star birds of the trip in a perched and duly scoped **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** that after a bit of a hunt gave walk away views. A **Black-headed Oriole** also in the same tree was a nice bonus.

#### **Day 9 Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

This was one of those special days you get once in a while (well it seems quite often these days really...!) when everything falls into place. We set out at just a little after 5.30am and drove for around 35 minutes to the Liben Plains, parked up and set out to find the exceedingly rare **Sidamo Lark**. We had just seen a close **Somali Short-toed Lark** as well as several **Crowned Lapwings** and **African Grey Hornbills** when one of the children from the nearby houses started pointing as one of the elders beckoned us over and there right in front of us was a **Sidamo Lark** – wow! It was only 5 metres away feeding in the short grass and we watched it for a good 20 minutes before it walked even closer towards us, giving point-blank views. We backed off and then it began to do its song-flight from about 10 metres above the ground, legs dangling. Meanwhile our drivers had prepared an excellent field breakfast of scrambled eggs, bread and jam and hot coffee. Most excellent and I have to say that our ground crew have been doing a sterling job of looking after us so well.



**The very rare Sidamo Lark**

During breakfast some **Superb Starlings** got very curious and came in really close, with one landing on my scope! Then we walked across the plains and had a fine **Isabelline Shrike**, **Somali Crows**, oh and did I mention the endemic **White-tailed Swallows** we scoped perched up on a hedge, with **Ethiopian Swallows** flying around us as well? Anyway, we walked down to the main road and had a look at a flock of **Lesser Kestrels** hunting over the grassland, and had nice views of **Pectoral-patch Cisticola**. Then we drove to the nearby lake and found 5 **Abdim's Storks**, an **African Openbill**, **Comb Ducks**, **Red-billed Ducks**, **Red-knobbed Coots** and a flock of **Collared Pratincoles**. As we drove out of this site we stopped to view a distant thermal of birds that looked interesting and they turned out to be a congregation of 90+ Abdim's Storks - quite extraordinary. Driving further along the road we passed through Acacia forest and then more open grassland, finding a few **Kori's Bustards**, and at a random stop **White-crowned Shrikes**, **Lilac-breasted Roller**, many **Boran Cisticolas**, **Striped**

**Kingfisher**, **Black-winged Kite**, and a close **Short-toed Eagle** that flew very low over us. Moving on there were even more **Kori Bustards**, and a fab group of 7 **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills** in a roadside field. Returning towards Negelle another random stop gave us 3 **Ruspoli's Turaco's**, this time we were all on our own without the melee of local villagers all trying hard to help us. And Lee spotted a few **Rufous Chatterers** here as well.



**Ruspoli's Turaco**

Lunch in town was pretty good and then we visited a new area of Acacia forest and enjoyed the finest spell of birding of the tour so far. It was still hot when we arrived, but still managed to get a **Buff-crested Bustard** walking in front of us, **Scaly Francolins** showing well, more **Shelley's Starlings**, and then dug out a nice group of confiding **Rufous Chatterers**, **Lesser Masked Weavers**, an **Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike** and a flock of noisy **White-rumped Babblers**. Then we had a **Bare-faced Thrush**, **Red-faced Crombec** and **Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit** coming in to the owl call. Walking on we had a short sharp shower during which we sheltered under a large, dense tree. Once the sun was back out it was dripping birds and we had a singing pair of **Spotted**

**Palm-Thrushes**, followed by crippling looks at a **Grey Wren-Warbler** right out in the open, **Northern Puffback** and a **Little Bee-eater**. At this spot a hulking **Grey-headed Bush-Shrike** posed at the top of a tree, a pair of **Sooty Boubou's** were always on view and a pair of **Jacobin Cuckoos** were scoped. And then it really kicked off. Firstly a flock of **Chestnut Weavers**, an **Eurasian Wryneck** and **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** were found by John & Jenny, and then a huge commotion behind us was a flock of **Vitelline Masked Weavers**, **Red-faced Crombec**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**, a pair of **Cardinal Woodpeckers** and **Marico Sunbird** all in one line, leafless tree mobbing my speaker. Unbelievable. Walking back to the cars and we had more views of several species of weaver, and then a **Levaillant's Cuckoo** began calling and flew in close beside us for a nice finale.

#### **Day 10 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Left Negelle at 4.30am and drove along the worst, bumpy dirt-track of the tour to date, which made it a long and tiring drive to the Dawa River. We did make a couple of stops for a **Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah** and **Yellow-necked Spurfowl** calling from a Termite mound but we really wanted to push on to the river before it got too hot. But then Lee spotted a **Pygmy Falcon** perched beside the road and once our three cars assembled at the spot we had good scope views, with **Lesser Kudu** and **Gunther's DikDik** also being seen here. There was also a tree with **Hunter's Sunbird**, **Pygmy Batis**, **Violet-backed Sunbird** and a **D'Arnaud's Barbet** appearing simultaneously. One of our cars also had a **Black-faced Sandgrouse** as well on the drive.

Well, we eventually reached the river and spent the next couple of hours exploring the area for **Juba Weaver**, which we failed to locate this time. However, there were plenty of other great birds present including the other main prize in this area - **White-winged Dove**. Also here were **Grey Kestrel** and a fine **Black-bellied Sunbird** before we had our picnic breakfast. Afterwards, it went pretty quiet as the temperature soared but we still managed to find **White-browed Scrub-Robin**, **White-crowned Shrike** and **Pale Prinia**, with **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Martial Eagle** and **Bateleur** flying over. Our hot walk around the thorn-scrub eventually paid dividends when we located a pair of **Pringle's Puffback** that showed reasonably well before it was time to leave and continue our journey south.

The drive south to Yabello seemed to go on forever, with amazingly long stretches of dirt road continuing to the horizon and beyond! So there followed a series of short stops to check out any interesting birds, with a colony of **Black-capped Social-Weavers** and a few **Vitelline Masked Weavers** next up. Around a small village

we had permission to walk into one of the gardens where great views of **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush**, **White-tailed Swallow**, **White-browed Scrub-robin**, **D'Arnaud's Barbet** and **Brubru** were enjoyed by all. Back on the road we saw a few groups of **Vulturine Guinea fowl** before reaching a good spot for a late picnic lunch in the shade of a huge tree.

As we approached the Soda Plains an **Eastern Chanting Goshawk** showed really well beside the road. Out on the plains the habitat changed to typical African savanna with wide open views and the odd Acacia dotted across the landscape. Some great spotting produced a pair of **Somali Coursers** and a few endemic **Stresemann's Bushcrows**. Further scanning revealed some distant **Somali Ostrich**, as well as **Somali Fiscal**, a cracking **Foxy Lark** and a few **Shelley's Sparrows**. Non-avian highlights were numerous **Bright's Gazelles** and a couple of **Gerenuks**. The final bird of the day was an adult **Martial Eagle** that flew low over the road in front of us. What a day!

#### **Day 11 Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

I always look forward to the birding along the road south of Yabello and this morning proved to be no exception. We began after a 6.30am breakfast and the drove to our usual spot and began with a singing **Banded Parisoma** performing nicely and followed this with a **Northern Grosbeak-Canary** singing from the top of an Acacia. Literally the next bird was a **Red-naped Bush-Shrike** that popped into view on top of a small bush, so we were then treated to repeated views as a pair moved around us and were constantly on view. Wow! A **Pringle's Puffback** followed, along with **Pygmy Falcon**, **Grey Wren-Warbler**, **Spotted Palm-Thrush**, **Bare-eyed Thrush**, brief **Yellow-vented Eremomela**, several **Pygmy Batis** and after a lengthy search we began to stumble over **Purple Grenadiers**. Once we were done here we walked across the road and eventually found a pair of **White-bellied Canaries**.



**Red-naped Bushshrike**

After lunch in town we drove back to the Soda Plains, stopping to see **Gabar Goshawk**, a **Buff-crested Bustard** crossing the road and a pair of **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills**. At the plains we found many **Grey-capped** and **Black-capped Social-Weavers**, lots of **Stresemann's Bushcrows**, and both **White-bellied** and **Kori Bustards**. Finished the day off with **Black-backed Jackal**, **Abyssinian Hare** and eventually located a **Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar** beside the road.

#### **Day 12 Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

It's a long, long drive up to Bishangari Lodge and we made it eventually at 6.30pm. We didn't do much birding at all today, but a quick stop at a roadside marsh produced **Singing Cisticola**, **Ruppell's Robin-Chat**, **Red-collared Widowbird**, **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Hadada** and **Wattled Ibis** and a **Black-headed Heron**. There were lots of other birds seen from the moving cars including **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills** and some **Silvery-cheeked Hornbills** but we really wanted to get up to the next lodge at a reasonable time and kept on driving. It was a wonderful feeling to get to this fabulous lodge and have a cold beer tonight.

#### **Day 13 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Everyone met up at 6am and birded the waterfront area, with many of the key endemic **Yellow-fronted Parrots** being seen very well, and also a **Western Black-headed Batis** was present. After breakfast we walked into the woodland, seeing a **Green-backed Honeybird** and lots of other common birds visiting a fruiting tree.



Then an **Abyssinian Ground-Thrush** was seen skulking in the leaf litter and a **Narina Trogon** and even an **Ethiopian Oriole** were found. I always find the species-mix amazing here with both upland and lowland birds present. Walking over to the gallery forest we were treated to the amazing spectacle of a pair of **Verreaux's Eagle-Owls** being mobbed by 20+ **White-cheeked Turacos**, and there was also **Blue-spotted Wood-Dove** and more **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** at the forest edge.

During lunch a pair of **African Wood Owls** were found behind the open-air restaurant and were being mobbed by **Narina Trogon**, **Olive Sunbird** and a pair of **Brown-throated Wattle-eyes**. After lunch we walked along the shoreline to the marsh about a kilometre away and was surprised at the great habitat where 90 **Kittlitz's Plovers**, a fabulous **Lesser Jacana**, **Senegal Thick-Knees**, **Black and Gull-billed Terns**, **Pink-backed** and **White Pelicans**, **White-breasted Cormorants**, **African Darters**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **Hadada** and **Wattled Ibis**, and a leucistic **Curlew Sandpiper** were present. Nearby acacias held **Banded Barbet**, **Blue-breasted Bee-eaters**, and a **Tambourine Dove** was seen on the way to the marsh. We were also treated to 3 **Hippopotamus** feeding close to the shore.



Lesser Jacana

Other species seen this afternoon included a brief **Scaly Francolin**, **Blackcap**, **White-rumped Babbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, and an **Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike**. Non-birds seen today included **Gambian Sun Squirrel**, **Soemmering's Gazelle**, **Colobus Monkey**, **Olive Baboon** and **Bush Duiker**.

#### Day 14 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Met at sunrise and after a lengthy search located a **Scaly-throated Honeyguide**, along with **Lemon Dove** and **Greater Honeyguide** and even enjoyed scope views of a **Great Sparrowhawk** perched up nicely in a tree. After breakfast we checked out of the wonderful Bishangari Lodge, with everyone managing to see **Scaly Francolin** at last. We left here and drove to Lake Abiata where the drought has caused a major change to this once brilliant site and despite thousands of **Lesser** and some **Greater Flamingo's** in the distance there wasn't a lot else in this desert-like scene apart from maybe around 100 **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**. We also found a pair of **Verreaux's Eagle-Owls** and hundreds of **Namaqua Doves**. So from here we visited a lodge on the shores of Lake Langanu where **Greyish Eagle Owl** and **Slender-tailed Nightjar** were easily located at their day roosts thanks to some helpful staff, plus a superb **Rufous-throated Wryneck** was seen. Then we drove to Ziway and had lunch at a great hotel before continuing on to Nazret for an overnight stop.

#### Day 15 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Left at 5am and drove to the lava flow from Fantale Crater, along the shoreline of Lake Beseka, which is home to the endemic **Sombre Rock Chat**. We saw a couple examples of this demure endemic, with several **Blackstarts** also present for comparison. It's certainly not the most scenic place but there were a few other birds in the area including **Intermediate Egret**, **Western Osprey**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Ethiopia Swallow**, **Black-headed Wagtail** and a nice male **Ruppell's Weaver**. Leaving here we drove the short distance to the entrance of Awash National Park and followed the main track into the arid interior. The drought hasn't helped the birds and other wildlife here and we found the birding tough but did pick up **Buff-crested Bustard**, **White-browed Scrub-Robin**, **Ashy Cisticola**, **Nile Crocodile** and several **Beisa Oryx**. We left once the sun became unbearable and headed to our nice hotel for lunch and a siesta.

We returned to the park in the afternoon and well and truly nailed a singing **Gillett's Lark**, along with close **Kori Bustard**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Steppe Grey Shrike**, **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**, plenty of oxpeckers, **Soemmering's Gazelle**, a huge **Leopard Tortoise**, and as the sun began to dip towards the horizon a calling **White-bellied Bustard** showed really well. We did a night drive but drew a complete blank on nightjars, although a couple of **Bat-eared Foxes** were seen quite well in the spotlight.

#### **Day 16 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Drove to Aledeghe Plain after a 5.30am breakfast, picked up our armed guard and headed out onto the bleak open landscape. A lack of rain meant that there was barely any grass and we had to drive much further than I'd needed to do on the past tours, but along the way we had a **Spotted Hyena**, lots of **Black-headed Plovers**, and Lee spotted a pair of **Double-banded Coursers** – not only a new record for this tour but a really scarce Ethiopian bird as well. Once we had reached the distant Acacias it didn't take us long to find the first of 5 **Arabian Bustards** seen this morning and we spent some time watching them feeding. What great birds they are and undoubtedly one of the top birds of the tour. We also found several **White-bellied** and **Buff-crested Bustards** here as well. Moving on to the Bilen Plain our searching produced **Nile Valley Sunbird** and **Yellow-breasted Barbet** quite easily, with some distant **Collared Pratincoles**, an **Olive Bee-eater**, and 7 **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**.



**Arabian Bustard**

In the afternoon we drove back into the eerily silent Awash National Park and found **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** and **Desert Cisticola**, also heard more **Hyenas** and this time our night drive produced a superb **Plain Nightjar** calling away in the spotlight.

#### **Day 17 Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

One last trawl through Awash produced a range of birds including **Egyptian Goose**, **Crested Francolin**, **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Great White Pelican**, **Ruppell's Vulture**, **Booted** and **Tawny Eagles**, **Kori & White-bellied Bustards**, **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Abyssinian Mousebird**, **Black-billed Barbet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Grey-headed Batis**, **Rosy-patched Bushshrike**, **Brubru**, **Somali** and **Northern Fiscals**, a showy **Mouse-coloured Penduline-Tit**, **Gillett's Lark**, **Northern Crombec**, **Ashy** and **Desert Cisticolas**, **Grey Wren-Warbler**, **Rufous Chatterer**, **Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird**, **Nile valley Sunbird**, **Yellow-spotted Petronia**, **Ruppell's Weaver**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Purple Grenadier** and **Somali Bunting**.

All that remained was the now much simpler and easier drive back to Addis Ababa and a few roadside birds were seen such as both flamingo's, **White Stork**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Pied Avocet** and **Moorland Chat**.

At the Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa a few of us still with some energy for a walk around the gardens and saw **Wattled Ibis**, **Hadada Ibis**, **Dusky Turtle Dove**, **Mountain (Abyssinian) Thrush**, **Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher**, **Ruppell's Robin-Chat**, hundreds of **Tacazze Sunbirds**, **African Citril**, and both **Brown-rumped** and **Streaky Seedeaters**. And that was the end of another wonderful Ethiopian tour.

Nick Bray

## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR ETHIOPIA

NOV/DEC 2016

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*

White-backed Duck

*Thalassornis leuconotus*

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*

Yellow-billed Duck

*Anas undulata*

Northern Shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

Red-billed Teal

*Anas erythrorhyncha*

Northern Pintail

*Anas acuta*

### 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*

### PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

### PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus roseus*

Lesser Flamingo

*Phoeniconaias minor*

### CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork

*Mycteria ibis*

African Openbill

*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Black Stork

*Ciconia nigra*

Abdim's Stork

*Ciconia abdimii*

Woolly-necked Stork

*Ciconia episcopus*

White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

Saddle-billed Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Marabou Stork

*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

Little Egret

*Butorides striata**Ardeola ralloides**Bubulcus ibis**Ardea cinerea**Ardea melanocephala**Ardea purpurea**Ardea alba**Egretta intermedia**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: Pandionidae**

Western Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus***ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Black-winged Kite

African Harrier-Hawk

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)

Egyptian Vulture

European Honey Buzzard

Hooded Vulture

White-backed Vulture

Ruppell's Vulture

White-headed Vulture

Lappet-faced Vulture

Short-toed Snake-Eagle

Black-chested Snake Eagle

Bateleur

Martial Eagle

Long-crested Eagle

Lesser Spotted Eagle

*Elanus caeruleus**Polyboroides typus**Gypaetus barbatus**Neophron percnopterus**Pernis apivorus**Necrosyrtes monachus**Gyps africanus**Gyps rueppelli**Trigonoceps occipitalis**Torgos tracheliotos**Circaetus gallicus**Circaetus pectoralis**Terathopius ecaudatus**Polemaetus bellicosus**Lophaetus occipitalis**Clanga pomarina*

Greater Spotted Eagle  
Wahlberg's Eagle  
Booted Eagle  
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle  
Tawny Eagle  
Steppe Eagle  
Golden Eagle  
Verreaux's Eagle  
African Hawk-Eagle  
Gabar Goshawk  
Dark Chanting Goshawk  
Eastern Chanting Goshawk  
African Goshawk  
Great Sparrowhawk  
Little Sparrowhawk  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
Western Marsh Harrier  
Pallid Harrier  
Montagu's Harrier  
Black Kite  
Yellow-billed Kite  
African Fish Eagle  
Common Buzzard  
Mountain Buzzard  
Augur Buzzard

**OTIDIFORMES: Otididae**

Arabian Bustard  
Kori Bustard  
White-bellied Bustard  
Buff-crested Bustard

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

**Rouget's Rail (Et, Er)**

Black Crake  
Common Moorhen  
Red-knobbed Coot

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Black Crowned Crane  
Common Crane

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Senegal Thick-knee

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt  
Pied Avocet

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Spur-winged Lapwing  
Black-headed Lapwing

*Clanga clanga*  
*Hieraetus wahlbergi*  
*Hieraetus pennatus*  
*Hieraetus ayresii*  
*Aquila rapax*  
*Aquila nipalensis*  
*Aquila chrysaetos*  
*Aquila verreauxii*  
*Aquila spilogaster*  
*Micronisus gabar*  
*Melierax metabates*  
*Melierax poliopterus*  
*Accipiter tachiro*  
*Accipiter melanoleucos*  
*Accipiter minullus*  
*Accipiter nisus*  
*Circus aeruginosus*  
*Circus macrourus*  
*Circus pygargus*  
*Milvus migrans*  
*Milvus aegyptius*  
*Haliaeetus vocifer*  
*Buteo buteo vulpinus*  
*Buteo oreophilus*  
*Buteo augur*

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

*Rougetius rougetii*  
*Amaurornis flavirostra*  
*Gallinula chloropus*  
*Fulica cristata*

*Balearica pavonina*  
*Grus grus*

*Burhinus senegalensis*

*Himantopus himantopus*  
*Recurvirostra avosetta*

*Vanellus spinosus*  
*Vanellus tectus*

Black-winged Lapwing

Crowned Lapwing

**Spot-breasted Lapwing (Et)**

Common Ringed Plover

Little Ringed Plover

Kittlitz's Plover

Three-banded Plover

*Vanellus melanopterus*

*Vanellus coronatus*

*Vanellus melanocephalus*

*Charadrius hiaticula*

*Charadrius dubius*

*Charadrius pecuarius*

*Charadrius tricollaris*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Lesser Jacana

African Jacana

*Microparra capensis*

*Actophilornis africanus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

African Snipe

Common Snipe

Black-tailed Godwit

Spotted Redshank

Marsh Sandpiper

Common Greenshank

Green Sandpiper

Wood Sandpiper

Common Sandpiper

Little Stint

Temminck's Stint

Curlew Sandpiper

Ruff

*Gallinago nigripennis*

*Gallinago gallinago*

*Limosa limosa*

*Tringa erythropus*

*Tringa stagnatilis*

*Tringa nebularia*

*Tringa ochropus*

*Tringa glareola*

*Actitis hypoleucos*

*Calidris minuta*

*Calidris temminckii*

*Calidris ferruginea*

*Philomachus pugnax*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Somali Courser

Double-banded Courser

Collared Pratincole

*Cursorius somalensis*

*Smutsornis africanus*

*Glareola pratincola*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Grey-headed Gull

Gull-billed Tern

Black Tern

White-winged Tern

*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

*Gelochelidon nilotica*

*Chlidonias niger*

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

**PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae**

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

Black-faced Sandgrouse

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 White-winged Dove (Et, So)**

Mourning Collared Dove

*Columba livia*

*Columba guinea*

*Columba albitorques*

*Columba arquatrix*

*Columba larvata*

*Streptopelia lugens*

*Streptopelia reichenowi*

*Streptopelia decipiens*

Red-eyed Dove  
Ring-necked Dove  
Laughing Dove  
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove  
Blue-spotted Wood Dove  
Tambourine Dove  
Namaqua Dove  
Bruce's Green Pigeon

*Streptopelia semitorquata*  
*Streptopelia capicola*  
*Spilopelia senegalensis*  
*Turtur chalcospilos*  
*Turtur afer*  
*Turtur tympanistria*  
*Oena capensis*  
*Treron waalia*

**MUSOPHAGIFORMES: Musophagidae**

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

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

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Blue-headed Coucal  
White-browed Coucal  
Levaillant's Cuckoo  
Jacobin Cuckoo  
Diederik Cuckoo  
Klaas's Cuckoo

*Centropus monachus*  
*Centropus superciliosus*  
*Clamator levaillantii*  
*Clamator jacobinus*  
*Chrysococcyx caprius*  
*Chrysococcyx klaas*

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

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

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

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Donaldson Smith's Nightjar  
Plain Nightjar  
Slender-tailed Nightjar

*Caprimulgus donaldsoni*  
*Caprimulgus inornatus*  
*Caprimulgus clarus*

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

African Palm Swift  
Alpine Swift  
Common Swift  
Nyanza Swift  
Little Swift

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

**COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird  
Blue-naped Mousebird

*Colius striatus*  
*Urocolius macrourus*

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Narina Trogon

*Apaloderma narina*

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Purple Roller  
Lilac-breasted Roller

*Coracias naevius*  
*Coracias caudatus*

Abyssinian Roller

*Coracias abyssinicus*

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Striped Kingfisher

Woodland Kingfisher

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Malachite Kingfisher

Half-collared Kingfisher

Pied Kingfisher

*Halcyon leucocephala*

*Halcyon chelicuti*

*Halcyon senegalensis*

*Ispidina picta*

*Corythornis cristatus*

*Alcedo semitorquata*

*Ceryle rudis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Little Bee-eater

Blue-breasted Bee-eater

Olive Bee-eater

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

*Merops pusillus*

*Merops variegatus*

*Merops superciliosus*

*Merops nubicus*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe

*Upupa epops*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae**

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

*Phoeniculus somaliensis*

*Rhinopomastus minor*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Hemprich's Hornbill

African Grey Hornbill

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

*Tockus hemprichii*

*Tockus nasutus*

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

*Tockus flavirostris*

*Tockus deckeni*

*Bycanistes brevis*

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae**

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

*Bucorvus abyssinicus*

**PICIFORMES: Lybiidae**

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Red-fronted Barbet

Black-throated Barbet

**Banded Barbet (Et, Er)**

Black-billed Barbet

Double-toothed Barbet

Red-and-yellow Barbet

Yellow-breasted Barbet

D'Arnaud's Barbet

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

*Tricholaema diademata*

*Tricholaema melanocephala*

*Lybius undatus*

*Lybius guifsobalito*

*Lybius bidentatus*

*Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

*Trachyphonus margaritatus*

*Trachyphonus darnaudii*

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

Green-backed Honeybird

Lesser Honeyguide

Scaly-throated Honeyguide

Greater Honeyguide

*Prodotiscus zambesiae*

*Indicator minor*

*Indicator variegatus*

*Indicator indicator*



**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Eurasian Wryneck  
Red-throated Wryneck  
Nubian Woodpecker  
**Abyssinian Woodpecker (Et, Er)**  
Cardinal Woodpecker  
Bearded Woodpecker  
Eastern Grey Woodpecker

*Jynx torquilla*  
*Jynx ruficollis*  
*Campethera nubica*  
*Dendropicos abyssinicus*  
*Dendropicos fuscescens*  
*Dendropicos namaquus*  
*Dendropicos spodocephalus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Pygmy Falcon  
Lesser Kestrel  
Common Kestrel  
Grey Kestrel  
African Hobby  
Lanner Falcon  
Barbary Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon

*Polihierax semitorquatus*  
*Falco naumanni*  
*Falco tinnunculus*  
*Falco ardosiaceus*  
*Falco cuvierii*  
*Falco biarmicus*  
*Falco pelegrinoides*  
*Falco peregrinus*

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

**Black-winged Lovebird (Et, Er)**  
African Orange-bellied Parrot  
**Yellow-fronted Parrot (Et)**

*Agapornis taranta*  
*Poicephalus rufiventris*  
*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  
Three-streaked Tchagra  
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 jamesi*  
*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

*Eurocephalus ruppelli*

Isabelline Shrike  
Turkestan (Red-tailed) Shrike  
Grey-backed Fiscal  
Steppe Grey Shrike  
Somali Fiscal  
Northern Fiscal  
Woodchat Shrike

*Lanius isabellinus*  
*Lanius phoenicuroides*  
*Lanius excubitoroides*  
*Lanius pallidostris*  
*Lanius somalicus*  
*Lanius humeralis*  
*Lanius senator*

**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  
Foxy Lark  
**Sidamo Lark (Et, So)**  
Gillett's Lark  
Thekla Lark  
**Erlanger's Lark (Et)**  
Somali Short-toed Lark

*Eremopterix leucotis*  
*Calendulauda alopex*  
*Heteromiraфра sidamoensis*  
*Miraфра gilletti*  
*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

*Psalidoprocne pristopectera*

Brown Saw-wing  
Brown-throated Martin  
Sand Martin  
Barn Swallow  
Ethiopian Swallow  
Wire-tailed Swallow  
**White-tailed Swallow (Et)**  
Rock Martin  
Common House Martin  
Lesser Striped Swallow  
Red-rumped Swallow

*Psalidoprocne p. antinorii*  
*Riparia paludicola*  
*Riparia riparia*  
*Hirundo rustica*  
*Hirundo aethiopica*  
*Hirundo smithii*  
*Hirundo megaensis*  
*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
*Delichon urbicum*  
*Cecropis abyssinica*  
*Cecropis daurica*

**PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae**

Northern Crombec  
Red-faced Crombec

*Sylvietta brachyura*  
*Sylvietta whytii*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Brown Woodland Warbler  
Willow Warbler  
Common Chiffchaff

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

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Lesser Swamp Warbler  
Sedge Warbler  
African Reed Warbler (heard)  
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler  
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*  
*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*  
*Iduna natalensis*  
*Iduna pallida*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler

*Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Red-faced Cisticola  
Singing Cisticola  
Rattling Cisticola  
Boran Cisticola  
Ashy Cisticola  
**Ethiopian Cisticola (Et, Er)**  
Stout Cisticola  
Tiny Cisticola  
Foxy Cisticola  
Desert Cisticola  
Pectoral-patch Cisticola  
Tawny-flanked Prinia  
Pale Prinia  
Buff-bellied Warbler  
Yellow-breasted Apalis  
Red-fronted Warbler  
Grey-backed Camaroptera  
Grey Wren-Warbler  
Yellow-bellied Eremomela  
Yellow-vented Eremomela

*Cisticola erythrops*  
*Cisticola cantans*  
*Cisticola chiniana*  
*Cisticola bodessa*  
*Cisticola cinereolus*  
*Cisticola lugubris*  
*Cisticola robustus*  
*Cisticola nana*  
*Cisticola troglodytes*  
*Cisticola aridulus*  
*Cisticola brunnescens*  
*Prinia subflava*  
*Prinia somalica*  
*Phyllolais pulchella*  
*Apalis flavida*  
*Urorhipis rufifrons*  
*Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
*Calamonastes simplex*  
*Eremomela icteropygialis*  
*Eremomela flavicrissalis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

Rufous Chatterer  
White-rumped Babbler

*Turdoides rubiginosa*  
*Turdoides leucopygia*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

**Abyssinian Catbird (Et)**  
African Hill Babbler (heard)  
Eurasian Blackcap  
Common Whitethroat  
Lesser Whitethroat  
Brown (Bale) Parisoma  
Banded Parisoma

*Parophasma galinieri*  
*Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*  
*Sylvia atricapilla*  
*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  
Red-winged Starling  
Slender-billed Starling  
Bristle-crowned Starling  
**White-billed Starling (Et, Er)**  
Sharpe's Starling

*Creatophora cinerea*  
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
*Lamprotornis purpuroptera*  
*Lamprotornis regius*  
*Lamprotornis superbus*  
*Lamprotornis shelleyi*  
*Lamprotornis albicapillus*  
*Onychognathus morio*  
*Onychognathus tenuirostris*  
*Onychognathus salvadorii*  
*Onychognathus albirostris*  
*Poeoptera sharpii*

**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

*Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
*Melaenornis chocolatinus*  
*Melaenornis edolioides*  
*Melaenornis microrhynchus*  
*Muscicapa adusta*

Spotted Flycatcher  
Rüppell's Robin-Chat  
White-browed Robin-Chat  
Spotted Palm Thrush  
Common Redstart  
**White-winged Cliff Chat (Et, Er)**  
Common Rock Thrush  
Little Rock Thrush  
Blue Rock Thrush  
Whinchat  
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  
Collared Sunbird  
Nile Valley Sunbird  
Olive Sunbird  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
Hunter's Sunbird  
Tacazze Sunbird  
Malachite Sunbird  
Beautiful Sunbird  
Marico Sunbird  
Black-bellied 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

*Muscicapa striata*  
*Cossypha semirufa*  
*Cossypha heuglini*  
*Cichladusa guttata*  
*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
*Monticola semirufus*  
*Monticola saxatilis*  
*Monticola rufocinereus*  
*Monticola solitarius*  
*Saxicola rubetra*  
*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 collaris*  
*Hedydipna metallica*  
*Cyanomitra olivacea*  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
*Chalcomitra hunteri*  
*Nectarinia tacazze*  
*Nectarinia famosa*  
*Cinnyris pulchellus*  
*Cinnyris mariquensis*  
*Cinnyris nectarinioides*  
*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*

Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver  
Baglafecht Weaver  
Little Weaver  
Spectacled Weaver  
Rüppell's Weaver  
Lesser Masked Weaver  
Vitelline Masked Weaver  
Speke's Weaver  
Village Weaver  
Chestnut Weaver  
Red-headed Weaver  
Red-billed Quelea  
Black-winged Red Bishop  
Northern Red Bishop  
Yellow Bishop  
Red-collared Widowbird

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

**Red-billed Pytilia (Et)**

Green-winged Pytilia  
Cut-throat Finch  
Abyssinian Crimsonwing  
Red-billed Firefinch  
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  
Pin-tailed Whydah  
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  
Long-billed Pipit  
Plain-backed Pipit  
Tree Pipit

*Amblyospiza albifrons*  
*Ploceus baglafecht*  
*Ploceus luteolus*  
*Ploceus ocularis*  
*Ploceus galbula*  
*Ploceus intermedius*  
*Ploceus vitellinus*  
*Ploceus spekei*  
*Ploceus cucullatus*  
*Ploceus rubiginosus*  
*Anaplectes rubriceps*  
*Quelea quelea*  
*Euplectes hordeaceus*  
*Euplectes franciscanus*  
*Euplectes capensis*  
*Euplectes ardens*

*Pytilia lineata*  
*Pytilia melba*  
*Amadina fasciata*  
*Cryptospiza salvadorii*  
*Lagonosticta senegala*  
*Uraeginthus bengalus*  
*Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*  
*Coccygia quartinia*  
*Estrilda rhodopyga*  
*Estrilda astrild*  
*Estrilda charmosyna*  
*Ortygospiza atricollis*  
*Euodice cantans*  
*Lonchura cucullata*  
*Lonchura bicolor*

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

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

Red-throated Pipit

*Anthus cervinus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**

African Citril

*Crithagra citrinelloides*

Reichenow's Seedeater

*Crithagra reichenowi*

**Salvadori's Seedeater (Et)**

*Crithagra xantholaema*

White-bellied Canary

*Crithagra dorsostriata*

Northern Grosbeak-Canary

*Crithagra donaldsoni*

Brown-rumped Seedeater

*Crithagra tristriata*

Streaky Seedeater

*Crithagra striolata*

Yellow-crowned Canary

*Serinus flavivertex*

**Ethiopian Siskin (Et)**

*Serinus nigriceps*

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

Ortolan Bunting

*Emberiza hortulana*

Striolated Bunting

*Emberiza striolata*

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

*Emberiza tahapisi*

Somali Bunting

*Emberiza poliopleura*

**SYSTEMATIC MAMMAL & OTHER ANIMALS LIST**

Eastern Black-and-white Colobus

*Colobus guerza*

Hamadryas Baboon

*Papio hamadryas*

Olive Baboon

*Papio Anubis*

Gelada Baboon

*Papio gelada*

Grivet Monkey

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Vervet Monkey

*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

Abyssinian Hare

*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*

Starck's Hare

*Lepus starcki*

Unstriped Ground Squirrel

*Xerus rutilus*

Gambian Sun Squirrel

*Heliosciurus gambianus*

Giant Root Rat

*Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

Blick's Grass Rat

*Arvicanthis blicki*

Common Jackal

*Canis aureus*

Black-backed Jackal

*Canis mesomelas*

Ethiopian Wolf

*Canis simensis*

Bat-eared Fox

*Otocyon megalotis*

Egyptian Mongoose

*Herpestes ichneumon*

White-tailed Mongoose

*Ichneumia albicauda*

Spotted Hyena

*Crocuta crocuta*

Serval

*Felis serval*

Ethiopian Rock Hyrax

*Procavia habessinica*

Hippopotamus

*Hippopotamus africana*

Common Warthog

*Phacochoerus Africana*

Menelik's Bushbuck

*Tragelaphus meneliki*

Northern Lesser Kudu

*Tragelaphus imberbis*

Mountain Nyala

*Tragelaphus buxtoni*

Bush Duiker

*Sylvicapra grimmia*

Ethiopian Klipspringer

*Oreotragus saltatrixoides*

Salt's Diddik

*Madoqua saltiana*

Gunther's Dikdik

*Madoqua guentheri*

Bright's Gazelle  
Soemmering's Gazelle  
Southern Gerenuk  
Beisa Oryx  
Leopard Tortoise  
Nile Crocodile

*Nanger notatus*  
*Gazella soemmeringi*  
*Litocranius walleri*  
*Oryx beisa*  
*Stigmochelys pardalis*  
*Crocodylus niloticus*



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