



The stunning Stresemann's Bushcrow did not fail to disappoint – just one of the many 'Mega' birds in the Yabello area! (Nik Borrow)

ULTIMATE ETHIOPIA

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Ethiopia is a classic sub-Saharan destination with a wide range of habitats and an impressive list of species, including more endemics than almost any other comparable region of Africa. For many years in BirdQuest's history, the challenge of finding all the endemic Ethiopian birds on a 'regular' basis has been one of our main aims. One of the problems is that the taxonomy continuously evolves and more endemics and near-endemics are found to confound the challenge! The exact number of actual endemics varies with the vagaries of modern taxonomy. *Birds of the Horn of Africa* by Nigel Redman *et al.* recognises 15 and lists Blue-winged Goose, Harwood's Francolin, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Ruspoli's Turaco, Archer's (Sidamo) Lark, Erlanger's Lark, White-tailed Swallow, Abyssinian Longclaw, Abyssinian Catbird, Stresemann's Bushcrow, Yellow-throated Seedeater, Salvadori's Seedeater, Ethiopian Siskin, and Ankober Serin and of these we encountered them all. In addition to these there is also the virtually mythical Nechisar

Nightjar (described from the remains of a single decomposing wing in 1990) that still awaits confirmation and may or may not be an endemic species. This tour added the chance to see another endemic to the list in the form of the recently split (from Chestnut-naped) Black-fronted Francolin and our success was total with great views enjoyed. We repeated our visit to the Sarite Plains to see a recently discovered population of Masked Lark and another new addition to our previous itineraries included a trip down towards the Kenyan border where we found Heuglin's Bustard, Somali Bee-eater and Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver. Unfortunately, some tribal tensions affected us this year in the south and we were forced to miss out the Dawa River area which lost us a few species. However, the weather treated us well and it was generally hot, dry and sunny with bright blue skies that supported the countries claim to thirteen months of sunshine!



Ethiopia is a country of contrasts and dramatic scenery. The view out over the Jemma Valley is jaw-dropping! (Nik Borrow)

Our journey started with a bang on the Ankober escarpment where despite the thick cloud that came rolling in over the rugged cliffs, we still managed excellent views of Ankober Serins, White-billed Starlings and Gelada Baboons on the impressive heights north of Debre Birhan. In the deep and wide Jemma Valley, which is part of the Blue Nile drainage system of jaw-dropping valleys and gorges we found the endemic Harwood's Francolin and Abyssinian Woodpecker as well as Rüppell's Black Chat, Abyssinian Wheatear, White-winged Cliff Chat, and the somewhat dowdy Yellow-rumped (or White-throated) Seedeater. Descending from the heights of Ankober we took in Yellow-throated Seedeaters and Yellow-breasted Barbets on our journey as we dropped down into the lands of the Afar, Issa and Kereyou tribesmen that surround Awash National Park. In these desiccated lands we hunted out Arabian Bustard, Somali Bulbul, Gillett's Lark, Chestnut-headed Sparrow Lark, Blackstart and Nile Valley and Shining Sunbirds. At night we discovered the little-known Star-spotted Nightjar and for mammal enthusiasts we saw Salt's Dik-dik, Beisa Oryx and Soemmerring's Gazelle. We visited the lava flows at the base of the still active Fantalle volcano which are home to Sombre Rock Chat and Striolated Bunting before descending further into the Rift Valley for a stay at a comfortable lodge on the shores of Lake Langano. Here there were good numbers of Yellow-fronted Parrots coming to gorge themselves in the numerous fig trees in the area where Banded Barbets were also present along with Black-winged Lovebird, White-cheeked Turaco and Ethiopian Oriole. Climbing up into the cooler air of the South Ethiopian highlands we stopped at the Bale Mountains Park HQ where approachable Mountain Nyala found sanctuary under the enormous juniper and Hagenia trees that also sheltered White-backed Black Tit and Abyssinian Catbird. In the area Wattled Ibis and Abyssinian Longclaw showed well and both Abyssinian Owl and Cape Eagle Owl were found during the day at known roosts. Our day on the Sanetti Plateau was a memorable one not only because of the difficulties recent rain had caused problems with the road but also because when we finally reached the top we managed close up and personal views of the stunning Ethiopian Wolf and its favoured prey, the bizarre Giant Mole Rat! The elegant Spot-breasted Lapwing showed extremely well in the crystal clear air, stately Wattled Cranes were a highlight and comical Rouget's Rails ran around amongst the grey cushion plants where Chestnut-naped and Moorland Francolins were also found. A long drive took us across the plateau and downwards through the Haremma Forest where secretive Abyssinian Crimsonwings obliged before the forest gave way to a sweeping panorama of well-vegetated scrubby hillsides where Ruspoli's Turacos were seen. There followed a three night's stay in Negelle which was our base for exploring the surrounding area. We had no trouble tracking down the extremely rare and endangered Archer's Lark, Salvadori's Seedeater eventually showed

well and Juba Weavers made an appearance. Tribal fighting between Negelle and Yabello meant that we had to make a long detour and it cost us a few species but once in the Yabello area we had three full days to hunt out White-tailed Swallow and the very special Stresemann's Bushcrow, which certainly did not disappoint. We also enjoyed excellent views of the recently split Black-fronted Francolin whilst Somali Courser, Scaly Chatterer, Pringle's Puffback, Red-naped Bushshrike, Northern Grosbeak Canary and at night Donaldson Smith's Nightjar allowed amazing views. Driving through some wild thorn bush countryside Vulturine Guineafowl and Guenther's Dik-diks scattered from the roadside during a visit to the remote Sarite Plains which produced the desirable Masked Lark and Grevy's Zebra whilst near the Kenyan border we discovered Heuglin's Bustard, Somali Bee-eater, Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver and Southern Gerenuk. Heading back north to Lake Awassa, African Spotted Creeper was seen easily and at a special reserve the rare Swayne's Hartebeest was also not a problem. At Gibe Gorge we encountered a flock of Abyssinian Waxbill and ended the tour with close up views of the sublime Egyptian Plover. Of the other specialties encountered on the tour we saw Somali Ostrich, Clapperton's and Erckel's Francolins, White-collared Pigeon, the *lafresnayii* form of Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Black-billed Wood Hoopoe, Hemprich's Hornbill, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Grey-headed Batis, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Three-streaked Tchagra, Ethiopian Boubou, Taita and Somali Fiscals, Somali Crow, Thick-billed Raven, Foxy, Red-winged, Short-tailed and Somali Short-toed Larks, Dodson's Bulbul, 'Brown' Black Saw-wing, Somali Crombec, Brown Woodland Warbler, Boran and Ethiopian Cisticolas, Pale Prinia, White-rumped Babbler, Abyssinian and Montane White-eyes, Golden-breasted, Shelley's, White-crowned and Bristle-crowned Starlings, Abyssinian Ground and Bare-eyed Thrushes, Black Scrub Robin, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, Little Rock Thrush, Red-breasted Wheatear, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Black-bellied Sunbird, Shelley's and Swainson's Sparrows, Rüppell's Weaver, Grey-headed Silverbill, African Citril, Brown-rumped Seedeater and Ethiopian Siskin.



The steep, vertical cliffs of the Ankober escarpment often clothed in dense cloud are home to the endemic Ankober Serin. (Nik Borrow)

Having landed in Addis Ababa after a tiring overnight flight yet rejuvenated by seven years as the country still operates on the Julian rather than Gregorian calendar, we found the city to be at a standstill because of an organised run and it took some hours to escape this sprawling metropolis before we could begin our journey to Debre Birhan where we checked into our hotel and straight after lunch headed further north to the dramatic escarpment at Gemassa Gedal, where we hoped to find our first endemic; the unassuming Ankober Serin. The species was described as recently as 1979 and is in appearance somewhat similar to the Yemen Serin just a few hundred kilometres to the east on the other side of the Red Sea. This serin dwells pretty much exclusively on the vertical cliffs of the Ankober escarpment and only seldom visit the tops. Finding the birds is not usually a problem, but the weather certainly can be; when the hot air from the Danakil Depression far below meets the colder air of the plateau, thick cloud often forms, ensuring that the vegetation clinging on to the edge of the escarpment remains lush year-round. This year we were greeted by

a thick bank of cloud that obscured our vision. Gelada Baboons grazed on the slopes above us and disappeared and reappeared as the cloud came and went but amazingly enough we only had to wait a short time before a small group of serins were found feeding by the roadside at astonishingly close range.

Once in a while the pea-soup cloud would part and when it did the scenic views were nothing short of astounding. We looked around for other species to entertain us and were pleased to see good numbers of tame White-billed Starlings and White-collared Pigeons (both near-endemics). In the skies we saw our first Augur Buzzard and Nyanza and Alpine Swifts. A Cinnamon Bracken Warbler was scoped (!) and there were also Moorland Chat, Red-throated Pipit, Streaky Seedeater and some (Ethiopian) Rock Hyrax but weather conditions worsened and prevented us from seeing more. The day had been long enough for those that had arrived on overnight flights so we headed back to Debre Birhan.

We were up well before dawn the following day, setting off in the dark for a full day trip to the Jemma Valley and it was just getting light as we reached the top of the huge, deep and wide valley. The well-maintained dirt road wound and twisted steeply downwards. It was already light when we stopped at a place where we were hoping to see the endemic Harwood's Francolin. Although several Erckel's Francolins were calling it was a little while before a Harwood's was heard and then seen somewhat briefly but with the sun rising and the birds calling less frequently in the lush vegetation and tall crops it made getting a view challenging and in the end most of us had to admit defeat having only heard the bird. By way of compensation other specialties included a cracking male Abyssinian Woodpecker, Black-winged Lovebird, Rüppell's Black Chat, Abyssinian Wheatear, a family of White-winged Cliff Chats and our first Blue-breasted Bee-eaters of the distinctive *lafresnayii* race sometimes split as Ethiopian Bee-eater.



Regional endemics in the Jemma Valley: juvenile White-winged Cliff Chat (left) and Yellow-rumped Seedeater (right). (Nik Borrow)

We continued to the bottom of the valley taking in breeding plumaged Red-collared Widowbirds and Black-winged Red Bishops along the way until we found a site suitable for what was by now a late breakfast. We left Merid to prepare one of his legendary picnic breakfasts whilst we went birding. A small stream ran through the river valley and held Three-banded Plover, Common and Green Sandpipers, Wire-tailed Swallow and Mountain Wagtail. However, in particular we were on the lookout for a regional endemic, the rather dowdy Yellow-rumped (or perhaps more suitably named White-throated) Seedeater and scoured the thorny acacias for our quarry. After a little searching we found the seedeater and had good close views. We then received the bad news that the gas stove had broken in transit and our breakfast was a somewhat sombre caffeine-free and eggless affair!

We returned to the bush but as it was getting hotter by the second we sought the cool shade of the river where some large fig trees provided cover and food. The ubiquitous Speckled Pigeon was present and

Namaqua and Laughing Doves were seen along with Bruce's Green Pigeon, Black-billed Barbet and iridescent Greater Blue-eared Starling feeding on the figs. Long-tailed African Paradise Flycatchers flitted to and fro and the overhanging bushes provided cover for small birds coming down to drink and during our watch we noted Klaas's Cuckoo, Black-crowned Tchagra, Northern Puffback, Ethiopian Boubou, Common Bulbul, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Abyssinian White-eye, Mocking Cliff Chat, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Variable Sunbird, Swainson's Sparrow, Bush Petronia, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Baglafaecht Weaver, Village Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Cut-throat Finch, Red-billed Firefinch, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, African Silverbill, Village Indigobird, Pin-tailed Whydah, Yellow-fronted Canary and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. One member of our group even spotted a pair of Half-collared Kingfishers dash past! There was also evidence of Palearctic migration with familiar species such as European Honey Buzzard, Barn Swallow, Common House Martin, Eurasian Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Common Redstarts of the handsome *samamiscus* race, Common Rock Thrush, Whinchat, Siberian Stonechat, Northern, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears, Western Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Tree Pipit and Ortolan Bunting.

Along the Jemma River we found Egyptian Goose, Western Cattle Egret, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Hamerkop, Reed Cormorant, Senegal Thick-knee, Black-winged Stilt, Spur-winged Lapwing, Giant and Pied Kingfishers and African Pied Wagtail and other species noted in the valley included Abdim's and Woolly-necked Storks, African Harrier-Hawk, Hooded, White-backed and Rüppell's Vulture, Verreaux's Eagle, African Hawk-Eagle, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Yellow-billed Kite, White-rumped Swift, Speckled Mousebird, Hemprich's Hornbill, Common Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Fiscal, Fan-tailed Raven, Brown-throated Martin, Rock Martin, Lesser Striped Swallow, Red-rumped Swallow, Singing Cisticola, Red-billed Oxpecker, Little Rock Thrush and Brown-rumped and Streaky Seedeaters,

Before returning to Debre Birhan we stopped to scan the wide-open fields that cover the flat table lands where we hunted out Erlanger's Larks and also spotted our first Wattled Ibis and Blue-winged Geese as well as Common Crane, Dusky Turtle Dove, Cape and Pied Crows, Thekla's Lark and Groundscraper Thrush.



Melka Ghebdu birds: Yellow-throated Seedeater is an Ethiopian endemic (left) alongside the attractive Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver (right). (Nik Borrow)

It was another early start the next day as we headed out of Debre Birhan in the dark, bound for Ankober and beyond. Dawn broke over the highland plateau and it was fully light as we reached the ancient capital, situated at 3,000m teetering on the edge of the escarpment. The road descended steeply from here but with the improved road it was not much longer before we reached Melka Ghebdu, at 1,400m. Our target here was another localised endemic, Yellow-throated Seedeater. We arrived at the site in the early morning while the air was still fresh and within minutes our quarry was in the bag as the seedeater gave itself up easily singing

right beside where we had set up for breakfast, which made for very relaxed dining! The birding here during our breakfast break was hugely enjoyable as Yellow-breasted Barbets behaving like clockwork toys were found and also our first Banded Barbet (a regional endemic) in a fruiting tree along with stunning White-cheeked Turacos. A pair of Abyssinian Ground Hornbill strode through a stubble field, dapper Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weavers posed nicely in the morning sun and the desirable Rüppell's Weaver was found although these proved to be far more common later in the tour. Other species included Red-eyed Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Eastern Plantain-eater, African Grey Hornbill, Beautiful Sunbird and Bronze Mannikin.

Following this success, we continued on our way downwards towards Awash along a road that is being newly constructed. As we descended so the landscape became more arid and acacia dominated the dusty landscape. A few stops took in our first bush birds, most mainly widespread species that we would encounter again such as White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-browed Coucal, Abyssinian Roller, Little Bee-eater, Eurasian Hoopoes of both resident and migratory forms, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Red-bellied Parrot, Grey-headed Batis, Fork-tailed Drongo, Northern Crombec, Buff-bellied Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Wattled Starling, Superb Starling, White-headed Buffalo Weaver and White-browed Sparrow-Weaver. Our first Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs were seen in spectacular breeding regalia and a stop for a Blackstart that has flown across the road also produced Eastern Olivaceous and our only Upcher's Warbler of the tour as well as both Nile Valley and Shining Sunbirds. The road carried us to meet the tarmac at a sugar cane plantation where suddenly Marabou Storks became abundant and we arrived at Doho Lodge situated on the edge of Awash National Park and overlooking an extensive marsh and hot springs. We were greeted by a party of Black-billed Wood Hoopoe and happily were in time for lunch.

In the afternoon we explored the surrounding area and although it was fairly quiet we turned up some new species. On the lake in front of the lodge we saw Purple Heron, African Darter and African Fish Eagle whilst a lone Western Marsh Harrier quartered the reedbed. The bulbuls in this area are a mixed bag and are perhaps intergrades but at least some appear to show characteristics of the recently re-split Somali Bulbul. The tiny Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit was seen well in the lodge grounds and other species seen during our afternoon walk included Crested Francolin, Mourning Collared and Ring-necked Doves, African Palm Swift, Blue-naped Mousebird, Black-throated Barbet, Cardinal Woodpecker, Brubru, Red-fronted Warbler, Grey Wren-Warbler, Rufous Chatterer, Rüppell's Starling and White-browed Scrub Robin. At dusk a Black-crowned Night Heron flew over and numbers of Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse were seen flying and as it got dark Slender-tailed Nightjars were seen which brought the day to a successful close.

The following morning a distant Lion was roaring in the early hours and we were up early to visit the Aledeghe Plains. The area was very dry and the enormous plains were almost grass free, which meant that Arabian Bustards were easily seen (with no less than an estimated fifteen being seen during the morning) and distant Somali Ostriches also shimmered in the heat haze. Raptors were only present in small numbers and vulture numbers had crashed to virtually zero with only one White-headed Vulture and small numbers of Egyptian, Hooded and White-backed Vultures present but we did succeed in adding Booted Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, Montagu's Harrier and Lesser Kestrel to the list and a pair of Secretarybird was a good bonus. Good numbers of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were seen flying over towards their drinking areas and we also viewed a number on the ground along with many Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks and a few Singing Bush Larks. Spiky-crested Black-headed and a number of Crowned Lapwings were also present, White-bellied Bustards were seen and shrikes were also very much in evidence and we noted Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Steppe Grey Shrike, Somali Fiscal and Woodchat Shrike. We also did well for mammals with Abyssinian Hare, Unstriped Ground Squirrel, African Golden Wolf, Common Warthog, Salt's Dik-dik, Soemmerring's Gazelle and Beisa Oryx all seen well and other birds included Helmeted Guineafowl, Somali Crow, Sand Martin, Common Whitethroat, African Grey Flycatcher and Tawny Pipit. Returning to the lodge for lunch a super Black Scrub Robin was seen, a pair of Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse was found and as we left both Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark and Straw-tailed Whydah were spotted.



The Arabian Bustard is one of the major attractions during our visit to the Aledeghe Plains. (Nik Borrow)

After this successful visit we continued on into Awash National Park for an overnight stay in the idyllically placed Awash Falls Lodge where we watched the murky Awash River cascading over the rocks and a small flock of Garganey was a surprise find.



Some highlights of short visit into Awash National Park: Star-spotted Nightjar (above left) and Gillett's Lark (above right). (Nik Borrow)

The park itself was bone dry this year and over-run with domestic animals and in all honesty quite hard work. We spent the late afternoon looking for some key target birds and after some searching we managed to track down a Gillett's Lark and Ashy Cisticola was also seen in the process. Driving through the degraded bush and grasslands gave us the chance to see both Kori and Buff-crested Bustards but the rest of the afternoon was spent searching for the chunky Red-winged Lark but we finally saw it as the sun was setting. The return journey to the lodge was made in the dark and we did well to find the hoped for Star-spotted Nightjar along the track. At least one pair was present and presumably breeding in the area as one was heard calling in the darkness.

We left early the following morning and as we departed other new birds for the trip seen during our short stay included Black-chested Snake Eagle, Bateleur, European Bee-eater, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Pygmy Falcon, Desert Cisticola, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, Purple Grenadier and Somali Bunting.



Grey-headed Batis (bottom left) is a common bird of the Awash area but the Sombre Rock Chat (below right) is far more localised. (Nik Borrow)

The plan was to get to the lava outflows at the base of the dormant volcano Fantalle where a few brilliant green bushes push their way up through the black lava flows beside Lake Beseka. It wouldn't be too long before the searing heat would make conditions too uncomfortable so we were keen to get our target birds under the belt in the early morning before it got too hot as we had two key species to find there, namely Striolated Bunting and the localised Sombre Rock Chat. All went according to plan and the bunting gave itself up easily being one of the first birds that were spotted. We then crunched our way over the unstable terrain and a pair of chats followed soon after flirting their wings and we watched them for some time, their cinereous colouration matching the lava perfectly. Also seen in this inhospitable place was a surprising Citrine Wagtail and the more expected Western Osprey.

We pushed on along the busy roads passing a Long-crested Eagle at Adama before heading south into the Rift Valley and made a lunch time stop at Lake Ziway. We didn't have a lot of time here, but the shallow margins of the lake were teeming with birds as African Jacanas potted across the emergent vegetation whilst waders on the muddy margins included Common Ringed Plover, Ruff, Temminck's Stint, Common Snipe and Marsh and Wood Sandpipers. Waterfowl included White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Knob-billed Duck, Garganey, Hottentot Teal and Northern Shoveler and other birds included Little Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Great and Intermediate Egrets, White-breasted Cormorant, Common Moorhen, Red-knobbed Coot, Grey-headed Gull, Gull-billed and White-winged Terns, Woodland, Pygmy and

Malachite Kingfishers, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Rattling Cisticola, Western Yellow Wagtail and Reichenow's Seedeater. As we left an Ayres's Hawk-Eagle flew overhead which was something of a surprise!



African Golden Wolf (left) and Temminck's Courser (right) were seen during a brief visit to Lake Abiata. (Nik Borrow)

Heading further south we made a short detour into Lake Abiata National Park. The water levels were very low but some distant pink Lesser Flamingos shimmered in the afternoon heat haze. An adult Eastern Imperial Eagle with a juvenile was a very welcome addition to our lists and African Golden Wolves trotted over the soda flats which were also home to Black-winged Lapwing, Temminck's Courser, African Pipit, and there were small numbers of Bright's (split from Grant's) Gazelles. Our final destination was a comfortable lodge on the southeastern shore of Lake Langano. The individual cabins were set in a patch of open woodland, overlooking the lakeshore and our visit was only marred by the poor service and lack of electricity!

We were up at dawn to await the arrival of the Yellow-fronted Parrots. This is one of the best places to see this increasingly threatened endemic, and they appeared on cue as the sun rose. Initially these colourful birds only allowed some fly-by views but by the late morning we finally managed to see some perched individuals. During the day we explored the various habitats that the area had to offer. Our morning walk took us through open acacia scrub into some thick, cool woodlands and a wide variety of species were added to our list. Due to the high number of fruiting figs frugivores were conspicuous and we saw the near-endemic White-cheeked Turaco, Banded and Double-toothed Barbets, the endemic 'brown-faced' form of Bare-faced Go-away-bird, which is treated as a separate species by some authors as well as enormous Silvery-cheeked Hornbills, African Olive and Bruce's Green Pigeons and Blue-spotted Wood Dove.



At Lake Langano, a pair of African Scops Owls were found at a daytime roost (left) and this Three-banded Courser was nursing its newly hatched chick (right) (Nik Borrow)

The acacia scrub held a wealth of birds and in particular we were pleased to find a pair of African Scops Owls at their daytime roost, Red-throated Wryneck and a superb pair of Three-banded Courser with a newly hatched chick that allowed close approach. A group of near endemic White-rumped Babblers showed well and more widespread species included 'Central African' Eurasian Hoopoes, Black Scimitarbill, Red-fronted Barbet, Lesser and Scaly-throated Honeyguides, Nubian and Eastern Grey Woodpeckers, Western Black-headed Batis, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Masked Shrike, White-winged Black Tit, the 'brown' form of Black Saw-wing, Red-faced Crombec, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Violet-backed and Red-winged Starlings, African Thrush, Northern Black and Spotted Flycatchers and Thick-billed, Spectacled and Red-headed Weavers.



Endemic Yellow-fronted Parrots were seen well (Nik Borrow).

In the tall dark woodlands, we found the near-endemic Ethiopian Oriole as well as Lemon Dove, Narina Trogon, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, African Hill Babbler and along the way we also enjoyed great looks at an Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Rüppell's Robin-Chat, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Olive Sunbird and even the reclusive Green Twinspot! Down at the lakeshore there was a selection of familiar wetland species such as Senegal Thick-knees resting on the rocky shore as well as new species that included African Spoonbill, Goliath Heron, a surprise Grey Plover and even a totally unexpected Parasitic Jaeger!

The next day we swiftly departed for the long journey into the Bale Mountains. It is a fascinating drive that leads up out of the Rift Valley past giant flowering *Echinops* thistles and hulking Silvery-cheeked Hornbills and then through seemingly endless wheat fields before climbing up into the thin air of the Bale Mountains themselves. Casual roadside stops produced the dapper Red-breasted Wheatear as well as Yellow-billed Duck and Black-headed Heron whilst a stake-out for the *dillonii* form of Cape Eagle-Owl (sometimes split as part of a separate species Mackinder's Eagle-Owl) quickly produced the desired albeit damp target and also

our first Chestnut-naped Francolins and Rouget's Rails as well as a very nice Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk. In the Gaysay grasslands we found the striking *albofasciatus* race of African Stonechat, Blue-winged Geese were seen well as we searched for Ethiopian Cisticola and some initially elusive Abyssinian Longclaws. Both Moorland Chat and Ethiopian Siskins put in their first appearances although both species would prove to be numerous during our stay.



Abyssinian Longclaw (left) and Ethiopian Siskin (right) are both endemic to Ethiopia. (Nik Borrow).

At the park headquarters we admired the bold and tame Mountain Nyala and a few Menelik's Bushbuck before being taken to see the highly desirable Abyssinian Owl at its daytime roost. In the tall junipers and mighty *Hagenia* trees we sought out the noisy endemic Abyssinian Catbird, a party of near-endemic White-backed Black Tits and found a pair of Abyssinian Woodpecker. We also had good views of pretty Brown Woodland Warblers as well as 'Steppe' Common Buzzard, Dark-capped Bulbul, Montane White-eye, Common Chiffchaff, African Dusky Flycatcher and Yellow Bishop before finishing our visit with a roosting African Wood Owl!

It is always one of the highlights of the trip to visit the magical Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains National Park, and today the weather looked promising as our coaster bus started climbing the highest all-weather road in Africa. Today the road proved not to be as 'all-weather' as it had promised to be because recent rain and heavy traffic had well and truly taken its toll on the road and made it impassable for our coaster bus. Arrangements were quickly made for a replacement local vehicle and whilst we were waiting we obtained good views of the *griseiventris* race of Brown Parisoma, which was once mooted as being worthy of specific status. The replacement vehicle eventually arrived and turned out to be one of the regular passenger buses which perhaps gave a new meaning to 'rough and ready' but at least it got us up onto the Sanetti Plateau and the Khat-chewing driver did try to help us see our target birds although his field craft and vehicle positioning was not always up to scratch!

The weather was clear and sunny and we climbed up through a zone of giant heath and *Hypericum* before this gave way to the tussock grass, cushion plants and Giant Lobelias of the afro-alpine zone. Where the plateau levels out at around 4,000 metres in the distance we could see Tullu Deemtu (4,377m), the second highest peak in Ethiopia. Flocks of Ethiopian Siskins were everywhere and we made a stop for a scattered group of lovely Spot-breasted Lapwings, one of the best looking of all the endemics and during a walkabout, we saw some migrant Red-throated Pipits and flushed some African Snipe from one of the many small marshes that also held Ruddy Shelducks, a mostly Palearctic species that occur in the Bale Mountains at their only sub-Saharan outpost. All around us Blick's Grass Rats raced across the ground only to dive down

a burrow as soon as we clapped eyes on them and we also managed to get good looks at the most peculiar Giant Mole Rat during the rare occasions that it ventures out of its burrow.



Stunning scenery up on the otherworldly Sanetti Plateau in the Bale Mountains National Park. (Nik Borrow)

This year Wattled Cranes proved easy to see and we found three individuals whilst also during our explorations we were exceedingly fortunate to find at least two Ethiopian Wolves very close to the road itself and admired these sleek creatures in their smooth red coats as they trotted through the grey cushion plants in search of a tasty rat snack. Raptors included Bearded Vulture (or Lammergeier), Steppe Eagle and Lanner Falcon and later in the day we birded the wooded and cultivated lower slopes and saw Cinnamon Bracken Warbler and Slender-billed Starling. The huge bus delivered us back safely and back at our hotel we found Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, African Citril and Yellow-crowned Canary and as dusk fell a Montane Nightjar appeared.

It was time to leave Goba and head south to Negelle, but first we had to cross over the Sanetti Plateau again but this time we were in sturdy 4WD vehicles that would carry us through the rest of the tour. Of course, this time we were somewhat earlier reaching the plateau and subsequently Chestnut-naped Francolins were common by the roadsides and comical Rouget's Rails seemed to be running everywhere whilst those in one vehicle saw Red-billed Chough. We had struggled to find Moorland Francolin the day before and so we were on a special lookout today and making a fortuitous stop we found our quarry without too much effort. Up on the tops we enjoyed repeat views of the various montane birds that we had seen during our previous visit.

We continued on past Tullu Deemtu with panoramic views every way we looked and then headed down the steep sides of the plateau into what is left of the once magnificent Harena Forest.



The highlights of the Sanetti Plateau: Ethiopian Wolf (left) and Moorland Francolin (right). (Nik Borrow)

Most of the huge *Hagenia* trees on the higher slopes with their moss-encrusted, gnarled old trunks have long since been cut down as the human population has grown and now threatens the tall and dense forests lower down. At a stop in the middle of the forest we had success in finding a few Abyssinian Crimsonwings, an African Goshawk of the interesting race *unduliventer* as well as a distant Crowned Eagle, Tambourine Dove, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Green-backed Honeybird, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Black-and-white Mannikin.



Lovely endemic Spot-breasted Lapwings were seen well on the Sanetti Plateau (left) and as we neared Negelle we managed to see the fine endemic Ruspoli's Turaco. (Nik Borrow)

After leaving the forest the drive took us through some rolling hills and wild and remote bush country but eventually we called a stop at what appeared to be an unremarkable area of bush bisected by a dry gully with a few larger trees. Within minutes we were watching a superb 'Prince' Ruspoli's Turaco, the jewel in the crown of the Ethiopian endemics. This rare species has a very restricted range, but we were now in the

midst of it and we enjoyed some scope views of this attractive species. The Prince had collected the turaco in either 1892 or 1893 but was then promptly killed by an elephant without ever passing on the details of the type locality! Fortunately, we were spared his fate! Also, on the journey we noted Von der Decken's Hornbill, Red-and-yellow Barbet and Northern Brownbul but as usual time was running out so elated by our success we carried on to reach Negelle just before nightfall.



Our success with Archer's Lark this year was total and absolute with amazing views obtained. (Nik Borrow)

The morning found us on the Liben plains at first light scanning the grasslands for larks. The songs and calls of Somali Short-toed Larks could be heard as we arrived on the plains. We were on the lookout for a critically endangered species that has undergone a change in its taxonomy in recent years. Once known as Sidamo or Liben Lark it is now thought that this particular form is synonymous with the almost mythical Archer's Lark and the two forms are now currently lumped as a monotypic species. We headed towards a distant figure who was already tracking down the lark for us but this year the bird proved easy to find as it was displaying in full song. We watched as it parachuted back down to the short grass plains and it was a treat to admire its intricately patterned, quail-like plumage and we were able to study this highly localised and particularly endangered species for as long as we wished. In fact, actually seeing a Somali Short-toed Lark now proved to be the challenge but by following calling and singing birds we soon had one in the bag and watched them feeding nearby. Also, out on the plains we found the striking White-crowned Starling as well as Black-winged Kite, Pallid Harrier, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and Plain-backed Pipit before enjoying one of Merid's splendid bush breakfasts.

A visit to a nearby dam produced two rarities for Ethiopia in the form of Lesser Sand Plover and Eurasian Curlew of one of the eastern forms and there were also Red-billed Teal, Curlew Sandpiper, Collared Pratincole and Ethiopian Swallow. However, we were keen to move on to another area of bush country where we hoped to see Salvadori's Seedeater, another Ethiopian endemic. The thornbush was busy with birds and we found Slate-coloured Boubou, the 'brown-tailed' form of Yellow-breasted Apalis, the *flaviventris* form of Abyssinian White-eye (sometimes split as Pale Scrub White-eye), Eurasian Golden and Black-headed Orioles, Acacia Tit, Golden-breasted Starling, Collared Sunbird, Hunter's Sunbird and Yellow-spotted Petronia. Some puzzling sunbirds here appear to fit Tsavo Sunbird rather than Purple-banded or Marico but of the seedeater there was no sign. Some local officials arrived and stopped by to warn us of local fighting in the area and advised us to leave but the seedeater was still missing from our lists so we 'borrowed' some of the military from the nearby village and continued our quest until we had successfully completed our mission, gained good views of a pair of Salvadori's Seedeaters and immediately vacated the area as quickly as we could! Retreating away from the troubled region we managed to find the unassuming Boran Cisticola, which isn't safely identified as such unless it sings! and also saw Yellow-necked Spurfowl,

African Wattled Lapwing, Lilac-breasted Roller of the blue-breasted form *lorti*, Isabelline Shrike, Taita Fiscal, Bristle-crowned Starling and Speke's Weaver before the day drew to a successful close.

The next day we made an excursion to the Genale River where we hoped to find the localised Juba Weaver. We did indeed find small numbers but all were in non-breeding plumage. The site was an excellent location for a bush breakfast and a number of other birds kept us busy. A super male Black-bellied Sunbird in breeding plumage was a popular find and there was also Shikra, Purple Roller and Grey-headed Kingfisher. At another site nearby we found good numbers of Shelley's Starlings as well as the unassuming Brown-tailed Rock Chat and a Pearl-spotted Owlet. In the afternoon we returned to the plains and found Shelley's Sparrows nesting in the Whistling Thorn but the only other new species added was Coqui Francolin.



The endemic Salvadori's Seedeater (left) and localised Black-bellied Sunbird (right) were both seen during our stay in the Negelle area. (Nik Borrow)

The local skirmishes were still a problem on the day of our departure from Negelle and we were forced to take a particularly long detour to our next destination of Yabello. The journey was somewhat tedious and uneventful birdwise, the highlight perhaps being the enormous near-endemic Thick-billed Ravens outside the toilets of the hotel that we stopped at for breakfast. We reached Yabello before dark however and settled into our rooms for a four night's stay.



The endemic Black-fronted Francolin (left) allowed some excellent views this year as did the highly localised endemic White-tailed Swallow (right). (Nik Borrow)

With three full days in the Yabello area we chose to start our first day on a quest to see the recently split (from Chestnut-naped) Black-fronted Francolin. Our journey took us to a rocky escarpment in the Mega Mountains where we ensured that we arrived very early in order to pinpoint the francolins calling from the

cliffs. The site made another great picnic breakfast location and while Merid saw to the eggs and porridge we tried to spot at least one of the calling birds on the escarpment above us. The slopes were densely vegetated and at first all of the calling birds seemed to be hidden inside the bushes but fortuitously we were situated in a good place for a francolin started calling from nearby and posed nicely for us out on the rocks so that tremendous views were had by all and our success was suitably celebrated with a super breakfast surrounded by francolins! Spotted Palm Thrush, Vitelline Masked Weaver and a pair of Little Weavers were found before we left and as the day progressed we discovered numbers of White Storks feeding on some open grasslands beneath a busy flock of Lesser Kestrels and Alpine Swifts.

On the Soda Plains where we found another primary target, the must-see Stresemann's Bushcrow. Described as recently as 1938 and confined to an area of about 6,000 sq. km around Yabello, the bird's extremely restricted range has long been a puzzle, but it is now thought to be climate related. The precise area that it inhabits is slightly cooler and drier than areas of apparently similar habitat in southern Ethiopia. We watched a family party of these splendid creatures for as long as we wished and then looked around in search of more of the regional specialties and quickly found a family party of some fine Somali Coursers, which were quickly followed by an obliging Short-tailed Lark busy attacking the soil for food with its heavyweight bills. Not too much further on our first endemic White-tailed Swallows made an appearance and we enjoyed prolonged views of a pair resting in an acacia tree. At the same location we found another Secretarybird, Chestnut Sparrow and a colony of Black-capped Social Weavers.

Moving on to a very different habitat we had one of those purple patches where the birds just kept on coming. No sooner had we got off the bus than we found a showy pair of Red-naped Bushshrikes. Several fine Northern Grosbeak Canaries were seen and mega-skulking Pringle's Puffback, Three-streaked Tchagra and Scaly Chatterer all gave themselves up relatively easily! Also present were Eastern Chanting Goshawk, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Pygmy Batis, Dodson's Bulbul, Somali Crombec, Pale Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Bare-eyed Thrush, Marico and *albiventris* (white-bellied) Variable Sunbirds, Black-cheeked Waxbill and White-bellied Canary.



Highlights of our second day in the Yabello area were Masked Lark (left) and Donaldson Smith's Nightjar (right). (Nik Borrow)

Our second day involved an excursion to the Sarite Plains in search of a recently discovered population of Masked Larks. This is a bird that can be difficult to find in neighbouring Kenya where it is possibly only a seasonal visitor to Shaba National Reserve or else involves a special visit to the lava deserts north of Marsabit. The habitat that we were hoping to find it in Ethiopia was not lava but rather black cotton soils so we hoped that the recent rain would not cause us too much of a problem accessing the site. We set off before dawn as temperatures were sure to soar on the plains and we wanted to get there as early as was

realistically possible. We arrived on the plains taking in some Vulturine Guineafowl en route and set off on a long walkabout in search of the larks but by breakfast time we had drawn a blank. In the meantime, our local guide Jarso had found some birds in another area and after the breakfast was done and dusted we drove to where he had seen them and this time quickly scored with a number of larks seen well with at least 15 being counted. Most other species in the area were already familiar to us but we did add Little Swift and Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird to the list and obtained far better views of Black-throated Barbet whilst small numbers of Grevy's Zebra on the plains were also warmly welcomed. In the afternoon we tracked down Bearded Woodpecker and Foxy Lark near our lodge whilst at night we found a splendid Donaldson Smith's Nightjar.

The next day was devoted to a new addition to the itinerary that took us down towards the Kenyan border in search of some more special birds but the day turned into a greater success than we had initially hoped for. For some time we embarked on a long drive over difficult tracks with the only new birds for the trip being Lappet-faced Vulture, Spotted Thick-knee, and Lesser Masked Weaver. Eventually we reached an area where some tell-tale nests gave a clue to the presence of some Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weavers, a species that just creeps over the border into Ethiopia from northern Kenya. Here also everyone managed to get views of Southern Gerenuk to add to our growing mammal list. We were now in good habitat for Somali Bee-eater and a stop for some Chestnut-headed Sparrow Larks enabled us to also track down a pair of these desirable bee-eaters. Some dark clouds threatened rain and so we decided to head back out of the cotton soils that would surely keep us there if they got wet but we hadn't gone far before we screeched to a halt as a male Heuglin's Bustard was spotted close to the cars and on closer inspection we realised that two other (young?) males were associating with it. This sighting was surely the icing on the cake and we joyously headed back to Yabello stopping for some bush birding en route where we found Tiny Cisticola and some smart Grey-headed Silverbills.



A visit to a remote area near the Kenyan border was a huge success with no less than three Heuglin's Bustards spotted (left) as well as a busy pair of Somali Bee-eaters (right). (Nik Borrow)

It was time to leave the south and head northwards to Awassa, the road was under construction for good proportion of the latter half of the journey, which slowed our journey but we still managed to reach Awassa for lunchtime. During that afternoon and before breakfast the following morning we explored the garden of our hotel and the reedy fringes of Lake Awassa itself. The much-wanted African Spotted Creeper, fortunately fell very quickly and performed extremely well and we also found the hulking Blue-headed Coucal and colourful White-browed Robin-Chat. By the lakeside itself, the jetty and shore were heaving with local people enjoying the ambience of sunset over the lake but despite the noise and activity a number of very tame species were seen. Dainty African Pygmy Geese floated on the lake amongst the same lily pads that the African Jacanas trotted across and the squeals and clatters from countless Marabou Storks and yodelling

cries of African Fish Eagles filled the air. Black Crakes skittered everywhere and there were also Pink-backed Pelican, African Swamphen and Allen's Gallinule, Black-headed Gull, migrant Sedge Warblers, Northern Red Bishop and Common Waxbill.

Our next long journey took in a visit to the Senkelle Hartebeest Sanctuary on the way, which was reached along a tortuous maze of narrow lanes some of which were washed out but we found a suitable access road and having arrived we found a marvellous oasis of remnant grassland habitat where sure enough the endangered Swayne's Hartebeest easily enough. We used to see this form in Awash National Park but it seems that the population there has all but disappeared and the total population left in the wild is possibly no more than 600 animals with about half of these in Senkelle. Our time here was limited but birds added to the list were Great Spotted Cuckoo and Zitting Cisticola. We reached the town of Welkite in the late afternoon for an overnight stay.

Our final day took us into the Gibe Valley and of course once again we needed an early start as it gets very hot in the middle of the day. This region has a distinct western influence to its avifauna and several species are easier to see here than anywhere else on our circuit. We arrived shortly after dawn but little was moving by the river except a huge Goliath Heron and the huge bulks of snorting Hippopotamus. Moustached Grass Warbler and Bar-breasted Firefinch were new for the list and we found a good sized flock of near-endemic Abyssinian Waxbills. Other species seen during the morning included Clapperton's Francolin, Vinaceous Dove, Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, Barbary Falcon, Mosque Swallow, Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat and Familiar Chat but pride of place had to go to a superb Egyptian Plover which was watched at length as it fed along the riverbank in front of us.

Thus, the main tour came to an end for all that remained was a drive back to Addis Ababa in time to freshen up and catch the night flight home. All in all, this had been a hugely successful trip. Ethiopia has been given a terrible reputation to recover from with the damage done by its wars, droughts and famines. This is a country of immense beauty, fertility and history although with an estimated population of over 108 million (with a median age of 18.8!) this trip had seemed more like a 'birds and people tour' at times! With the population growing at a staggering estimated 2.9% the pressure on the country's poorly protected National Parks, reserves and natural world will surely intensify. It is perhaps particularly telling that this year very few oxpeckers and fewer vultures were seen and populations of Blue-winged Geese, Wattled Ibis and Stresemann's Bush-crow seemed significantly lower than previous tours. Perhaps this is yet another destination that should be seen before it is too late? Many thanks must be given to Merid and our drivers who worked long hours and had made it possible to see most of the popularly accepted endemics possible on the route as well as many other much sought-after species. As always, the variety and grandeur of the scenery had been awesome and the people were friendly and welcoming. With its tame and abundant avifauna, a trip to Ethiopia is surely one of the best birding experiences available and this trip will certainly be remembered for many years to come.



Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver nests near the Kenyan border. (Nik Borrow)



The sublime Egyptian Plover at Gibe Gorge was a wonderful way to end our Ethiopian adventure. (Nik Borrow)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

BIRDS

Total of bird species recorded: 500

Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes* About 10 seen on the Aledeghe Plains.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Small numbers on Lakes Ziway and Awassa.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* Small numbers were seen on Lakes Ziway and Awassa.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Small numbers on Lake Ziway.

Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanoptera* Endemic; only in the highlands and still appears to be declining.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common and widespread throughout the tour.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Small numbers were seen in the Bale Mountains.

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Small numbers seen well on Lake Awassa.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* A few sightings of this Palearctic migrant at various locations.

Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota* A pair seen on Lake Ziway.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* Small numbers of these Palearctic migrants on Lake Ziway.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* Small numbers were seen in the highlands.

Red-billed Teal (R-b Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha* A pair near Negelle.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum* Great looks at these bizarre birds in the Yabello area.

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* 3 seen well in the Negelle area.

Moorland Francolin (Montane F) *Scleroptila psilolaema* A pair was seen well in the Bale Mountains.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* Commonly seen in appropriate habitat in Awash and the south.

Clapperton's Francolin *Pternistis clappertoni* Heard by all and seen by some in the Gibe Valley.

Harwood's Francolin *Pternistis harwoodi* Heard by all and seen by some in the Jemma Valley.

Chestnut-naped Francolin *Pternistis castaneicollis* This regional endemic was easy to see in the Bale Mountains.

Black-fronted Francolin *Pternistis atrifrons* Excellent views of this endemic in the Mega area.

Erckel's Francolin *Pternistis erckelii* Great looks in the Jemma Valley.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Y-n Francolin) *Pternistis leucoscepus* Numerous in the south.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Small numbers on the Rift Valley lakes.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* Distant pink blobs on Lake Abiata.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* A few seen in the Rift Valley.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* Lingering migrants seen at various locations during the start of the tour.

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* 1 seen in the Jemma Valley.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Some large gatherings of this Palearctic migrant in the Mega area.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Common around the Rift Valley lakes and towns.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* A common and widespread bird in the highlands and Rift Valley.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Small numbers were seen around the Rift Valley lakes.

Wattled Ibis *Bostrychia carunculata* A regional endemic regularly encountered in the highlands.



Vulturine Guineafowl (left) were numerous in the Yabello area. Wattled Ibis (right) are endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea. (Nik Borrow)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Small numbers on Lake Ziway.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* 2 on Lake Langano.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*. 1 at dusk at Doho Lodge.

Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata (NL)* 2 at Doho Lodge for some.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Small numbers were seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Regularly encountered in suitable habitat throughout the tour.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Scattered sightings in small numbers throughout the tour.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Scattered sightings in small numbers throughout the tour.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* The world's largest heron; one was seen at Bishangari and another in the Gibe Valley.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Small numbers mainly in the Rift Valley.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Small numbers were seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E) *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* 1 on Lake Ziway.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Small numbers were seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Commonly encountered at any wetland habitat throughout the tour.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Numbers seemed low this year but seen well on the Rift Valley lakes.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Just 2 on Lake Awassa.

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Small numbers were seen mainly on the Rift Valley lakes.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Small numbers were seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* 1 at Doho Lodge and more on Lake Ziway.

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* A good show with a pair on the Aledeghe Plains and another at Soda.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 2 of these Palearctic migrants were seen on Lake Beseka.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Occasional sightings during the tour.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Widespread sightings during the tour.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus* A poor showing this year only 2 seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* Small numbers in the Awash area and 1 near Negelle.

European Honey Buzzard (Eurasian H-b) *Pernis apivorus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants in the Jemma Valley.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* The most numerous and widespread vulture.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* Widespread sightings in small numbers during the tour.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* Regularly encountered but never numerous throughout the tour.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* 2 sightings on the Aledeghe Plains and the Magado area.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus* 2 sightings of 3 individuals south of Yabello.

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* 3 widespread sightings during the tour.



Goliath Heron by the Gibe River (left) Black-chested Snake Eagle in Awash National Park (right). (Nik Borrow)

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* Widespread sightings in small numbers throughout the tour.

Crowned Eagle (African Crowned E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus* 1 high over the Haremma Forest.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* 1 at Adama and 2 in the Gibe Valley.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants in the Doho Lodge area.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii* 1 at Lake Ziway.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* A commonly encountered and widespread species throughout the tour.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* This Palearctic migrant was most common in the Bale Mountains.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* An adult with an immature of this Palearctic migrant at Lake Abiata.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* 1 juvenile in the Jemma Valley.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* 1 in the Jemma Valley.

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Just 4 widespread sightings.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* Most commonly encountered from the Jemma Valley to Langanoo.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk (Eastern Pale C G) *Melierax poliopterus* Small numbers in the south.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* 2 sightings of the race *unduliventer* with best views in the Haremma Forest.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Sightings at the Genale River and in the Magado area.

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris* Great views in the Bale Mountains.

Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus* 1 seen well in the Bale Mountains.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant during the tour.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* A scarce Palearctic migrant encountered in small numbers.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* Another Palearctic migrant, but seemingly more frequent than Pallid.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Common to abundant throughout the tour.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Easily seen around the Rift Valley lakes.

Common Buzzard (Steppe B) *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* Small numbers from the Bale Mountains southwards.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* Both morphs of this common and distinctive raptor in the highlands.

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs* At least 15 were seen on the Aledeghe Plains.

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* 3 of these huge birds in Awash NP with more seen in the south.

Heuglin's Bustard *Neotis heuglini* Excellent views of 3 males in the Magado area.

White-bellied Bustard (Northern W-b B) *Eupodotis senegalensis* Seen well in Awash NP and the south.

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* Small numbers seen in Awash NP and the Yabello area.

Rouget's Rail *Rougetius rougetii* This regional endemic was confiding in the Bale Mountains.



Kori Bustard in late afternoon light in Awash National Park (left). Rouget's Rail is endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea (right). (Nik Borrow)

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Easily seen at Lake Awassa.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* At least 1 was seen well at Lake Awassa.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* An adult was seen at Lake Awassa.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Small numbers were seen on the Rift Valley lakes.

Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) *Fulica cristata* Small numbers on the Rift Valley lakes and in the Bale Mountains.

Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus* 3 seen well in the Bale Mountains.

Common Crane *Grus grus* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant near Debre Birhan and many at Lake Abiata.

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* Seen in the Jemma Valley, at Bishangari and Gibe Gorge.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* A pair in the Magado area.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers seen in the Jemma Valley and Rift Valley lakes.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Common and widespread in suitable habitat during the main tour.

Black-headed Lapwing (B-h Plover) *Vanellus tectus* About 15 on the Aledeghe Plains.

Black-winged Lapwing (B-w Plover) *Vanellus melanopterus* Small numbers at Abiata and in the highlands.

Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus* Seen in appropriate habitat from Aledeghe to Yabello.

African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover) *Vanellus senegallus* Small numbers near Negelle and on the Gibe River.

Spot-breasted Lapwing *Vanellus melanocephalus* Good numbers of this endemic on the Sanetti Plateau.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen at Bishangari.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Sightings of this Palearctic migrant in the Rift Valley and near Negelle.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Sightings at Lakes Beseka and Abiata.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* 4 seen in the Jemma Valley.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen near Negelle on 20/11.

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* Close up views of this wonderful bird in the Gibe Valley.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Common and easy to see on the Rift Valley lakes.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen near Negelle on 20/11.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant on the Rift Valley lakes.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 2 of these Palearctic migrants was seen near Negelle

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 2 of these Palearctic migrants were seen well at Ziway and 1 at Bishangari.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were on the Rift Valley lakes and near Negelle.

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis* 3 birds on the Sanetti Plateau.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Palearctic migrants seen at Bilen and Lake Ziway.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in suitable habitat.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in suitable habitat.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Small numbers of these Palearctic migrants on the Rift Valley lakes.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in suitable habitat.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in suitable habitat.

Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis* Good looks at 19 on the Soda Plains.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* At least 12 at Lake Abiata.

Three-banded Courser (Heuglin's C) *Rhinoptilus cinctus* A pair with a newly hatched chick at Bishangari.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 40+ were seen near Negelle.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen at Lake Awassa.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Small numbers on the Rift Valley lakes.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 2 of these Palearctic migrants at Lake Beseka and 4 at Lake Ziway.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Palearctic migrants seen on the Rift Valley lakes and near Negelle.

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*. A surprise find! 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Bishangari on 16/11.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* Good numbers over the Aledeghe Plains.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii* Excellent views at Doho Lodge.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Only 'domestic' birds noted.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Hang your binoculars up if you miss this one in Ethiopia!

White-collared Pigeon *Columba albitorques* An abundant regional endemic.



A male Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse at Doho Lodge (left) and White-collared Pigeon (right) an Ethiopian-Eritrean endemic. (Nik Borrow)

African Olive Pigeon (Rameron P) *Columba arquatrix* Great views of 10+ at Bishangari.

Lemon Dove (Cinnamon D) *Aplopelia larvata* Seen well at Bishangari and Yirga Chafe.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* An abundant species in the highlands.

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* Common in the Awash area and in the Rift Valley.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* A common and widespread species.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* A common dry country dove constantly telling us to “work harder”!

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* Seen well in the Gibe Valley.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* A common and widespread species.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* Numerous in dry bush country.

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* A few widespread sightings and first seen at Bishangari.

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris* Good views in the Harena Forest.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Common in appropriate habitat.

Bruce’s Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* First seen in the Jemma Valley.

White-cheeked Turaco *Tauraco leucotis* Seen well at Melka Ghebdu, Bishangari and again in the Bale Mountains.

Ruspoli’s Turaco *Tauraco ruspolii* Scope views in the Negelle area.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird (Brown-f G-a-b) *Corythaixoides personatus* Great views, an endemic species if split.

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* A most distinctive dry country species.

Eastern Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus* Seen at Melka Ghebdu and heard in the Gibe Valley.

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* Seen well at Awassa and Gibe Gorge.

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread sightings.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* 1 at Senkelle.

Klaas’s Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Seen in the Jemma Valley and the Yabello area and heard elsewhere.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* A pair at a daytime roost at Bishangari.

Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis* Superb views near Dinsho at a known stakeout.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Daytime views of a roosting bird in the Bale Mountains.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* 2 sighting of this diurnal owl in the south.

Abyssinian Owl *Asio abyssinicus* Superb views in the Bale Mountains at a known stakeout.



A rather damp Cape Eagle-Owl (left) and an Abyssinian Owl (right) at daytime roosts in the Bale Mountains. (Nik Borrow)

Donaldson Smith’s Nightjar *Caprimulgus donaldsoni* Great views of a male in the Yabello area.

Montane Nightjar (Abyssinian N) *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* 1 at dusk at Goba.

Star-spotted Nightjar *Caprimulgus stellatus* 2 seen up close and personal in Awash NP.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* Seen well at Doho Lodge.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Seen well at Doho Lodge.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* Seen south of Yabello.

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae* Seen at Gemassa Gedal, Jemma Valley and Bale Mountains.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Just 1 over Sarite Plains.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* 1 over the Jemma Valley.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Common and widespread but avoids dry bush country.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Common in dry bush country.

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* A pair was seen well at Bishangari.

Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius* Small numbers seen particularly in the south.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* The blue-breasted race *lori* was seen in the south.

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* Frequent in the Awash area and Gibe Gorge.

Grey-headed Kingfisher (Chestnut-bellied K) *Halcyon leucocephala* Seen at the Genale River and Gibe Gorge.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Seen en route to Yabello.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* A few were seen in the Rift Valley lakes.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx pictus* 2 sightings in the Rift Valley lakes.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata* Exceedingly common in the Rift Valley lakes.

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* (NL) Brief views for some in the Jemma and Gibe Valleys.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A conspicuous bird and a feature of the Rift Valley lakes.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Great looks at the brightly coloured local *cyanostictus* race.

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops [variegatus] lafresnayii* Split by BirdLife *et al* as Ethiopian Bee-eater.

Somali Bee-eater *Merops revouillii* One of the highlights of our visit to the Magado area.

Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e) *Merops superciliosus* 3 at Lake Beseka.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* First seen well in the Awash area with more near Awassa.



Blue-breasted Bee-eaters of the distinctive race *lafresnayii* (left) are treated as a separate species by some taxonomists. Northern Carmine Bee-eaters were seen well in the Awash area. (right) (Nik Borrow)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Sightings of Palearctic migrants in the Awash area, looking very worn at this season.

Central African Hoopoe *Upupa [epops] senegalensis* Resident birds were common in appropriate habitat.

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus somaliensis* Frequent garrulous groups.

Black Scimitarbill (B Wood-hoopoe) *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* Seen well at Bishangari.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* The nominate race in Awash area and *cabanisi* in the south.

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* A few widespread sightings during the tour.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* Becoming more common in the far south.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni* Small numbers from Negelle and the south.

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris* First seen well in Awash NP.

Hemprich's Hornbill *Tockus hemprichii* First seen on the cliffs in the Jemma Valley.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* Only small numbers in the Awash area and the south.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Especially common in the enormous fig trees at Bishangari.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus* First seen well at Bishangari.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Seen in the Hareenna Forest.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* Sightings at Bishangari and south of Yabello.

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala* Nominate race at Doho Lodge and *stigmatothorax* in the south.
Banded Barbet *Lybius undatus* A regional endemic seen at Melka Ghebdu, Bishangari and Awassa.
Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat throughout the tour.
Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* Seen at Bishangari and Awassa.
Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Several encounters with this colourful barbet in the south.



The Banded Barbet (left) is endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea whereas the colourful Red-and-yellow Barbet can be found throughout northeast Africa. (Nik Borrow)

Yellow-breasted Barbet *Trachyphonus margaritatus* Seen well at Melka Ghebdu and the Awash area.
D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii* Great views in the far south.
Green-backed Honeybird (Eastern H) *Prodotiscus zambesiae* 2 seen briefly in the Haremma Forest.
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* Seen in the Gibe Valley and heard elsewhere.
Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* A singing bird seen well at Bishangari.
Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator* A juvenile in the Gibe Valley.
Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* Wonderful views at Bishangari.
Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* Numerous widespread sightings during the main tour.
Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus* A pair was seen at Yabello.
Abyssinian Woodpecker *Dendropicos abyssinicus* A regional endemic in the Jemma Valley and Bale Mountains.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Seen at Doho Lodge and Bishangari.
Eastern Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos spodocephalus* Good views at Bishangari.
Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* A female in Awash NP and a pair in the Magado area.
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* A Palearctic migrant seen over the Aledeghe Plains and in the far south.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Mainly Palearctic migrants but the resident *rufescens* was also recorded.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* 4 widespread sightings.
Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Sightings from the Bale Mountains.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 3 sightings from Addis Ababa, Jemma Valley and Awash NP.
Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides* An excellent sighting of 1 over Gibe Valley on 28/11.
Yellow-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus flavifrons* Wonderful views of this Ethiopian endemic at Bishangari.
Red-bellied Parrot (African Orange-b P) *Poicephalus rufiventris* First seen well en route to Doho Lodge.
Black-winged Lovebird *Agapornis taranta* A regional endemic with widespread sightings throughout the tour.
Grey-headed Batis *Batis orientalis* Seen well in the Awash and Yabello areas but voice is the best i.d. feature.
Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* Seen and heard well at widespread locations.
Pygmy Batis (P Puff-back Flycatcher) *Batis perkeo* Seen well in the far south.
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W) *Platysteira cyanea* Small numbers at Bishangari and Awassa.
Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Seen well in the Negelle area.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Several widespread sightings.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Telophorus cruentus* Small numbers but seen well in Awash and the south.

Three-streaked Tchagra *Tchagra jamesi* Excellent views of 2 south of Yabello.

Black-crowned Tchagra (B-headed T) *Tchagra senegalus* A few widespread encounters throughout the tour.

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* A number of widespread sightings during the main tour.

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii* This secretive bird was seen well in the far south.

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris* A common bird of thorn bush in Awash and the far south.

Red-naped Bushshrike *Laniarius ruficeps* Great looks at showy birds in the far south.

Ethiopian Boubou (Tropical B) *Laniarius aethiopicus* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat throughout.

Brubru *Nilaus afer* Excellent views in the Awash area and the south.

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* 3 seen at Bishangari.

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli* Common and easy to see in dry bush country.

Isabelline Shrike (Daurian S) *Lanius isabellinus* 1 was positively identified in the Negelle area.

Red-tailed Shrike (Turkestan S) *Lanius phoenicuroides* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidirostris* 3 were positively identified in the Awash area.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* Commonly encountered in the Rift Valley.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* Widespread sightings south of Yabello.

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus* Common and easy to see in the Awash area and far south.



Red-naped Bushshrike (left) and Somali Fiscal (right) are both readily found in the region south of Yabello. (Nik Borrow)

Northern Fiscal *Lanius collaris* Common and widespread throughout the highlands.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* 2 sightings of this Palearctic migrant in the Awash area.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Bishangari.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* 2 of these Palearctic migrants in the Negelle area.

Ethiopian Oriole (Abyssinian O) *Oriolus monacha* A regional endemic at Bishangari and in the Hareenna Forest.

Black-headed Oriole (Eastern B-h O) *Oriolus larvatus* All sightings were in the south.

Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis* A common and widespread bird of drier bush country.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Stresemann's Bushcrow *Zavattariornis stresemanni* Wonderful views of this very striking Ethiopian endemic.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* 1 for some in the Bale Mountains.

Cape Crow (Cape Rook) *Corvus capensis* Common to abundant in the highlands.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Very common and widespread.

Somali Crow (Dwarf Raven) *Corvus edithae* Most numerous in the far south.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* Common and widespread.

Thick-billed Raven *Corvus crassirostris* A characterful regional endemic.

White-winged Black Tit *Parus leucomelas* Seen at Bishangari.

White-backed Black Tit *Parus leuconotus* Great looks at this regional endemic in the Bale Mountains.

Acacia Tit (Northern Grey T) *Parus thruppi* Several chances to get good looks in the south.

Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus* Several sightings at Bilen and in the far south.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* Abundant on the Aledeghe Plains.
Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus* A pair near Doho Lodge and more in the Magado area.
Foxy Lark *Mirafra alopec* Seen well at Yabello.



White-backed Black Tit (left) is an Ethiopian-Eritrean endemic whereas Foxy Lark (right) ranges throughout East Africa. (Nik Borrow)

Archer's Lark (Sidamo L, Liben L) *Heteromirafra archeri* Seen easily on the Liben plains with local help.
Red-winged Lark *Mirafra hypermetra* Just 1 in Awash NP.
Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans* Small numbers on the Aledeghe Plains and in Awash NP.
Gillett's Lark *Mirafra gilletti* 1 seen exceptionally well in Awash NP.
Short-tailed Lark *Pseudalaemon fremantlii* Just 1 was seen well on the Soda Plains.
Masked Lark *Spizocorys personata* About 15 were seen well on the Sarite Plains.
Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae* An easily seen highland species.
Erlanger's Lark *Calandrella erlangeri* This endemic was easy to see in the northwestern highlands.
Somali Short-toed Lark *Calandrella somalica* 40+ seen on the Liben Plains.
Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* White-vented birds from the west highlands to Awash also in the northwest
Somali Bulbul *Pycnonotus somaliensis* The individuals around Doho Lodge show characteristics of this form.
Dodson's Bulbul *Pycnonotus dodsoni* The dry thorn bush version.
Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Yellow-vented birds in the southeastern highlands.
Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans* Easily seen near Negelle.
Black Saw-wing (Brown S) *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] antinorii* Small numbers at Bishangari and Harenna Forest.
Brown-throated Martin (Plain M) *Riparia paludicola* Most numerous in the Rift Valley.
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant during the main tour.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* This Palearctic migrant was abundant.
Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* All sightings in the south.
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Scattered sightings in small numbers often associated with water.
White-tailed Swallow *Hirundo megaensis* Small numbers of this endemic were seen in the Yabello area.
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant throughout the tour.
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Just 1 sighting in the Jemma Valley.
Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* 1 seen in the Gibe Valley.
Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* The resident *melanocrissus* in the Jemma Valley.
Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* Seen well in the Gibe Valley.
Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* Scattered sightings during the tour.
Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* Only seen at Bishangari.
Somali Crombec (S Long-billed C) *Sylvietta isabellina* Easily seen in the far south this tour.
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread locations.
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* This Palearctic migrant seemed to prefer highland localities.

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* Seen well in the Bale Mountains.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Easily seen at Lakes Ziway and Awassa.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* This Palearctic migrant was seen well at Lake Awassa.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant in the Awash area.

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* Good looks at this Palearctic migrant en route to Doho Lodge.

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Good views of this skulking bird in the Bale Mountains.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythropus* (H) Heard in the Gibe Valley.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* Seen well in the Jemma Valley.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Seen from the Rift Valley southwards.

Boran Cisticola *Cisticola bodessa* Seen well near Negelle. Best identified from Rattling by voice.

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus* Seen well in Awash NP.

Ethiopian Cisticola *Cisticola lugubris* This regional endemic was seen well in the Bale Mountains.

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nana* Eventually seen well by all south of Yabello.

Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler) *Cisticola juncidis* Seen well at Senkelle.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* (LO) Merid saw 1 in Awash NP.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* Seen on the Liben Plains and at Senkelle.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Widespread sightings.

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica* Seen well in the far south.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* This diminutive species was easy to see in dry acacia woodlands.

Yellow-breasted Apalis (Brown-tailed A) *Apalis [flavida] viridiceps* Vocally different from *flavida*, split by BirdLife.

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons* Seen well at Doho Lodge and in the far south.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Common and widespread throughout the tour.

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* Seen well in thorn bush in the Awash area and the south.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* First seen well in the Awash area.

Scaly Chatterer *Turdoides aylmeri* Excellent views of a group south of Yabello.

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa* First seen well at Doho Lodge.



Scaly Chatterer (left) is far more difficult to see than the more widespread Rufous Chatterer (right). (Nik Borrow)

White-rumped Babbler *Turdoides leucopygia* First seen well by all at Bishangari.

Abyssinian Catbird *Parophasma galinieri* Wonderful views of this endemic in the Bale Mountains.

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* This sweet songster was seen at Bishangari and Harena Forest.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread locations.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread locations.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Very small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread locations.

Brown Parisoma *Parisoma lugens* The race *griseiventris* in the Bale Mountains.

Banded Parisoma *Parisoma boehmi* Seen well south of Yabello.

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops [abyssinicus] abyssinicus* Grey-bellied birds found in the north.

Abyssinian White-eye (Pale Scrub W-e) *Zosterops [abyssinicus] flavilateralis* Yellow-bellied birds in the south.

Montane White-eye (Heuglin's M W-e) *Zosterops poliogastrus* Easy to see in the highlands.

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* Great views of this much-wanted species at Awassa.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Widespread sightings but all in non-breeding plumage.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Common and widespread.

Rüppell's Starling (R Long-tailed S) *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* Small numbers were seen well in the far south.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* An abundant and beautiful starling of the drier country.

Shelley's Starling *Lamprotornis shelleyi* First seen well in the Negelle area.

White-crowned Starling *Lamprotornis albicapillus* Impossible to miss this attractive starling in the far south.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Most numerous at Bishangari.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris* A few in the Bale Mountains.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii* Small numbers throughout the south.

White-billed Starling *Onychognathus albirostris* This regional endemic was easily seen, first at Gemassa Gedal.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Sporadic sightings of small numbers during the main tour.

Abyssinian Ground Thrush *Geokichla piaggiae* 1 was seen well at Bishangari and another in the Bale Mountains.

Groundscraper Thrush *Turdus [litsisirupa] simensis* A regional endemic split as Ethiopian Thrush by BirdLife *et al.*



African Spotted Creeper (left) is still fairly easily seen at Awassa. The Ethiopian form of Groundscraper Thrush is now split by some as a separate species, Ethiopian Thrush (right). (Nik Borrow)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* Scattered sightings at lower altitudes.

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* Seen well in the south.

Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain T) *Turdus abyssinicus* A common highland species.

Black Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas podobe* 2 seen well in the Bilen/Awash area.

White-browed Scrub Robin (Red-backed S R) *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Easily seen in thorn bush country.

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis chocolatinus* A regional endemic seen well at Goba.

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* Widespread sightings in small numbers.

African Grey Flycatcher *Bradornis microrhynchus* A common bird of dry bush country.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* 3 widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* A common and confiding bird of the highlands.

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa* A common bird and easy to see in the highlands and northern Rift.

White-browed Robin-Chat (Heuglin's R-C) *Cossypha heuglini* Seen well at Awassa.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*. Great looks at 1 at Bishangari.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla* 1 seen in the Gibe Valley.

Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata* Several sightings in the south.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (H) This Palearctic migrant was only heard in the Negelle area.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Palearctic migrants of the distinctive race *samamiscus*.

White-winged Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea semirufa* A regional endemic seen in the Jemma Valley.

Common Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed R T) *Monticola saxatilis* 3 widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.

Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus* (NL) Seen by Chris in the Jemma Valley.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. 2 sightings of this Palearctic migrant in the Jemma Valley and the Negelle area.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* 2 of these Palearctic migrants was seen in the Jemma Valley.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* The distinctive race *albofasciatus* was seen well in the highlands.

Moorland Chat (Alpine C, Hill C) *Pinarochroa sordida* Exceedingly common in the highlands.

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* Seen in the Jemma Valley and near Mega.

Rüppell's Black Chat *Myrmecocichla melaena* A regional endemic seen well in the Jemma Valley.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Small numbers and widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.

Red-breasted Wheatear *Oenanthe bottae* A roadside bird in the highlands.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* A very numerous Palearctic migrant.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* A very numerous Palearctic migrant.

Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura* Excellent views en route to Doho Lodge.

Brown-tailed Rock Chat *Oenanthe scotocerca* Good views near Negelle.

Sombre Rock Chat *Oenanthe dubia* This little-known bird was easy to see at Lake Beseka.

Abyssinian Wheatear (A Black W) *Oenanthe lugubris* Seemingly common in the Jemma Valley.

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis* Small numbers seen in the south.

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* A female seen near Negelle.

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallica* Just 1 in non-breeding plumage en route to Doho Lodge.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* 1 seen well at Bishangari.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Widespread sightings but nowhere common.

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri* A few sightings in the far south.

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze* Common in the highlands but mainly in non-breeding plumage.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* Widespread sightings and many not looking very beautiful at all!

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis* Mainly seen south of Yabello.



Black-bellied Sunbird (left) and Shelley's Sparrow (right) are both localised East African species to be found in the Negelle area. (Nik Borrow)

Black-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris nectarinioides* Great looks at a breeding plumage male near Negelle.

Tsavo Sunbird *Cinnyris tsavoensis* The 'purple-banded' sunbirds in the Negelle area appear to be this species.

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus* Our first shining examples were en route to Doho Lodge.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Easy to see *fazoqlensis* in the highlands and in the far south *albiventris*.

Shelley's Sparrow (S Rufous S) *Passer shelleyi* Seen well in the south and associated with whistling thorn.

Swainson's Sparrow *Passer swainsonii* Abundant throughout.

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey* Small numbers seen in the south.

Bush Petronia *Petronia dentata* First seen well in the Jemma Valley.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Petronia pyrgita* A bird of the dry bush country in the south.

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Good numbers in the Awash area and the south.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* A striking bird in the Awash area and the south.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* A common bird in the Awash area, Rift Valley and the south.

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* 3 were seen well at Melka Ghebdu.

Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser donaldsoni* One of the highlights of our visit to the Magado area.

Grey-capped Social Weaver (G-headed S W) *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* Seen on the Liben Plains and in the far south.

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi* Good numbers south of Yabello.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* This pretty little bird was seen well in the Jemma Valley.

Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* A male was seen at Bishangari.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* Small numbers were noted throughout the highlands.

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* First seen well near Mega.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* A few seen at Bishangari and Lake Awassa.

Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula* Seen from Melka Ghebdu to Awash with a few males in plumage.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* (LO) Seen by Nik in the Magado area.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* Seen in the south.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei* Non-breeding plumaged birds seen on the Liben Plains and again near Mega.

Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus* A few widespread sightings.

Juba Weaver *Ploceus dichrocephalus* Non-breeding plumaged birds seen near Negelle.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* First seen at Bishangari with more in the Negelle area.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Most numerous in the Awash area.

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* Breeding plumaged birds in the Jemma Valley.

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* All in non-breeding plumage in the Rift Valley.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Small numbers in the Bale Mountains.

Red-collared Widowbird (Red-naped W) *Euplectes ardens* Breeding plumaged birds in the Jemma Valley.

Green-winged Pytilia (Melba Finch) *Pytilia melba* Seen well in the Awash area and in the south.

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* Widespread sightings in dry bush country.



Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver (left) was one of the specialties of the Magado area. (Nik Borrow) We enjoyed excellent looks at the secretive Abyssinian Crimsonwing in the Haremma Forest (right) (Merid Gabremichael)

Abyssinian Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza salvadorii* Great looks at a family party in the Haremma Forest.

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* Small numbers in the Gibe Valley.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Common and widespread except in the Bale Mountains.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* A common and widespread species.
Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* Small numbers were seen in the south.
Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccyzygia quartinia* Small numbers in the Bale Mountains.
Abyssinian Waxbill *Estrilda ochrogaster* Excellent views of this localised species in the Gibe Valley.
Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* A few sightings and first seen well in the Jemma Valley.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* A pair at Lake Awassa.
Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda charmosyna* Views for some south of Yabello.
African Silverbill *Euodice cantans* Small numbers in the Jemma Valley and Doho Lodge.
Grey-headed Silverbill *Odontospiza caniceps* 4 seen well south of Yabello.



We enjoyed great views of Abyssinian Waxbill (left) at Gibe Gorge and Grey-headed Silverbills (right) were at Yabello. (Nik Borrow)

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* Widespread sightings and nowhere common.
Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* A small flock in the Hareenna Forest.
Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* Widespread sightings and some in breeding plumage.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Widespread sightings and some in breeding plumage.
Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* Males in breeding plumage near Doho Lodge.
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Eastern P W) *Vidua paradisaea* Breeding plumaged birds in the Awash area.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* A very common to abundant Palearctic migrant.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] lutea* Small numbers identified.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava* Small numbers identified.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* Seen at Lake Ziway.
Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi* Possibly this form at Lake Ziway.
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. 1 of these Palearctic migrants was scoped at Lake Beseka on 15/11.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread localities.
Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* This elegant wagtail was first seen in the Jemma Valley.
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* This Palearctic migrant was first seen in the Jemma Valley.
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Seen well in the Jemma and Gibe Valleys.
Abyssinian Longclaw *Macronyx flavicollis* This endemic was seen well in the Bale Mountains.
African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus* Most numerous around Lake Abiata.
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* 1 of these Palearctic migrants on the Aledeghe Plains.
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* First seen well on the Liben Plains.
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Palearctic migrants at scattered locations.
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* A common Palearctic migrant in the highlands.
African Citril *Crithagra citrinelloides* Small numbers in the Bale Mountains and at Lake Awassa.
Yellow-rumped Seedeater (White-throated S) *Crithagra xanthopygia* Great views in the Jemma Valley.
Reichenow's Seedeater (Kenya Y-r S) *Crithagra reichenowi* First seen well at Lake Ziway.
Yellow-throated Seedeater *Crithagra flavigula* Great views of up to 6 of this endemic at Melka Ghebdu.

Salvadori's Seedeater (S Serin) *Crithagra xantholaema* After much searching a pair of this endemic near Negelle.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Easily seen in the Jemma and Gibe Valleys.

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostrata* Easily seen in the far south.

Ankober Serin *Crithagra ankoberensis* Good looks at Gemassa Gedal.

Northern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra donaldsoni* Good looks at singing males south of Yabello.

Brown-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra tristriata* Easy to see this regional endemic in the highlands.

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata* A common species in the highlands.

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* Seen in the Bale Mountains.

Ethiopian Siskin (Black-headed S) *Serinus nigriceps* This endemic is a very common bird in the highlands.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 2 of these Palearctic migrants in the Jemma Valley.

Striolated Bunting (Striated B) *Emberiza striolata* Great views by Lake Beseka.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (C-b Rock Bunting) *Emberiza tahapisi* Very common in the Jemma Valley.

Somali Bunting (Somali Golden-breasted B) *Emberiza poliopleura* Seen well in Awash NP and the south.



The male Mountain Nyala (or Gedemsa) is an impressive beast and endemic to Ethiopia. (Nik Borrow)

MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 41

Yellow-spotted Hyrax (Bush H) *Heterohyrax brucei* Seen in the Jemma Valley.

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* Widespread sightings.

Grivet Monkey *Chlorocebus aethiops* Hybrids confuse the situation but we mainly encountered this form.

Vervet *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Our only definite sighting was in the Negelle area.

Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza* Most numerous at Bishangari.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* Widespread sightings.

Gelada Baboon *Theropithecus gelada* Seen in the mist at Gemassa Gedal.

Abyssinian Hare *Lepus habessinicus* Widespread sightings.

Ethiopian Highland Hare *Lepus starcki* Seen in the Debre Birhan area and in the Bale Mountains.

Blick's Grass Rat *Arvicanthis blicki* Positively identified in the Bale Mountains where it is abundant.

Neumann's Grass Rat (Somali G R) *Arvicanthis neumanni* (LO) Seen by Nik at Doho Lodge.

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* *Arvicanthis* south of Yabello were either this species or *A. neumanni*.

Giant Mole Rat *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus* A number of these bizarre creatures seen on the Sanetti Plateau.

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* Seen at Bishangari.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus* Widespread sightings.

Wild Cat *Felis silvestris* 1 seen south of Yabello.

Lion *Panthera leo* (H, LO) Heard by Nik at night at Doho Lodge.

Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* 1 at Yabello.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocota crocuta* Several sightings between Debre Birhan to Negelle.

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* 1 south of Yabello.

African Golden Wolf *Canis anthus* Seen well on the Aledeghe Plains and Lake Abiata.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* 1 in Awash NP.

Ethiopian Wolf (Simien Fox, S Jackal) *Canis simensis* 2+ seen well on the Sanetti Plateau.

Grevy's Zebra *Equus grevyi* 3 seen on the Sarite Plains.

Plains Zebra (Common Z) *Equus quagga* 3 of the race *boehmi* were seen at Yabello.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Seen in the Awash area, Bale Mountains and in the south.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Seen at Lake Langanu and in the Gibe River.

Hartebeest (Swayne's H) *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] swaynei* c. 100 at Senkelle Hartebeest Sanctuary.

Gerenuk (Southern G) *Litocranius walleri* Seen well in the Magado area.

Guenther's Dik-dik *Madoqua guentheri* Common in the south.

Salt's Dik-dik *Madoqua saltiana* Common in the Awash area.

Grant's Gazelle (Bright's G) *Nanger [granti] notatus* Seen well at Lake Abiata and on the Soda Plains.

Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii* Common on the Aledeghe Plains.

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa* 60+ on the Aledeghe Plains and 8 in Awash NP.

Oribi (Sudan O) *Ourebia [ourebi] montana* 7 at Senkelle Hartebeest Sanctuary.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* Small numbers seen on the Gaysay Grasslands.

Common Duiker (Bush D) *Sylvicapra grimmia* 2 sightings in the Negelle area.

Mountain Nyala (Gedemsa) *Tragelaphus buxtoni* Tame and habituated animals in the Bale Mountains.

Lesser Kudu *Tragelaphus imberbis* 5 in Awash NP and 1 south of Yabello.

Bushbuck (Ethiopian Highlands B, Menelik's B) *Tragelaphus [scriptus] meneliki* Seen in the Bale Mountains.

Ethiopian Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus labiatus* Presumably this species in the hotel grounds at Awassa



Swayne's Hartebeest. (Nik Borrow)