



ETHIOPIA TOUR REPORT 2022

14 November - 4 December 2022

BY MARK BEAMAN

Ethiopia is one of those countries that anyone who seriously considers themselves a birder must visit. With all the Ethiopian endemics combined with the many additional endemics and specialities restricted to the 'Horn of Africa', it is right up there vying with South Africa and Namibia as the No.1 avian specialities hotspot in all of Africa! Our 2022 tour was a great success, recording an impressive 535 species including all the endemics and numerous near-endemics and range-restricted specialities. The only thing that interfered, and only a little, was the closure of the Negele area owing to some ethnic strife, so we missed two or three species found only in Somalia and adjacent southeast Ethiopia as a result, but we made up for this by having more time elsewhere and getting some 'tough-to-find' extra birds. With 48 species recorded during the tour, Ethiopia is also a fantastic venue for mammals, a number of which can be seen nowhere else!

We started off the tour with the usual crawl out of Addis Ababa, but this was to be our only heavy traffic until we returned to city at the end of the main tour. Our first drive took us through typical highland Ethiopian scenery to the town of Debre Birhan, with impromptu stops along the way for our first endemic Blue-headed Geese, White-collared Pigeons and Thick-billed Ravens (wow they are impressive!) and restricted-range Fan-tailed Ravens and Swainson's Sparrows, plus an unexpected White-headed Vulture among a gathering of Bearded, Hooded, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced. In the afternoon we visited Gemessa Gedal, also known as 'Menelik's Window' (so-named after Ethiopia's greatest ruler). As soon as one arrives one can see the validity of the name as there is a spectacular slot in the escarpment at this point with a drop of some 3000 metres (10,000 feet) down to the desert plains of Afar that lie far, far below. Our first Geladas put in an appearance, although here it is not like in Simien where they allow a very close approach. Soon the local farmers were chasing them down the cliffs! New endemics included Wattled Ibis, White-billed Starling, Ethiopian Siskin, Brown-rumped Seedeater and the rather unobtrusive little Ankober Serin (which we eventually got close enough to photograph thanks to the help of the local lads). A pair of Lanners put on a fantastic show for us, diving after White-collared Pigeons right in front of us, Moorland Chats were quite fearless and Cinnamon Bracken Warblers called from the low bushes. The geographically-isolated *simensis* form of the predominantly southern African Groundscraper Thrush was admired and indeed this endemic form is already being split by some authorities as Ethiopian Thrush. We finished off the day in some farmland where goodies included the endemic Erckel's Spurfowl, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Yellow-shouldered Widowbird and a very unexpected Red-necked Falcon, the latter a rarity in Ethiopia that put on quite a hunting display.

We were most definitely 'up with the lark' (or, rather, long before any larks were about!) for our visit to the Jemaa Valley. The journey was made longer than usual as the dirt road was 'under reconstruction' which in Ethiopia is a euphemism for an unusually bumpy road waiting and waiting to be tarred. Not long after dawn we reached the spectacular escarpment high above the Jemaa River, a tributary of the Blue Nile, and were soon descending into Harwood's Spurfowl territory. This highly localized endemic is not an easy bird to find, but the Jemaa is one of the best places for it and we were soon watching one that came gradually closer and closer until it gave great photo opportunities. Our first endemic Black-winged Lovebirds and restricted-range Hemprich's Hornbills also put in an appearance. Descending further we encountered the endemic White-winged Cliff Chats and Rüppell's Black Chats, the restricted-range Abyssinian Wheatear and the localized Fox Kestrel before reaching the river. The traditional site for Red-winged Pytilia, almost always a tricky bird, failed to turn any up and the new road construction had obliterated the long-productive site for Foxy Cisticola, so we were going to have to look in another area for these two specialties. We did find such endemics and near-endemics as Ethiopian Bee-eater, Ethiopian Boubou, Heuglin's White-eye and Yellow-rumped Seedeater, as well as Sahel Bush Sparrow and Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, and both Half-collared and African Pygmy Kingfishers gave extraordinary close views. The highland steppe above the Jemaa also proved productive, turning up the restricted-range Red-breasted Wheatear and Erlanger's Lark (the latter now lumped with Blanford's Lark) as well as our first Black Stork.

From the central highlands of Ethiopia it was all downhill, quite literally, as we dropped down into the desert country of the southern part of Afar state. The people changed as well as the habitat, the highland Amhara farmers giving way to the nomadic Afars with their distinctive hairstyles and large herds of cattle and goats. We soon got used to seeing their strange, boat-like houses with grass roofs, often topped off with a modern plastic tarpaulin to keep any rain out. Our first stop on the long descent was at Melka Gebdu. By this time the highland trees had already given way to acacias and we soon located our two prime targets, the endemic Yellow-throated Seedeater and the hard-to-come-by Yellow-breasted Barbet (hard to come by as the rest of its range is in countries where birders fear to tread!). We also came across our first endemic Banded Barbet, first restricted-range Rüppell's Weavers and first Isabelline Shrike of the tour. After encountering our first Hamadryas (or Sacred) Baboons, we finished off the day exploring the surroundings of our lodge where highlights included Greater Spotted, Booted and Wahlberg's Eagles (the first of these moving between two wetlands), Upcher's and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers and Nile Valley and Shining Sunbirds, not to mention some very sweet little Salt's Dikdiks. At dusk some Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse appeared, although none settled at the drinking spot we had opted to 'stake out', and afterwards we encountered many Slender-tailed Nightjars although not the much rarer Star-spotted Nightjar.

The next morning we set out early for Ali Deghe-Asebot National Park, an extensive area of grasslands, finding some African Collared Doves along the way. Mammals were quite conspicuous in the park and included Beisa Oryx, Soemmering's Gazelle, the long-necked Northern Gerenuk, Common Warthog and African Golden Wolf. Poaching from vehicles is obviously a problem in the park or at least its surroundings as all the antelopes and warthogs made a fast escape whenever we approached. Ali Deghe is, however, a great place for birding and is famous for its healthy population of the fast-declining Arabian Bustard. We saw a good number, although none of the gorgeous Northern Carmine Bee-eaters came and perched on their backs. We had to make do with one riding a Somali Ostrich, one of five we encountered during our visit. Both resident and migrant raptors were a conspicuous feature, including Black-chested Snake Eagle, plenty of Lesser Kestrels and both Pallid and Montagu's Harriers. The restricted-range Somali Fiscal was common and we came across our first Gillett's Lark and some Chestnut-headed and Black-crowned Sparrow-Larks among the more numerous Singing Bush Larks and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks. Our first Rosy-patched Bushshrike proved popular and we also encountered our first gigantic Abyssinian Ground Hornbills.

Afterwards, it was time to explore another area where the thickets and acacias held Grey-headed Batis and Somali Bulbul while persistence paid off with a fine Black Scrub Robin. A small wetland turned up a Greater Painted-snipe as well as the more usual suspects. During the afternoon we explored Awash National Park where Kori, Buff-crested and White-bellied Bustards, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and more Gillett's Larks were the highlights.

Before leaving Awash we successfully checked out the lava desert for the rare, range-restricted Sombre Rock Chat which was heavily outnumbered by Blackstarts. We also came across Striolated Bunting and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. The rest of our day was focused on several wetland sites as we headed for Lake Langano in the Great Rift Valley. We were fortunate with the sometimes elusive but ever-beautiful Black Crowned Crane, nine of which were encountered during the day, including a pair with three ginger chicks. Most of the waterbirds were widespread species but that did not make the large numbers of pelicans, storks, geese, ducks, shorebirds and others any the less impressive. Two Southern Pochards were an unexpected bonus.

The surroundings of Lake Langano are excellent for birding and we had a most enjoyable early morning watching a noisy flock of endemic Yellow-fronted Parrots, discovering a roosting Plain Nightjar, being entertained by the antics of some near-endemic Black-billed Wood Hoopoes and White-rumped Babbler and admiring the very localized Red-throated Wryneck. African Olive Pigeon and Bruce's Green Pigeon were further highlights.

Once inside an area of forest the birding became slower, but still very productive with Scaly Spurfowl, beautiful, near-endemic White-cheeked Turacos bounding along the branches, huge Silvery-cheeked Hornbills noisy flapping by, gorgeous Narina's Trogons and secretive Rüppell's and Red-capped Robin-Chats. Other notable species included the endemic Ethiopian Oriole and restricted-range Eastern Grey Woodpecker. A Scaly-throated Honeyguide came right above us in response to a recording, Scaly Spurfowl performed, Lemon Doves cooed from low perches and both Abyssinian Ground Thrush and some Green Twinspots lived up to their reputation for shyness.

Elsewhere at Langano, we visited a couple of lodges where we added a nice pair of Greyish Eagle-Owls and some smart Little Rock Thrushes. After that, it was time to 'head for the hills' and we were soon on our way towards the famous Bale Mountains. The scenery along the winding highway was spectacular and once we reached the edge of the Bale Mountains National Park we stopped in an area of grassland where we found the rather localized endemic Abyssinian Longclaw as well as the endemic Ethiopian Cisticola. Mammals were conspicuous and included the impressive endemic Mountain Nyala or Gedemsa as well as Bohor Reedbucks and Olive Baboons that had clearly received too much food from passing humans!

The next day we headed east to Sof Omar, named after a famous cave system on the Gestro (or Weib) River where the Muslim saint Sof Omar Ahmed took refuge in the 11th century. As we travelled eastwards on the bumpy minor road the wheatlands of the Bale uplands gave way to small farms and pastures among the acacia woodlands of the foothills. Almost as soon as we arrived we saw a Brown-tailed Rock Chats, the first of a number of these range-restricted specialities we were to turn up. The endemic Salvadori's Seedeater is one of Ethiopia's scarcest endemics, so we were not hopeful of rapid success, but that too fell to our dedicated team after very little effort! Other goodies included Acacia Tit and White-crowned and Bristle-crowned Starlings, while Somali Crows seem to have invaded the towns on the northeastern flanks of the Bale.

During the afternoon we enjoyed a radical change of scenery as we searched some beautiful juniper and Hagenia forest inside Bale Mountains National Park. Our prime target here was the rare and range-restricted Abyssinian (Long-eared) Owl and our local guide finally turned one up after putting in a great deal of effort on our behalf. What a beautiful owl! (OK, I admit it, I LOVE owls...!). With the 'big one' in the bag we could relax and enjoy the endemic Abyssinian Woodpeckers, White-backed Black Tits, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatchers and Abyssinian Catbirds, not to mention Brown Woodland Warblers and the endemic Menelik's Bushbuck, and even have time to watch African Black Ducks at close range and an unexpected perched Black Sparrowhawk. The localized Mountain Buzzard was a good sighting but amazingly we were to find three more in the Hareenna Forest the next day!

Birding the high-altitude ascent road up onto the Sanetti Plateau in the eastern Bale Mountains is always one of the big highlights of an Ethiopian birding tour. We passed through the park gate as soon as it opened and we were soon enjoying the antics of the endemic Rouget's Rails by the roadside. Soon enough the near-endemic Chestnut-naped Spurfowl appeared, as did the Bale form of the Brown Parisoma,. Although the latter soon made its escape unlike the very tame spurfowl.

Up on the wild plateau itself we had our first encounter with the endemic Moorland Francolin, although not everyone scored so we would have to keep trying. Ruddy Shelduck, Red-billed Chough and Golden Eagle are all at their only non-Palaearctic breeding area in Ethiopia and wintering Steppe Eagles from the Eurasian steppe were a common sight. We particularly enjoyed a magical encounter with two fairly tolerant Wattled Cranes, a fast disappearing species throughout its shrinking range, and a couple of flocks of endemic Spot-breasted Lapwings.

Everyone who visits the Bale wants to see the endemic but Endangered Ethiopian Wolf, so we were thrilled when the first individuals appeared and even more excited to encounter no fewer than 11 over the course of the morning, including several that came really close as they hunted the ubiquitous Blick's Grass Rats. A favourite prey item is the much larger (and aptly-named) Big-headed Mole Rat and we enjoyed watching them digging out their burrows, one even emerging in its entirety, which is not a common sight. Another mammal characteristic of the high Bale is the Ethiopian Highland (or Starck's) Hare and our lead driver spotted one that had crouched right in front of the car to avoid the attentions of an approaching wolf.

A short visit to the upper section of the Hareenna Forest produced an African Emerald Cuckoo and a couple of Abyssinian Ground Thrushes, plus some Guerezas (or (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus monkeys) and a roadside Bushpig. Then it was time for a successful second search for Moorland Francolin before a hot shower and dinner beckoned.

After a short session successfully luring in Montane Nightjar and then trying and failing to find a roosting Cape Eagle-Owl at our first site, we headed off to the second and here we scored big time. It took a bit of searching for, but with the help of a couple of local youths, who climbed down the cliffs to locate the owl, we were soon enjoying awesome scope views of this huge predator.

Once we returned to the Great Rift Valley we made a detour to Senkele National Park. Not much turned up from a bird perspective, although we did find Purple Roller, but the park is most famous as the last stronghold of the impressive endemic Wayne's Hartebeest. We found lots of these impressive creatures and we also encountered some Sudan Oribis, although they were so small they almost vanished in grass that barely went above the knees on the hartebeest!

The next morning we explored habitats beside Lake Awassa (or Hawassa) one of the most bird-rich of the Rift Valley lakes. An initial stop to try and find Clapperton's Francolin was wildly successful with a male so intent on driving off its rival that it ran right up to us. Next up was the star bird of Awassa, African Spotted Creeper, which we had displaying right in front of us! Everything was going perfectly, and then we reached the lake itself and found the water level phenomenally high, with all the reedbeds drowned! So, no African Pygmy Geese or Allen's Gallinules this time and not even a Goliath Heron, just hordes of African Jacanas and pleasant waterside species like Blue-headed Coucal, Lesser Swamp Warbler and Thick-billed Weaver.

As we headed south towards the far-off Kenya borderlands we came across a flock of 20 Abdim's Storks and 2 White Storks along the way, while a stop at Lake Chamo turned up that missing Goliath Heron and more surprisingly five Black Herons. A group of Northern Masked Weavers was a 'write-in' on the Birdquest Ethiopia checklist.

Now we had reached Ethiopia's 'Deep South', just north of the Kenya border, and here the avifauna was radically different from further north.

Our first stop was at the Sarite (or Sarite) Plain which lies to the west of Yabelo. Here, the sometimes elusive Masked Lark was unusually easy to find on this occasion and indeed we counted no fewer than 25 in total! Other good birds of restricted range included hordes of strikingly-plumaged Vulturine Guinea fowl, Shelley's Starling and Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver (after quite a search). We also had a marvellous encounter with an adult Martial Eagle that had just killed a Helmeted Guinea fowl. We watched the latter crouched on its prey (at very close range from our vehicles) as the survivors cackled in alarm. Mammals here were also special, with close encounters with the beautifully-marked Grevy's Zebra, a number of restricted-range Desert Warthogs (we were to see more further to the east) and Bright's Gazelles.

Around Yabelo we found such restricted-range species as Foxy Lark, Tiny Cisticola, Dodson's Bulbul, the smart Pale White-eye, Scaly Chatterer, Bare-eyed Thrush and Northern Grosbeak-Canary, as well as the first of many endemic White-tailed Swallows, a species that nests in the tall, pointed red termite mounds that are a feature of southernmost Ethiopia.

Very high on every visitor's wants list for Ethiopia is the beautiful Ruspoli's Turaco. Poor old Prince Ruspoli, an Italian explorer and collector, was killed by an elephant not long after 'discovering' this turaco for science and its whereabouts remained a mystery for around a century. Fortunately, a number of areas are now known to hold this iconic species and we visited one of them from our base at Yabelo. No sooner had we arrived at the forest and got out of the 4x4s, there they were! Five turacos bounding from branch to branch, flapping and gliding between trees and doing those amazing turaco growls!

Such a rapid success gave us extra time to bird elsewhere and we were soon watching a female House Sparrow collecting nesting material at a village with a male not far away, while more usual species included the restricted-range Shelley's Sparrow and many perky Grey-capped and Black-capped Sparrow-Weavers. Some stops in thick bush produced really good views of the uncommon Pringle's Puffback, the gorgeous Golden-breasted Starling and our first Pygmy Falcon, as well as Lesser Kudu.

Nearer to Yabelo the thornbush turned up a fine pair of Three-banded (or Heuglin's) Coursers, as well as the beautiful, restricted-range Red-naped Bushshrike, the similarly localized Pale Prinia,

The next morning we were out very early to drive close to the Kenya border. Our stop along the way for the endemic Black-fronted Francolin proved frustrating, with only flight views, so we vowed to return. Red-tailed Shrikes and an unexpected Brown-tailed Rock Chat cheered us up and soon we were descending the spectacular escarpment to the desert plain that stretches into Kenya, punctuated only by some isolated hills.

It was slow going on a very rocky track but eventually, we reached the plain, a mixture of Acacia and Commiphora bush and open grassland, and started to encounter new birds. Pride of place among these went to the smart but rather unobtrusive Somali Bee-eater, the rather pipit-like Pink-breasted Lark and the tiny Yellow-vented Eremomela and Red-fronted Prinia. A brief encounter with a Tsavo Sunbird proved frustrating and we could not find any rare Heuglin's Bustards among the Kori, White-bellied and Buff-crested Bustards. On the edge of the plain, a few Parrot-billed Sparrows were present, but they clearly interbreed with Swainson's Sparrows as we found intergrades in the nearby hill country.

Heading back to the escarpment, and having successfully avoided some rain squalls moving over the desert, all was going well until we rounded a bend and saw a river of water approaching! Yes it was a flash flood from far away rain that had fallen in the hills earlier in the day. After struggling through a couple of flooded sections of the track we could not safely go further and had no choice but to wait several hours for the waters to subside. They eventually did go down, almost as rapidly as they rose, but we had quite an 'adventure' getting the vehicles out of the mud that had been left behind. By the time we were back on the tar it was too late to return to Yabelo and we overnighted in a small hotel that was (mercifully) a lot better than we had anticipated!

After a way more successful encounter with Black-fronted Francolins in the morning (and sightings of Northern Kudu and Ethiopian Klipspringer) it was off to another plain, this time dry underfoot, where we found lots of Short-tailed Larks and some Somali Short-toed Larks and both Boran and Ashy Cisticolas. All birds of restricted distributions.

By the end of our time in the south, we were down to the usual birding scenario – seeking out those harder-to-find specialities that had eluded all or most of us to date. So it was that we finally all had good views of Black-faced Sandgrouse (in flight and at a drinking pool) and the restricted-range Somali Crombec, while a breakfast stop produced a Tawny Eagle almost catching a Günther's Didkik, but Three-streaked Tchagra just kept on skulking and just giving us glimpses. Likewise, a dusk attempt for Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar, previously heard only apart from one flushed by the lead car, turned up only yet another heard bird. So it goes when you run out of time, but we had done truly well in the south. The greatest highlight of our final morning was surely the group of mobbing Stresemann's Bushcrows on that termite mound, going crazy while we all snapped away. We had already seen plenty of these very special endemics, but that last encounter really was the icing on the cake of our visit to the far south.

It was a long haul from southern Ethiopia to the Gibe Gorge. The Gibe River is another tributary of the Blue Nile and here we finally connected with the restricted-range Foxy Cisticola and managed to hear but not see a near-endemic Red-billed Pytilia. We had fantastic close views of Four-banded Sandgrouse and, at the other end of the size range, the near-endemic Abyssinian Waxbill as well as African and Bar-breasted Firefinches. Scouring the river produced no fewer than 27 lovely Black Crowned Cranes and 93 Abdim's Storks but we found no trace of the Egyptian Plover that had been seen the week before. Gibe just does not have much suitable habitat for this charismatic species and so visits are fleeting. Other notable birds included two write-ins for the Birdquest Ethiopia checklist, Bluethroat and Orange-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbill, as well as Abyssinian White-eye and Exclamatory Paradise Whydah (including males in full and extraordinary plumage). Our visit was rounded off by the grumpy Hippos and Nile Crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks.

Now all that remained of the main tour was to put up with the Addis traffic as we made our way to our hotel.

The 'extensioners' first had to fly northwards to the ancient city of Gondar, situated not far from Lake Tana the source of the Blue Nile. From there we made our way northwards to the famous Simien Mountains National Park. We stopped along the way at a first viewpoint over the awesome Simien scenery (so very different from Bale) and managed to find some wintering Eurasian Crag Martins and resident Blue Saw-wings.

Our late afternoon was spent among a huge herd of 150 Geladas inside the park. These Gelads live unmolested lives, so they have no fear of humans and we were able to get right into the middle of the herd and move slowly with them as they grazed their way across the landscape. By keeping low and moving slowly it was possible to get right up to the mothers and babies, and often very close to the huge adult males. These monkeys are not baboons but instead the last representatives of a lineage of grass-eating simians that were once more widespread and diverse in Africa. It was a magical experience that none of us will ever forget.

The next morning we drove further into the park to the Chenek area. Here the scenery was even more awesome, with towering cliffs and slopes and a huge drop from where we were down to the Amhara lowlands far below. Truly this has to be one of the most spectacular places in all of Africa, if not the most spectacular of all. Before we reached Chenek we came across a good number of Slender-billed Starlings feeding alongside sunbirds on the orange and yellow Kniphofia flowers. Bearded Vultures and Thick-billed and Fan-tailed Ravens were common in this magical place, often coming close to inspect us (especially those very naughty Thick-billed Ravens that were so fussy about what bits of the picnic breakfast they liked!). Further up the mountains we finally found a big male Abyssinian (or Walia) Ibex amidst a wild landscape punctuated by Giant Lobelias. The veritable 'Roof of Africa'.

From the Simien, we returned to Gondar where we had an appointment with the Royal Palaces of the Abyssinian emperors. Not only are the palaces hugely impressive but the grounds hold noisy Hemprich's Hornbills and other birds that perch all over the ruins. Afterwards, we moved on to the beautiful Debre Birhan Selassie church where the ceiling is covered in angel faces and the walls with murals depicting St George and the Dragon and lots of Biblical scenes. It was fascinating to see the very different iconography of the Ethiopian Church which is much closer to the Coptic Church of Egypt than anything in European Christianity. We rounded off a great day with an African Wood Owl outside our hotel.

So it was that we came to our final day in Ethiopia. In complete contrast to Simien, this time we headed down and down to the plains towards Ethiopia's border with Sudan. A traffic hold up at a checkpoint lost us an hour, but after that, we had a fast journey on a good tarred road to our chosen area, a small river valley with thick fringing vegetation. And there they were, not long after we arrived, a noisy and inquisitive pair of near-endemic White-headed Babblers. They put on a great show for us before we moved on to other things, including a gorgeous Black-headed Gonolek, a pair of African Green Bee-eaters, a Lizard Buzzard, a group of Green Wood Hoopoes and, best of all, a colony of very approachable Red-throated Bee-eaters. What a brilliant end to a fantastic journey through one of Africa's birdiest destinations!

BIRD/MAMMAL OF THE MAIN TOUR

1st: Stresemann's Bushcrow

2nd: (Prince) Ruspoli's Turaco

3rd: Ethiopian Wolf

4th =: Rouget's Rail and African Spotted Creeper

BIRD/MAMMAL OF THE EXTENSION

1st: Gelada

2nd: White-headed Babbler

3rd: Red-throated Bee-eater

4th: Abyssinian or Walia Ibex

5th=: African Wood Owl and Thick-billed Raven

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Somali Ostrich ◊ *Struthio molybdophanes*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Blue-winged Goose ◊ *Cyanochen cyanoptera*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Blue-billed Teal (or Hottentot Teal) *Spatula hottentota*

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Red-billed Teal (or Red-billed Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Vulturine Guineafowl ◊ *Acryllium vulturinum*

Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena*

Moorland Francolin ◊ (or Montane Francolin) *Scleroptila psilolaema*

Chestnut-naped Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis castaneicollis*

Black-fronted Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis atrifrons*

Erckel's Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis erckelii*

Scaly Spurfowl *Pternistis squamatus*

Clapperton's Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis clappertoni*

Harwood's Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis harwoodi*

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus*

Donaldson Smith's Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus donaldsoni*

Montane Nightjar ◊ (or Abyssinian Nightjar) *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Plain Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus inornatus*

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma* heard-only

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Bare-faced Go-away-bird ◊ [Brown-faced Go-away-bird] *Crinifer [personatus] personatus*

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

Eastern Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus*

Ruspoli's Turaco ◊ *Menelikornis ruspolii*

White-cheeked Turaco ◊ *Menelikornis leucotis*

Arabian Bustard ◊ *Ardeotis arabs*

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana*

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Jacobin Cuckoo (or Black-and-white Cuckoo) *Clamator jacobinus*

Diederik Cuckoo (or Didric Cuckoo) *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Common Cuckoo (or Eurasian Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus*

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

Four-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles quadricinctus*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

White-collared Pigeon ◊ *Columba albitorques*

African Olive Pigeon (Rameron Pigeon) *Columba arquatrix*

Lemon Dove (Cinnamon Dove) *Columba larvata*

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*
African Collared Dove ◊ *Streptopelia roseogrisea*
Mourning Collared Dove (or African Mourning Dove) *Streptopelia decipiens*
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*
Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea*
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*
Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus*
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*
Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistris*
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*
Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*
Rouget's Rail ◊ *Rougetius rougetii*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Red-knobbed Coot (or Crested Coot) *Fulica cristata*
Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*
Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*
Wattled Crane ◊ *Grus carunculata*
Common Crane *Grus grus*
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*
Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*
Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus*
Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus*
Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*
Spot-breasted Lapwing ◊ *Vanellus melanocephalus*
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Somali Courser ♦ *Cursorius somalensis*
Three-banded Courser (or Heuglin's Courser) *Rhinoptilus cinctus*
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Lesser Black-backed Gull [Baltic Gull] *Larus [fuscus] fuscus*
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*
Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*
White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*
African Darter *Anhinga rufa*
Reed Cormorant (or Long-tailed Cormorant) *Microcarbo africanus*
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*
Wattled Ibis ♦ *Bostrychia carunculata*
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*
Striated Heron (or Green-backed Heron) *Butorides striata*
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Intermediate Egret [Yellow-billed Egret] *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*
Black Heron (or Black Egret) *Egretta ardesiaca*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*
Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*
Bearded Vulture (or Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus*
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*
Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli*
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*
Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*
Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*
Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Verreaux's Eagle (or Black Eagle) *Aquila verreauxii*
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk (or Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter rufiventris*

Black Sparrowhawk (or Great Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Western Marsh Harrier (or Eurasian Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Common Buzzard [Steppe Buzzard] *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus*

Mountain Buzzard ◊ *Buteo oreophilus*

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* heard-only

Abyssinian Owl ◊ (or African Long-eared Owl) *Asio abyssinicus*

Cape Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo capensis*

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens*

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* heard-only

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Eurasian Hoopoe [Central African Hoopoe] *Upupa [epops] senegalensis*

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe ◊ *Phoeniculus somaliensis*

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor*

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Von Der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris*

Hemprich's Hornbill ◊ *Lophoceros hemprichii*

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

Purple Roller (or Rufous-crowned Roller) *Coracias naevius*

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus*

European Roller (or Eurasian Roller) *Coracias garrulus*

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Ethiopian Bee-eater ◊ *Merops lafresnayii*

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bulocki*

Somali Bee-eater ◊ *Merops revoilii*

African Green Bee-eater ◊ *Merops viridissimus*

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* 2 at Lake Beseka but 5 more distant birds were either this species or the more frequently observed Olive Bee-eater *M. superciliosus*.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*

Banded Barbet ◊ *Lybius undatus*

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

Yellow-breasted Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus margaritatus*

D'arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis*

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*

Abyssinian Woodpecker ◊ (or Golden-backed Woodpecker) *Dendropicos abyssinicus*

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Eastern Grey Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*

Fox Kestrel ◊ *Falco alopex*

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chiquera*

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Yellow-fronted Parrot ◊ *Poicephalus flavifrons*

Red-bellied Parrot (or African Orange-bellied Parrot) *Poicephalus rufiventris*

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Black-winged Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis taranta*

Grey-headed Batis ◊ *Batis orientalis*

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri*

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (or Common Wattle-eye) *Platysteira cyanea*

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (or Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

Rosy-patched Bushshrike ◊ *Telophorus cruentus*

Three-streaked Tchagra ◊ *Tchagra jamesi*

Black-crowned Tchagra (or Black-headed Tchagra) *Tchagra senegalus*

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Pringle's Puffback ◊ *Dryoscopus pringlii*

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

Red-naped Bushshrike ◊ *Laniarius ruficeps*

Ethiopian Boubou ◊ *Laniarius aethiopicus*

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Isabelline Shrike (or Daurian Shrike) *Lanius isabellinus*

Red-tailed Shrike (or Turkestan Shrike) *Lanius phoenicuroides*

Great Grey Shrike [Steppe Grey Shrike] *Lanius [excubitor] pallidirostris*

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Taita Fiscal ◊ *Lanius dorsalis*

Somali Fiscal ◊ *Lanius somalicus*

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Black-headed Oriole (Eastern Black-headed Oriole) *Oriolus larvatus*

Ethiopian Oriole ◊ (or Abyssinian Oriole) *Oriolus monacha*

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Glossy-backed Drongo *Dicrurus divaricatus*

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Stresemann's Bushcrow ◊ *Zavattariornis stresemanni*

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Cape Crow (or Cape Rook) *Corvus capensis*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Somali Crow ◊ (or Dwarf Raven) *Corvus edithae*

Fan-tailed Raven ◊ *Corvus rhipidurus*

Thick-billed Raven ◊ *Corvus crassirostris*

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas*

White-backed Black Tit ◊ *Melaniparus leuconotus*

Acacia Tit (or Northern Grey Tit) *Melaniparus thruppi*

Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus*

Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps*

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark ◊ *Eremopterix signatus*

Pink-breasted Lark ◊ *Calendulauda poecilosterna*

Foxy Lark ◊ *Calendulauda alopex*

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*

Gillett's Lark ◊ *Mirafra gilletti*

Short-tailed Lark ◊ *Spizocorys fremantlii*

Masked Lark ◊ *Spizocorys personata*

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*

Blanford's Lark ◊ [Erlanger's Lark] *Calandrella [blanfordi] erlangeri* Erlanger's Lark is endemic to Ethiopia/Eritrea

Somali Short-toed Lark *Calandrella somalica*

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Dodson's Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus dodsoni*

Somali Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus somaliensis*

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Black Saw-wing ◊ [Blue Saw-wing] *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] pristoptera*

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Brown-throated Martin (or Plain Martin) *Riparia paludicola*

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Rock Martin (or African Rock Martin) *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

White-tailed Swallow ◊ *Hirundo megaensis*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-chested Swallow *Hirundo lucida*

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Somali Crombec ◊ *Sylvietta isabellina*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Brown Woodland Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Boran Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola bodessa*

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus*

Ethiopian Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola lugubris*

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nana*

Foxy Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola troglodytes*

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* heard-only

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Pale Prinia ◊ *Prinia somalica*

Red-fronted Prinia *Prinia rufifrons*
Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*
Brown-tailed Apalis *Apalis flavocincta*
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*
Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*
Yellow-vented Eremomela ◊ *Eremomela flavicrissalis*
Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*
Abyssinian Catbird ◊ *Sylvia galinieri*
African Hill Babbler (or Abyssinian Hill Babbler) *Sylvia abyssinica*
Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*
Banded Parisoma *Curruca boehmi*
Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
Brown Parisoma *Curruca lugens*
Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*
Abyssinian White-eye ◊ *Zosterops abyssinicus*
Pale White-eye ◊ (or Pale Scrub White-eye) *Zosterops flavilateralis*
Heuglin's White-eye ◊ *Zosterops poliogastrus*
Rufous Chatterer *Argya rubiginosa*
Scaly Chatterer ◊ *Argya aylmeri*
White-rumped Babbler ◊ *Turdoides leucopygia*
White-headed Babbler ◊ *Turdoides leucocephala*
African Spotted Creeper ◊ *Salpornis salvadori*
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus*
Rüppell's Starling (or Rüppell's Long-tailed Starling) *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
Golden-breasted Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis regius*
Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*
Shelley's Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis shelleyi*
White-crowned Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis albicapillus*
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*
Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*
Bristle-crowned Starling ◊ *Onychognathus salvadorii*
White-billed Starling ◊ *Onychognathus albirostris*
Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Abyssinian Ground Thrush ◊ *Geokichla piaggiae*

Groundscraper Thrush ◊ [Ethiopian Thrush] *Turdus [litsitsirupa] simensis* The endemic form in Ethiopia (and Eritrea), *simensis*, has recently been shown to differ in genetics, plumage and vocalizations from the forms in southern Africa and is now being split by some authorities under the name Ethiopian Thrush.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Abyssinian Thrush (or Mountain Thrush) *Turdus abyssinicus*

Bare-eyed Thrush ◊ *Turdus tephronotus*

Black Scrub Robin ◊ *Cercotrichas podobe*

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher ◊ *Melaenornis chocolatinus*

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides*

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa*

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis*

Spotted Palm Thrush (or Spotted Morning Thrush) *Cichladusa guttata*

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

White-winged Cliff Chat ◊ *Monticola semirufus*

Common Rock Thrush (or Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush) *Monticola saxatilis*

Little Rock Thrush ◊ *Monticola rufocinereus*

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Moorland Chat (or Alpine Chat, Hill Chat) *Pinarochroa sordida*

Mocking Cliff Chat (or Cliff Chat) *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Rüppell's Black Chat ◊ *Myrmecocichla melaena*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Red-breasted Wheatear ◊ *Oenanthe bottae*

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

White-fronted Black Chat *Oenanthe albifrons*

Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura*

Familiar Chat (or Red-tailed Chat) *Oenanthe familiaris*

Brown-tailed Rock Chat ◊ *Oenanthe scotocerca*

Sombre Rock Chat ◊ *Oenanthe dubia*
Abyssinian Wheatear ◊ (or Abyssinian Black Wheatear) *Oenanthe lugubris*
Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis*
Nile Valley Sunbird ◊ *Hedydipna metallica*
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri*
Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze*
Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*
Marico Sunbird (or Mariqua Sunbird) *Cinnyris mariquensis*
Tsavo Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris tsavoensis*
Shining Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris habessinicus*
Variable Sunbird (or Yellow-bellied Sunbird) *Cinnyris venustus*
Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow (or Yellow-spotted Petronia) *Gymnoris pyrgita*
Sahel Bush Sparrow (or Bush Petronia) *Gymnoris dentata*
Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*
Shelley's Sparrow ◊ (or Shelley's Rufous S) *Passer shelleyi*
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*
Swainson's Sparrow ◊ *Passer swainsonii*
Parrot-billed Sparrow ◊ *Passer gongonensis*
House Sparrow (self-introduced) *Passer domesticus*
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*
White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus*
Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver ◊ *Plocepasser donaldsoni*
Grey-capped Social Weaver (or Grey-headed Social Weaver) *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*
Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*
Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*
Thick-billed Weaver (or Grosbeak Weaver) *Amblyospiza albifrons*
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*
Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*
Rüppell's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus galbula*
Northern Masked Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus*
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*
Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*
Village Weaver (or Black-headed Weaver) *Ploceus cucullatus*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

Yellow-mantled Widowbird [Yellow-shouldered Widowbird] *Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus*

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor*

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

Yellow-bellied Waxbill (or East African Swee) *Coccygia quartinia*

Green Twinspot (or Green-backed Twinspot) *Mandingoa nitidula*

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Brunhilda chamosyna*

Abyssinian Waxbill ◊ *Estrilda ochrogaster*

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

Orange-breasted Waxbill (or Zebra Waxbill) *Amandava subflava*

Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster*

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Green-winged Pytilia (or Melba Finch) *Pytilia melba*

Red-billed Pytilia ◊ (or Ethiopian Pytilia) *Pytilia lineata* heard-only

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

African Firefinch (or Blue-billed Firefinch) *Lagonosticta rubricata*

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta*

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri*

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

Exclamatory Paradise Whydah *Vidua interjecta*

Western Yellow Wagtail [Blue-headed Wagtail] *Motacilla [flava] flava*

Western Yellow Wagtail [Black-headed Wagtail] *Motacilla [flava] feldegg*

Western Yellow Wagtail [Grey-headed Wagtail] *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Abyssinian Longclaw ◊ *Macronyx flavicollis*

African Pipit (or Grassland Pipit) *Anthus cinnamomeus*
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
African Citril ♦ *Crithagra citrinelloides*
Yellow-rumped Seedeater ♦ (or White-throated Seedeater) *Crithagra xanthopygia*
Reichenow's Seedeater (or Kenya Yellow-rumped Seedeater) *Crithagra reichenowi*
Yellow-throated Seedeater *Crithagra flavigula*
Salvadori's Seedeater ♦ (or Salvadori's Serin) *Crithagra xantholaema*
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*
White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata*
Ankober Serin ♦ *Crithagra ankoberensis*
Northern Grosbeak-Canary ♦ *Crithagra donaldsoni*
Brown-rumped Seedeater ♦ *Crithagra tristriata*
Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*
Ethiopian Siskin ♦ (or Black-headed Siskin) *Serinus nigriceps*
Striolated Bunting (or Striated Bunting) *Emberiza striolata*
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (or Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting) *Emberiza tahapisi*
Somali Bunting (or Somali Golden-breasted Bunting) *Emberiza poliopleura*

MAMMALS

Yellow-spotted Hyrax (or Bush Hyrax, Bruce's Rock Hyrax) *Heterohyrax brucei*
Common Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*
African Wildcat *Felis lybica*
Large-spotted Genet (or Blotched Genet) *Genetta maculata* One seen by some at Bishoftu.
Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*
Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*
Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*
Slender Mongoose (or Common Slender Mongoose) *Herpestes sanguineus*
White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*
African Golden Wolf *Canis lupaster*
Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*
Ethiopian Wolf (or Simien Fox) *Canis simensis*
Grevy's Zebra *Equus grevyi*

Desert Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*
Bushpig *Potamochoerus larvatus*
Swayne's Hartebeeste *Alcelaphus swaynei*
Abyssinian Ibex (or Walia Ibex) *Capra waliae*
Northern Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri*
Günther's Dikdik *Madoqua guentheri*
Salt's Dikdik *Madoqua saltiana*
Bright's Gazelle *Nanger granti*
Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii*
Ethiopian Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*
Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa*
Sudan Oribi *Ourebia ourebi*
Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*
Common Duiker (or Bush Duiker) *Sylvicapra grimmia*
Mountain Nyala (or Gedemsa) *Tragelaphus buxtoni*
Lesser Kudu *Tragelaphus imberbis*
Menelik's Bushbuck *Tragelaphus meneliki*
Northern Kudu (or Greater Kudu) *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*
Ethiopian Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus labiatus*
Grivet (Savanna Monkey) *Chlorocebus aethiops*
Vervet *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza*
Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*
Hamadryas Baboon (or Sacred Baboon) *Papio hamadryas*
Gelada Baboon *Theropithecus gelada*
Ethiopian Hare (or Ethiopian Scrub Hare) *Lepus fagani*
Abyssinian Hare *Lepus habessinicus*
Ethiopian Highland Hare (or Starck's Hare) *Lepus starcki*
Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*
Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*
Big-headed Mole Rat (or Giant Root Rat) *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*
Blick's Grass Rat *Arvicanthis blicki*
Somali Grass Rat *Arvicanthis neumanni*



White-headed Vulture (image by Mark Beaman)





Wattled Ibis (image by Mark Beaman)



Ankober Serin (image by Mark Beaman)



Harwood's Spurfowl (image by Mark Beaman)



White-winged Cliff Chat (image by Mark Beaman)



Abyssinian Wheatear (image by Mark Beaman)



African Pymgy Kingfisher (image by Mark Beaman)



Erlanger's Lark (image by Mark Beaman)



Yellow-throated Seedeater (image by Mark Beaman)



Half-collared Kingfisher (image by Mark Beaman)



Grivet Monkey (image by Mark Beaman)



Northern Carmine Bee-eater (image by Mark Beaman)



Arabian Bustard (image by Mark Beaman)



Yellow-fronted Parrot (image by Mark Beaman)



Plain Nightjar (image by Mark Beaman)



Red-throated Wryneck (image by Mark Beaman)



White-rumped Babblers (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-billed Wood Hoopoe (image by Mark Beaman)



Coffee break (image by Mark Beaman)



Mountain Nyala (image by Mark Beaman)



Brown-tailed Rock Chat (image by Mark Beaman)



Rouget's Rail (image by Mark Beaman)



Chestnut-naped Spurfowl (image by Mark Beaman)



Wattled Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Ethiopian Wolves (image by Mark Beaman)



Ethiopian Wolf (image by Mark Beaman)



Cape Eagle-Owl (image by Mark Beaman)



Swayne's Hartebeests (image by Mark Beaman)



Abyssinian Woodpecker (image by Mark Beaman)



Clapperton's Spurfowl (image by Mark Beaman)



Silvery-cheeked Hornbills (image by Mark Beaman)



African Spotted Creeper (image by Mark Beaman)



Vulturine Guineafowl (image by Mark Beaman)



Masked Lark (image by Mark Beaman)



Grevy's Zebra (image by Mark Beaman)



Bright's Gazelle (image by Mark Beaman)



Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver (image by Mark Beaman)



Martial Eagle (image by Mark Beaman)



Ruspoli's Turaco (image by Mark Beaman)



Ruspoli's Turaco (image by Mark Beaman)



Red-named Bushshrike (image by Mark Beaman)



The Kenyan borderlands (image by Mark Beaman)



Dust storm (image by Mark Beaman)



Buff-crested Bustard (image by Mark Beaman)



Somali Bee-eater (image by Mark Beaman)



Flash flood! (image by Mark Beaman)



Short-tailed Lark (image by Mark Beaman)



Somali Short-toed Lark



Stresemann's Bushcrows (image by Mark Beaman)



Somai Crombec (image by Mark Beaman)



Abyssinian Waxbill (image by Mark Beaman)



Four-banded Sandgrouse (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-crowned Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Simien Mountains (image by Mark Beaman)



Geladas enjoying their foraging while we sit among them (image by Mark Beaman)



Gelada (image by Mark Beaman)



Walia Ibex (image by Mark Beaman)



Palace at Gondar (image by Mark Beaman)



Hemprich's Hornbill (image by Mark Beaman)



White-headed Babblers (image by Mark Beaman)



Red-throated Bee-eaters (image by Mark Beaman)