



**BIRDING
AFRICA**
THE AFRICA SPECIALISTS

Ethiopia

2019 Tour Report

White-cheeked Turaco



*Text by tour leader Michael Mills
Photos by Don MacGillivray and Clive Prior*

SUMMARY

The Roof of Africa, as Ethiopia is known, offers some of the most distinctive and endemic-rich birding on the African continent. Along with nearly fifty endemics and near-endemic birds, spectacular landscapes and an interesting array of mammals make Ethiopia a spectacular wildlife destination and a must for any world birder.

Our April 2019 tour took in Ethiopia's best as we visited Sululta Plain, Debre Libanos, Jemma Valley, Debre Zeyit, Basaka Lava Flow, Doho Lodge, Ali Dege Plains, Bilen Lodge, Awash National Park, Koka wetlands, Lake Langano (twice), Bale Mountains National Park, Negele area including the Liben Plain, Mega, the Soda Plain, the Yavello area, Lake Awasa, Gibe Gorge, Melka Ghebdu and Gemessa Gedel, before taking a short tour of the main historical sites at Lalibela and Gondar.



Strereemann's Bush Crow

Unfortunately, over the twenty years since I first visited Ethiopia the human population has grown massively, putting enormous pressure on the natural resources of the country and creating increasing social conflict. Inter-clan clashes and unrest had a significant impact on our tour and affected us in no less than three areas, and almost a fourth, resulting in the loss of two full days of birding in exchange for long drives. It was also sad to see domestic livestock outnumbering large native mammals in all national parks visited and overgrazing was evident even inside the parks, with grass-dependent birds like cisticolas becoming harder to find and Harwood's Francolin seemingly in perilous danger of extinction with almost no habitat left on field margins for it to survive in. At Gibe, supposedly a national park, large numbers of hippos had been poisoned for crop raiding.

Despite these challenges we fared exceptionally well on the birds. We found all the regional specialties except for Juba Weaver and White-winged Dove (and of course the questionable Nechisar Nightjar) that were put out of reach by safety concerns, logging over 500 species during our visit. **Banded Barbet**, **Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher** and **Brown-rumped Seedeater** were seen in our hotel gardens in Addis and **Abyssinian Longclaw**, **Wattled Ibis**, **Spot-breasted Lapwing**, **White-collared Pigeon** and **Blue-winged Goose** were found at Sululta Plain, before **Rüppell's Black Chat**, **White-billed Starling**, **White-winged Cliff Chat**, **Ethiopian Groundscraper Thrush** and **Ethiopian Blue-breasted Bee-eater** was seen at Debre Libanos. The Jemma Valley turned up **Erckel's Francolin**, **Harwood's Francolin** and **White-throated/Yellow-rumped Seedeater** and **Gelada Baboon**. In the Awash region we found **Sombre Rock Chat**, surprise **Graceful Prinia**, **Arabian Bustard**, **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**, **Gillett's Lark** and **Shining Sunbird**, before starting our journey south. At Lake Langano we found **Clapperton's Francolin**, **Black-winged Lovebird** and **Northern White-faced Owl**, **Cape Eagle-Owl** en route to Bale, and in the Bale Mountains **Abyssinian Long-eared Owl**, **White-cheeked Turaco**, **White-backed Black Tit**, **Rouget's Rail**, **Abyssinian Woodpecker**, **Abyssinian Catbird**, **Ethiopian Oriole**, **Moorland Francolin**, **Bale Brown Parisoma** and **Ethiopian Wolf**. Descending back into the lowlands at Negele we found **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** en route. At the Liben Plain we enjoyed fantastic views of Africa's rarest bird, **Archer's Lark**, and nearby found **Salvadori's Seedeater** and **Black-bellied Sunbird**. In the Yavello area, highlights included **Black-fronted Francolin**, **Stresemann's Bushcrow**, **White-tailed Swallow**, **Vulturine Guineafowl** and **Somali Courser**, before we start our journey back north. At Lake Awasa highlights included **Lesser Jacana** and **White-backed Duck**, in the Bishangari area we found **Ethiopian African Goshawk** and **Yellow-fronted Parrot**, and at Gibe Gorge **Black Crowned Crane**, **Abyssinian Waxbill** and **Egyptian Plover**. We ended off with a short visit to Melka Ghebdu with **Yellow-throated Seedeater** and **Red-billed Pytilia**, and Gemessa Gedel for **Ankober Serin**, and Gelada Baboon again. On the extension, at Lalibela we added **White-fronted Black Chat** and along the Gondar-Metema road, the rarely-seen **White-headed Babbler** along with **Red-pate Cisticola** and **Beaudouin's Snake Eagle**.

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

6-28 April 2019

LEADER

Michael Mills

PARTICIPANTS

Judith Allanson

Cassia Gallagher

Don MacGillivray

Clive Prior

Anita Smyth

Alex Torborg

ITINERARY

6 Apr: Arrive Addis Ababa. Introductory birding at Ghion Hotel.

7 Apr: Early birding at Ghion Hotel, followed by Sululta Plain and Debre Libanos/Portuguese Bridge.

8 Apr: Early morning to early afternoon in the Jemma Valley. Then drive back to Addis.

9 Apr: Drive Addis to Debre Zeyit where birding at Lake Hora. Continue to Awash area with stop at Basaka Lava Flow en route. Afternoon to and at Doho Lodge.

10 Apr: Early morning to Ali Dege Plain, followed by Bilen Lodge area before driving to Awash National Park for the afternoon.

11 Apr: Full day in Awash National Park, focussed on the Ilala Sala Plains.

12 Apr: Awash NP early, then visit Basaka Lava Flow before driving to Lake Langanu with a stop at Adama for lunch and the Koka wetlands.

13 Apr: Morning at Lake Langanu before driving to Bale Mountains, with birding at Dinsho in the afternoon.

14 Apr: Birding Juniper forest near Goba and on the Sanetti Plateau.

15 Apr: Early morning to Harenna Forest, followed by long drive to Negele via Ruspoli's Turaco.

16 Apr: Full day in the Negele area, including Liben Plain.

17 Apr: Drive Negele the Yavello the long way.

18 Apr: Full day south of Yavello, including Mega and Soda Plain.

19 Apr: Morning south of Yavello before drive to Lake Awasa.

20 Apr: Morning at Awasa. Afternoon at Lake Langanu.

21 Apr: Early morning at Lake Langanu. Afternoon drive to Welliso.

22 Apr: Morning at Gibe Gorge. Afternoon drive to Debre Birhan via Welliso and Addis.

23 Apr: Early morning at Melka Ghebdu. Early afternoon at Gemessa Gedel before drive back to Addis.

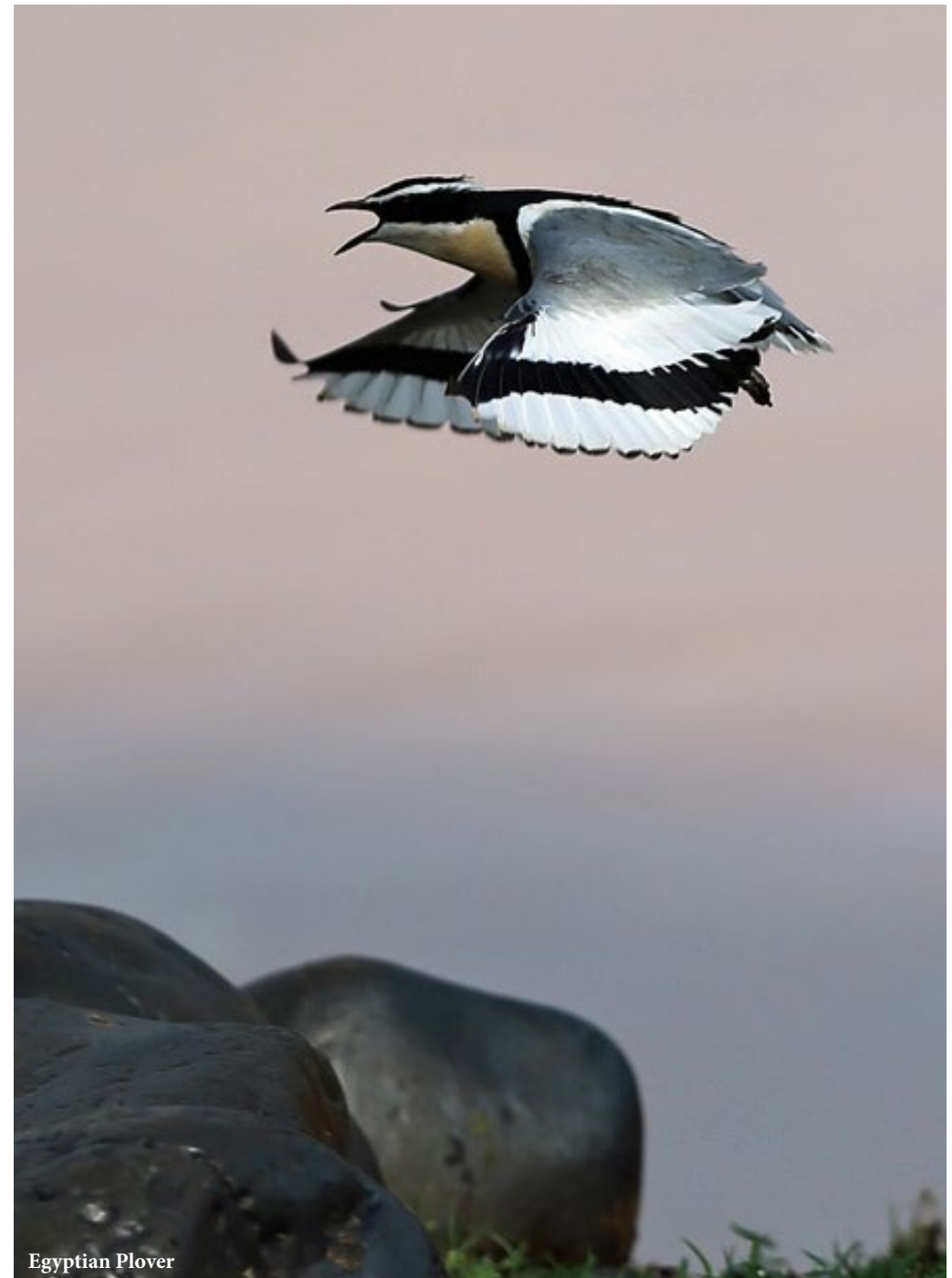
24 Apr: Early morning flight to Lalibela. Afternoon at Yemerehne Kirstos cave church.

25 Apr: Morning visiting churches at Lalibela. Afternoon at leisure.

26 Apr: Pre-breakfast birding near Lalibela before late morning flight to Gondar. Afternoon visiting Royal compound.

27 Apr: Morning near Sudan border on the Gondar-Metema Road. Afternoon at leisure.

28 Apr: Fly to Addis. Tour ends.



Egyptian Plover

REPORT

With a mouth-watering array of Ethiopian species on our radars over the next three weeks we met in the rambling gardens of the Ghion Hotel in Addis, to acquaint ourselves with some of the more common highland species. During a gentle stroll we saw Tacazze Sunbird, Variable Sunbird, Dusky Turtle Dove, Mountain/Abyssinian Thrush, Brown-rumped Seedeater, Speckled Mousebird, Baglafaecht Weaver, Swainson's Sparrow and Streaky Seedeater, all birds we would encounter many times over the coming fortnight. These were joined by Rüppell's Robin-Chat, Montane White-eye, Brown Parisoma, Wattled Ibis, Banded Barbet and a surprise flock of African Silverbill.

Following our usual circuit, we headed north out of Addis, making our first stop the Sululta Plain, where an enjoyable couple of hours was spent on the short-grass plains. Northern Fiscal and Moorland Chat were spotted on the edge of the plain and Fan-tailed Widowbird and Ethiopian Cisticola were feeding in the taller vegetation along a stream, joined by our

first Rouget's Rail and, best of all, a lovely pair of Abyssinian Longclaw. Flocks of Wattled Ibis fed in the pastures, joined by numbers of Western Yellow Wagtail, including many males in fresh breeding plumage. Around the wetland were several Blue-winged Goose, a flock of thirty Spot-breasted Lapwing, Yellow-billed Duck and a healthy number of White-collared Pigeon. Overhead were Augur Buzzard and Fan-tailed Raven.

Moving northwards to Debre Libanos we paused for Red-breasted Wheatear en route, before lunch at our hotel with Ethiopian Groundscraper Thrush and an afternoon around the Portuguese Bridge with Ethiopian Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Little Rock Thrush, Ethiopian Boubou, Hemprich's Hornbill, Red-rumped Swallow, Rüppell's Black Chat, White-billed Starling and Rock Martin. Egyptian Vulture and Bearded Vulture gave excellent fly-bys, joined by the more common Rüppell's Vulture and Nyanza Swift.

Archer's Lark



Yellow-fronted Parrot



Early the next morning we made the long, bumpy ride into the Jemma Valley. Our first stop on the escarpment near the village of Lemi quickly turned up some Erckel's Francolin feeding in the field, but we then needed to make a rather lengthy walk which culminated in super views of a crowing male Harwood's Francolin, a species which seems to be declining alarmingly due to all its habitat been turned into barren agricultural fields. Singing Cisticola and Red-collared Widowbird were seen in the process. We continued on down the rocky escarpment pausing for Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and Abyssinian Wheatear. Heading out across the valley a Fox Kestrel flew by and Speckle-fronted Weaver and Abyssinian Roller were found, but we pressed on to the stream where large numbers of seedeaters were drinking. Crimson-rumped Waxbill was numerous but we failed to find the hoped for Red-billed Pytilia. Other highlights here were Black-billed Barbet, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Northern Crombec, Cut-throat

Finch, Abyssinian White-eye, distinctive local race of Northern Puffback, Mountain Wagtail and Foxy Cisticola. Our final stop in the valley turned up several White-throated/Yellow-rumped Seedeater and Bruce's Green Pigeon, before the slow ascent back up the winding pass. Lunch near a waterfall was memorable for Ortolan Bunting, and at the top we quickly found Long-billed Pipit at the roadside. By this stage the news had filtered through to us that there had been inter-sect clashes at Debre Birhan, and that the roads were closed by protesters, so we had to do some reshuffling and instead headed back to Addis via the western route, planning to visit Debre Birhan at the end of the trip. In the agricultural fields along the way we found Thekla Lark, Erlanger's Lark, Black-winged Lapwing and Red-throated Pipit, and African Black Duck on a river crossing, before reaching the main road where some beers were quickly purchased to ease the drive back into Addis.

Ethiopian Wolf



Well positioned on the southern side of the city we made a quick escape the next morning, and were well on our way before traffic became an issue. We stopped at Debre Zeyit where there was not a drop of water in Lake Cheleleke, but instead had a very productive hour at Lake Hora, with Red-throated Wryneck, Western Black-headed Batis, African Citril, breeding Rüppell's Weaver and various waterbirds, before continuing onto the Awash area for lunch, with Abdim's Stork on the way. A quick stop (by now it was getting hot) at the Basaka Lava Flow quickly turned up the localised Sombre Rock Chat, the first of many Nile Valley Sunbird and a surprise Graceful Prinia, several hundred kilometres outside its known range. A grey phase Western Reef Heron was the most notable waterbird, before we continued to Awash town for lunch and Bristle-crowned Starling. Arriving at Doho Lodge in the early afternoon it was brutally hot, so we rested up in the shade around the lake before some doing nearby birding. Despite the heat bird activity was high. We started off with a trio of bee-eaters, namely Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Olive Bee-eater and White-throated Bee-eater. One tree in particular was full of birds and from one spot we saw Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Yellow-breasted Barbet and

Yellow-bellied Eremomela, amongst others. After a quick drink to cool down we were back out in the field, this time in more arid surrounds where Red-fronted Warbler and Somali Bunting were found quickly and a pair of Three-banded Courser seen. We also spotted Shining Sunbird, Grey-headed Batis, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Somali Bulbul, Superb Starling and Grey Wren-Warbler, and after dark Slender-tailed Nightjar was seen well.

A pre-dawn start the next day saw us making our way to the Ali Dege plains, with Black-headed Lapwing en route. The air was still cool when we arrived on the edge of the plains, where unfortunately we could not venture too far for fear of being attacked by some unfriendly Afar tribesmen who had been causing trouble of late. We set up the scope and scanned across the plains, spotting several Arabian Bustard, about a dozen Somali Ostrich, pallidirostris Southern Grey Shrike, Long-legged Buzzard and a female Pallid Harrier. Several Grevy's Zebras and a party of African Golden Wolf were seen too, before we headed to Bilen Lodge. Around the now-defunct lodge we quickly found Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Shining Sunbird and Blackstart, and also enjoyed good views of African Collared Dove, before we headed back to Awash town for lunch.

Heading into Awash National Park our first stop turned up a flurry of birds, including Black-cheeked Waxbill, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Brubru, White-bellied Canary, Red-fronted Barbet and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. Most of our time in Awash NP was concentrated on the Ilala Sala plains which are now horribly overgrazed and where cattle and goats outnumber Soemmerring's Gazelle and Beisa Oryx by at least ten-to-one. On the plains a couple of stately Kori Bustard were joined by at least three Arabian Bustard and some White-bellied Bustard. Singing Bush Lark was quite common and we tracked down a Red-winged Lark, with Lesser Kestrel, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Red-tailed Shrike, Isabelline Wheatear, Pied Wheatear and Somali Fiscal nearby. And in the more bushy areas we saw several lovely White-throated Robin, plus Buff-crested Bustard, Gullet's Lark, a passage of Common Rock Thrush, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Helmeted Guineafowl, Yellow-spotted Petronia, African Grey Flycatcher, Slate-coloured Boubou,

Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Buff-bellied Warbler, Nubian Woodpecker, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Cardinal Woodpecker and Northern White-crowned Shrike. Unfortunately our three planned nocturnal forays were scuppered by heavy rain and a flat tyre.

Heading back west along the main Djibouti-Addis drag we paused for lunch in Adama before continuing south down the rift valley. The wetlands around Koka were full of birds, with highlights here including Western Marsh Harrier, African Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Whiskered Tern, Lesser Flamingo, Garganey and Hottentot Teal. Water levels at Lake Ziway were very low and the best areas completely dry so we didn't pause long here and arrived at our lodge on the shores of Lake Langanjo in time for a quick walk around the hotel grounds for Greyish Eagle-Owl and Verreaux's Eagle-Owl on day roosts. After dark we were treated to superb views of Northern White-faced Owl.

Abyssinian Ground Thrush



The next morning a very productive pre-breakfast walk turned up a good number of new species, with good views of Clapperton's Francolin alongside Crested Francolin, Rüppell's Starling, Black Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Red-faced Crombec, Little Weaver, Red-throated Wryneck, Red-headed Weaver, Chestnut Sparrow, African Orange-bellied/Red-bellied Parrot and White-winged Black Tit. After breakfast we started the long climb into the Bale Mountains. A pause along the way turned up two lovely Cape Eagle-Owl roosting in a juniper tree, well spotted by Cassia, with a juvenile African Harrier-Hawk nearby. At Dinsho we met up with the owl man and extended our list to six owl species in 24 hours, with Abyssinian Long-eared Owl and African Wood Owl on day roosts. Besides the owls the walk was incredibly rewarding, and started off with a pair of Abyssinian Woodpecker feeding at close range below eye level, followed by Abyssinian Catbird, Chestnut-naped Francolin, Brown Woodland Warbler, lovely Abyssinian Ground Thrush, perched Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, a very friendly Cinnamon

Bracken Warbler and a party of White-backed Black Tit.

The rest of our time in the Bale Mountains was spent in the juniper forests near Goba, on the Sanetti Plateau and in Hareenna Forest. Near Goba we found our first White-cheeked Turaco, more Abyssinian Catbird and the localised form of Brown Parisoma. Groups of Chestnut-naped Francolin and Rouget's Rail scurried from the road as we climbed up to the Sanetti Plateau. Up on the plateau conditions were very dry, but among the hundreds of Thekla Lark, Moorland Chat and Ethiopian Siskin we also found a pair of Moorland Francolin, more Spot-breasted Lapwing, some male Malachite Sunbird, two Ruddy Shelduck without a drop of water to bathe in (a rather sorry sight) and Lanner Falcon. The highlight, of course, was watching Ethiopian Wolf hunting, one of which approached us within 10 metres. Their favourite foods provide some entertainment too, with Blick's Grass Rat dashing between burrows and Giant Root Rat peering out of the burrows cautiously.



Clapperton's Francolin



Somali Courser

Finally, at Hareenna Forest we started well with a Montane Nightjar in the middle of the road. This was followed with the likes of African Emerald Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Sharpe's Starling, Tree Pipit, Scarce Swift, Alpine Swift, Abyssinian Oriole, African Hill Babbler, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Slender-billed Starling, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, but with the long, bumpy drive to Negele ahead of us we didn't stay too long. At our picnic lunch spot we had a very productive walk with Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Black-billed Wood Hoopoe, Thrush Nightingale and Pearl-spotted Owlet. Continuing on we paused to search for the spectacular Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, and enjoyed some excellent views in perfect light of this unusual-looking bird. Finally we bounced onto the tar road near Negele and arrived in town just as it was getting dark.

The next morning we started off with a visit to the famous but heavily overgrazed Liben Plain, seeing many Yellow-necked Spurfowl along the way. Stepping out of the vehicles we were soon watching Somali Short-toed Lark and Pectoral-patch Cisticola. A Temminck's Courser was flying display flights overhead but we were soon led off by the local guides to admire Africa's rarest bird at length, the Critically Endangered Archer's Lark. Once we'd had our fill we paid attention to some

of the other birds around us: various subspecies of Western Yellow Wagtail, Plain-backed Pipit, Somali Crow, Speke's Weaver, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Shelley's Sparrow and White-crowned Starling. Further along the plain we found Black-winged Lapwing and Grey-capped Social Weaver, but before it was too hot we visited some nearby bushlands. Here we quickly found Somali Crombec, but unfortunately all the canaries seemed to be Reichenow's Seedeater rather than the hoped for Salvadori's. We scoured the area, finding Shelley's Starling, superb Golden-breasted Starlings, White-browed Scrub Robin, Dodson's Bulbul, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, White-rumped Babbler and Purple Grenadier, before eventually connecting with a lovely pair of Salvadori's Seedeater which showed very well indeed. Then it was back to town for a rest, seeing a pale-phase Eleonora's Falcon feeding among the many Eurasian Hobby on the way, before an afternoon visit to the Genale River, seeing a dark-phase Eleonora's Falcon en route. At the river we immediately found several Black-bellied Sunbird, but unfortunately there was no sign of Juba Weaver. Other goodies here included Rufous Chatterer, Broad-billed Roller, Spotted Palm Thrush, Northern Brownbul and Red-and-yellow Barbet, and Donaldson Smith's Nightjar was seen at close range after dark.



Grey-headed Silverbill

Violent clashes between local tribes several days previously meant that the Dawa River and our planned route to Yavello was closed, and so we had to adjust our route and take the long but fortunately tarred road to Yavello. This meant that African White-winged Dove and Juba Weaver were out of reach and that we'd essentially lost a full day of arid-country birding. Along the way we did at least enjoy good views of Thick-billed Raven, Lappet-faced Vulture and White-headed Vulture, but it meant the pressure was on the next day to find a lot of birds in the Yavello area.

Fortunately the rains had arrived and the birds were in full swing of breeding. We found ourselves first in the Mega area in some rocky hills. As we stepped out of the vehicles we could hear Black-fronted Francolin crowing, but it took some time before Judith spotted one distantly on its rock perch. The scope was immediately concentrated on it and at full zoom with the sun perfectly angled, we enjoyed some prolonged and good views of this recent split. While we waited for the francolin we also found Black Cuckooshrike, Grey-headed Bushshrike,

Peregrine Falcon, Grey-headed Batis and Martial Eagle.

From Mega we made our way to the nearby Soda Plain, where Boran Cisticola, White-tailed Swallow, Stresemann's Bushcrow, Black-capped Social Weaver and Banded Parisoma were seen at our first stop. Further along we found Desert Cisticola, Foxy Lark, Ashy Cisticola, Amur Falcon (for Michael only), Short-tailed Lark and a very fine trio of Somali Courser on our return visit. In between visits to the plain, some nearby Commiphora thickets proved very productive with Kenyan/Abyssinian White-eye, Black-throated Barbet, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, the white-bellied form of Variable Sunbird, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Acacia Tit, Northern Grosbeak-Canary, Pringle's Puffback, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Bare-eyed Thrush, Red-naped Bushshrike, Vulturine Guineafowl, Pale Prinia and Pygmy Batis found despite the midday heat. A short stop on our way back to Yavello turned up Dusky/Sombre Nightjar on a day roost, and after dark we found African Scops Owl near our accommodation.

With quite a few southern birds still to find we decided to spend a few hours the next morning in the Yavello area, and a good decision it was. Our first stop turned up Tiny Cisticola, Great Spotted Cuckoo and Three-streaked Tchagra, then Grey Kestrel was seen, and at the next spot, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Hunter's Sunbird and, finally, Scaly Chatterer. On the way back to Yavello we found Brown-tailed Rock Chat and just before leaving the area a lovely party of Grey-headed Silverbill and a female Straw-tailed Whydah. The rest of the day was spent on the long road to Awasa, where we arrived shortly after sunset.

The next morning a quick walk around the hotel grounds allowed us to find African Spotted Creeper, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, White-browed Robin-Chat, White-rumped Babbler and Blue-headed Coucal, but unfortunately Green-backed Honeybird was heard only. In front of our hotel the lake shore was alive with birds. The reed beds held Black Crane, African Swamphen, Allen's Gallinule, Lesser Swamp Warbler and Little Rush Warbler. White-backed Ducks were numerous during the walk and good numbers of African Pygmy Goose were seen too, plus a couple of Lesser Jacana, Pink-backed Pelican, Fulvous Whistling Duck and Intermediate Egret. In the shore-side thickets there was an impressive movement of warblers. Sedge

Warbler was most abundant, followed by Great Reed Warbler. There were also a couple of very rufous reed warblers of the cinnamomeus race of African Reed Warbler, plus some Eurasian Reed Warbler and, best of all, a few Basra Reed Warblers of which one gave us reasonably good views. We also saw our first Double-toothed Barbet, plus Common Waxbill and Pin-tailed Whydah, before breakfast followed by some birding around the fish market. Here there were good numbers of White-winged Tern, plus White-winged Widowbird and Black-tailed Godwit.

Moving on to Lake Langano we were all pleased to have only a short drive today and arrived in time for lunch on the shores of the lake. Along the way we enjoyed our best views of Abyssinian Ground Hornbill. A large fig tree in front of the restaurant provided plenty of entertainment with Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Banded Barbet, Bruce's Green Pigeon, White-cheeked Turaco, Black-winged Lovebird and various other species putting in an appearance during the course of our meal. Once it cooled down a walk around the lodge grounds turned up Grey-backed Fiscal, a lovely orange-shouldered male Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike, Greater Honeyguide, Green-backed Eremomela and Abyssinian Scimitarbill.



Wattled Ibis



Egyptian Plover

The next morning an early outing to forest near the burnt-out Bishangari Lodge added quite a few good birds to the list. We started with good views of perched Ethiopian African Goshawk, followed by super views of the endemic Yellow-fronted Parrot. Inside the forest we found Tambourine Dove, tame Narina Trogon, Lemon Dove, skittish Scaly Francolin, African Firefinch, Red-capped Robin-Chat and Brown-throated Wattle-eye, before it was time to head back for breakfast and then drive to Welliso, which proved uneventful except for a single Black-chested Snake Eagle and some very heavy rain along the way.

The following day we made an early start for Gibe Gorge. Birding some of the woodlands on the way down to the gorge we started with Long-crested Eagle, Vinaceous Dove, Black-bellied Bustard and Moustached Grass Warbler. Gambaga Flycatcher, Foxy Cisticola and Lesser Blue-eared Starling showed well too before we drove down to the river and immediately found the spectacular Egyptian Plover at close range. A trio of Black Crowned Crane were enjoyed too, along with African Wattled Lapwing, Grey-headed Kingfisher, African Hawk-Eagle, Copper Sunbird, Abyssinian Waxbill and Bar-breasted Firefinch. Hundreds of Hooded Vulture, White-backed Vulture and Rüppell's Vulture were gathered down at the river where several hippo carcasses lay on the river banks. A local scout told us they had been poisoned for crop

raiding on a government farm, contradicting the official story put out and read on BBC the next day that there was an anthrax outbreak, despite there being no livestock or other mammals dying from the disease. Given the ongoing deforestation and killing of wildlife inside a supposed national park, we were not pleased.

Heading back to Welliso for lunch the group then split up, with the courageous few opting to continue on the Debre Birhan area while the others opted for some recovery time back in Addis. Those that went to Debre Birhan made it there before nightfall, and the next morning visited Melka Ghebedu below the Ankober escarpment. Within minutes of arriving we were watching the localised Yellow-throated Seedeater next to the road. A bit more wandering around turned up Eastern Grey Plantain-eater, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver, a lovely Half-collared Kingfisher along the river and, best of all, some striking Red-billed Pytilia. We then swiftly climbed back up to Ankober and continued on to Gemessa Gedel. Unfortunately the weather had turned bad and we sheltered in the car, hopping out between squalls. Eventually our patience was rewarded as a flock of some 25 Ankober Serin flew in and landed nearby. It was just in time, as after just a couple of minutes of admiring them an almighty storm arrived, sending us scurrying back to the car and down to Debre Birhan for lunch and Addis for dinner and the end of the main trip.

The last five days were spent sampling some of Ethiopia's historical treasures at Lalibela and Gondar, and some concentrated birding allowed us to add several sought-after birds to the list. At Lalibela we checked into our hotel with a view of Bearded Vulture from the balconies. Once settled in we first visited the 1000-year-old cave church of Yemerehne Kirstos, some distance out of town. The church was set in a lovely juniper and olive forest. Scores of White-billed Starling flew back and forth, a confiding African Goshawk was seen, Fan-tailed Raven was active and Eastern Grey Woodpecker was seen well. We spent some time inside the church learning about its history and construction, and then admiring it from all sides. On the drive back to Lalibela we found Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver and Speckle-fronted Weaver. The following day we spent a few hours visiting several of the spectacular monolithic rock-hewn churches in Lalibela town. With Easter weekend preparations in progress we could feel the weight of history all around, and the buildings themselves were truly spectacular and although none of us is a particularly avid historian it was a greatly worthwhile visit. The afternoon was spent having a well-deserved rest, before a pre-breakfast outing the next day, which provided some entertainment in the form of White-fronted Black Chat, Abyssinian Wheatear, Yellow-breasted Barbet, Flappet Lark and White-winged Cliff Chat.



Salvadori's Seedeater

Our final port of call was the Gondar area, and we started off with a short tour of the royal enclosure with its 300-year-old castles. The next day we made a trip to the little-visited region near the Sudan border along the road to Metema. A special word of thanks to friends Merid Gabremichael, Nik Borrow and Tertius Gous for assisting with information on the area. Our main reason for visiting this remote area was to search for White-headed Babbler, a species near-endemic to Sudan. Within half an hour of arriving at the site we were feasting our eyes on a noisy party of these little-seen birds, and becoming acquainted with their vocalisations. After some time with the babblers we turned our attention to some of the other birds around us; time was short as it was already getting hot. Small pools of water in the riverbed attracted large numbers of doves, starlings and seedeater, including Black-billed Wood Dove, and several raptors were hunting them, including Gabar Goshawk and Shikra. In the large trees along the river banks we saw many Red-throated Bee-eater, Green Wood Hoopoe and Rose-ringed Parakeet. A Woolly-necked Stork circled overhead and a smart adult Beaudouin's Snake Eagle passed by, giving excellent views. Returning to the car again we found a pair of Red-pate Cisticola, a localised bird in Ethiopia, and a Green Bee-eater near its nest, before returning to Gondar. All that lay ahead now was a flight back to Addis...



Banded Barbet

ANNOTATED BIRD LIST

Ostriches Family Struthionidae

Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes* - About ten seen distantly on the Ali Dege Plains

Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* - Seen at the Koka wetlands

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* - Good views of one at Awasa

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* - Excellent views at Awasa, where numerous (*leuconotus*)

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* - Seen at Koka, Langanjo and Awasa (*gambensis*)

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* - Seen near Liben Plains

Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanoptera* - Fantastic views in highland wetlands, first at Sululta

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* - Common and widespread

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* - One pair seen well on the Sanetti Plateau

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* - Great views at Awasa where rather numerous

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* - Seen well after leaving the Jemma Valley, and briefly near Goba (*leucostigma*)

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* - Several sightings in highland wetlands (*rueppelli*)

Garganey *Anas querquedula* - Seen at Koka

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* - Seen at Koka and Awasa

Guineafowl Family Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* - Scattered sightings of this iconic African species. Birds at Awash were noted to have the very long nasal tufts of *somaliensis*, whereas those around Yavello had more reduced tufts of *meleagris*.

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum* - Superb views in the Yavello area

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Family Phasianidae

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* - Heard south of Yavello (*maharao*)

Moorland Francolin *Scleroptila psilolaema* - Great views on the Sanetti Plateau (*psilolaema*). Kenyan birds are no longer regarded as conspecific, so this is an Ethiopian endemic.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* - Seen from Lake Langanjo to Yavello and heard at Awash (probably all *granti*)

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* - Seen near Bishangari, but the birds were a bit skittish (*schuetti*)

Clapperton's Francolin *Pternistis clappertoni* - Fantastic views at Lake Langanjo (*nigrosquamatus*)

Harwood's Francolin *Pternistis harwoodi* - Superb views after a lengthy chase in the Jemma Valley

Chestnut-naped Francolin *Pternistis castaneicollis* - Excellent sightings at Bale NP (*castaneicollis*). Also nice scope views of a crowing bird at Mega, now split as Black-fronted Francolin *P. atrifrons*.

Erckel's Francolin *Pternistis erckelii* - Good views at Jemma Valley, seen near Ankober and heard at Lalibela

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* - Many in the Negele and Yavello areas

Grebes Family Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - Seen a few times (*capensis*)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* - Seen at Koka

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* - Seen at Koka

Storks Family Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* - Scattered sightings

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* - Seen well several times

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* - One seen along the Gondar-Metema road

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* - Abundant in the Rift Valley towns

Ibises, Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* - Common and widespread

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* - Seen regularly (*nilotica*)

Wattled Ibis *Bostrychia carunculata* - Many great sightings

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* - Seen at Koka

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* - Seen at Koka

Hérons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* - One in flight at Bilen Lodge (race not determined)

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* - Seen a few times (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* - Several good sightings

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* - Seen regularly

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* - Seen a few times (*cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* - Seen twice

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* - Seen well at Jemma Valley and Awasa

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* - Most common at Awasa (*purpurea*)

Great Egret *Ardea alba* - Scattered sightings at wetlands (*melanorhynchus*)

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* - One at Awasa (*brachyrhyncha*, split by BirdLife as **Yellow-billed Egret**)

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - Seen regularly (*garzetta*)

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* - Nice view of a grey bird at Basaka Lava Flow (*schistacea*)

Hamerkop Family Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* - Seen a few times (*umbretta*)

Pelicans Family Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* - Seen a few times at Rift Valley lakes

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* - Seen at Awasa

Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* - Seen a few times (*africanus*)

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* - Seen a few times and especially numerous at Lake Langanjo

Anhingas, darters Family Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* - One at Basaka Lava Flow and one at Gibe Gorge

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* - A few sightings

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* - Just one sighting of a perched juvenile at the Cape Eagle-Owl spot

Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* - Superb views at Debre Libanos and Lalibela (*meridionalis*)

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* - Great views at Debre Libanos and also seen in the Awash area (*percnopterus*)

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* - Abundant in towns

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* - Many between Negele and Yavello, and especially feasting at the Hippo carcasses at Gibe Gorge

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* - Common especially near cliffs (*rueppelli*)

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* - Good views between Negele and Yavello, plus one on Soda Plain and one between Welliso and Addis

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* - About six at a roadside carcass between Negele and Yavello

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini* - Superb flight views of one along the Gondar-Metema road

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* - One near Lake Langano

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* - Seen only in the Yavello area

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* - Good views at Mega

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* - Good views at Gibe Gorge

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* - A few sightings

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii* - One at Awash for some, one over Shashamane seen poorly and one seen well by all over Harena Forest

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* - Fairly common (races not determined)

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* - One juvenile at Awash and one adult at Gibe Gorge

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* - Heard along the Gondar-Metema road

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* - Seen well in the Awash area and along the Gondar-Metema road (*aequatorius*)

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* - Seen at Jemma Valley, Awash, Gondar-Metema road and Lalibela (*metabates*)

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* - A few good sightings at Negele and Yavello

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* - Good views near Bishangari and at Lalibela (*unduliventer*, which may be split as **Ethiopian Goshawk**)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* - Seen along the Gondar-Metema road

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris* - Superb views at Dinsho and brief views of one near Goba

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* - One at Lake Langano and one for Michael only at Welliso

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* - One female seen at Koka

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* - One female seen on the Ali Dege plains

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* - Seen almost every day (probably all *parasitus*)

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* - Quite common in Rift Valley lakes and seen well

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* - One perched on the Ali Dege plains, but seen in rather poor light (*rufinus*)

[Steppe Buzzard] *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* - One over Harena Forest and one along the Gondar-Metema road

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* - Very common; pale and black morphs seen

Bustards Family Otididae

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs* - Several distantly on the Ali Dege Plains, and superb views of three at Awash (*arabs*)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* - Good numbers seen at Awash, Negele and Soda Plain (*struthiunculus*)

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis* - Seen well at Awash, Negele and Yavello (*canicollis*)

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* - Seen well at Awash and again in the south

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* - Superb views at Gibe Gorge (*melanogaster*)

Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae

Rouget's Rail *Rougetius rougetii* - Seen at Sululta and very well in the Bale Mountains

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* - Great views at Awasa

African Swampphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* - Seen well at Awasa

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* - Two seen well at Awasa

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* - Seen a few times

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* - Seen a few times

Cranes Family Gruidae

Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina* - A trio seen well at Gibe Gorge (*ceciliae*)

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Family Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis* - Good views, especially at Basaka Lava Flow and Lake Langano

Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* - Seen at Koka

Plovers Family Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* - Common at wetlands

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* - Seen near Doho Lodge and very well in Awash (*tectus*)

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* - Seen well when leaving Gibe Gorge and at Liben Plain

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* - Some good views (*coronatus*)

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* - Seen well at Gibe Gorge

Spot-breasted Lapwing *Vanellus melanocephalus* - At least 30 at Sululta with more on the Sanetti Plateau

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Seen at Koka (*tundrae*)

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* - Seen at the Genale River (*curonicus*)

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* - Seen a few times (*tricollaris*)

Egyptian Plover Family Pluvianidae

Egyptian Plover *Pluvianus aegyptius* - Absolutely superb views at Gibe Gorge

Jacanas Family Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* - Seen well at Awasa

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* - Seen a few times

Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* - Seen at Koka and Lake Langano (*gallinago*)

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* - One at Awasa and two at Lake Langano (*limosa*)

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* - One at Koka

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* - A few sightings

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* - Two brief sightings

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* - Small numbers at wetlands

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - Small numbers at wetlands

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* - Small numbers at wetlands

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* - Seen several times

Courser, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae

Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis* - Superb views of a trio at Soda Plain (*littoralis*)

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* - One in display flight over Liben Plain

Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus* - A pair seen during the day at Doho Lodge (*mayaudi*)

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* - Several at Awasa and Lake Langano

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* - Seen by some at Lake Langano

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* - One in breeding plumage at Koka

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* - Good numbers, mostly in breeding plumage, at Awasa and Lake Langano

Sandgrouse Family Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* - Some good sightings in the Awash area (*elliottii*)

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteini* - Seen well at Awash (*lichtensteini*)

Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* - Feral Pigeon, tick

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* - Very common (*guinea*)

White-collared Pigeon *Columba albitorques* - Common in the highlands

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* - Seen at Harenna

Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* - Seen near Bishangari Lodge

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* - Common in the highlands

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* - Seen well at Bilen Lodge

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* - Common in the Rift Valley (*decipiens*)

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* - Seen often

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* - Seen in the south (*somalica*)

Vinaceous Dove *Streptopelia vinacea* - Seen at Gibe Gorge, Lalibela and along the Gondar-Metema road

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* - Very common (*senegalensis*)

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* - A few good sightings

Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* - Seen well along the Gondar-Metema road

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* - Seen well at Debre Libanos

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* - Excellent views near Bishangari Lodge

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* - Common around Awash (*capensis*)

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia* - Super views at Lake Langano and also seen at Jemma Valley

Turacos Family Musophagidae

White-cheeked Turaco *Tauraco leucotis* - Seen well near Goba and at Harenna Forest and Lake Langano (*leucotis*)

Ruspoli's Turaco *Tauraco ruspolii* - Seen very well en route to Negele

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides personatus* - Super views at Lake Langano (*personatus*, which is split by BirdLife and becomes an Ethiopian endemic, **Brown-faced Go-away-bird**)

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* - Common around Awash and in the south

Eastern Plantain-eater *Crinifer zonurus* - Great views at Melka Ghebdu, Gondar and along the Gondar-Metema road

Cuckoos Family Cuculidae

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* - Seen at Awasa and Gibe Gorge (*monachus*)

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* - A few good sightings

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* - Several seen very well south of Yavello

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* - Seen en route to Negele

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* - Seen well south of Yavello

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* - Brilliant views at Harenna (*cupreus*)

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* - One seen near Negele (*clamosus*)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* - Seen well at Harenna Forest

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* - Heard at Gibe Gorge

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* - A few seen in the south

Owls Family Strigidae

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* - Superb night-time views near Yavello (*senegalensis*)

Northern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis leucotis* - Superb views at night at Lake Langano

Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis* - Seen well during the day en route to Bale (*dillonii*)

Greyish Eagle-Owl *Bubo cinerascens* - Good day-time views at Lake Langano

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* - Good day-time views at Lake Langano

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* - An adult and youngster were seen at Dinsho during the day (*umbrina*)

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* - Good views en route to Negele (*licua*)

Abyssinian Owl *Asio abyssinicus* - Good day-time views at Dinsho (*abyssinicus*)

Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae

Sombre Nightjar *Caprimulgus fraenatus* - Very good views at day and night near Yavello

Donaldson Smith's Nightjar *Caprimulgus donaldsoni* - Good views at Negele and heard at Yavello

Montane Nightjar *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* - Good day time views at Harenna Forest

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma* - Heard at Lake Langano (*tristigma*)

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* - Seen well at Doho Lodge, heard elsewhere

Swifts Family Apodidae

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* - At least 50 over Harenna Forest, calling and seen well (*myoptilus*)

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* - Seen in the Awash area (probably *laemostigma*)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* - Seen at Harenna Forest (*africanus*)

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae* - Seen at Jemma Valley, Debre Libanos and Lalibela (*niansae*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* - Seen at Maryam (*aerobates*)

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* - Seen at Koka and in the south

Mousebirds Family Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* - Widespread and common (*leucotis*)

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* - Common in the arid lowlands (*abyssinicus*)

Trogon Family Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* - Seen very well at Harenna Forest and near Bishangari (*narina*)

Rollers Family Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* - Seen a few times in the lowlands (*naevius*)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* - Seen well in the south (*lori*, sometimes called **Lilac-throated Roller**)

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* - Seen at Jemma Valley, Awash and Gibe Gorge

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* - One at the Genale River (*afer*)

Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* - Conspicuous at Gibe Gorge and Melka Ghebdu (*leucocephala*)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* - First seen in Awash NP (*chelicuti*)

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* - Most numerous at Awasa (*senegalensis*)

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* - Good views at Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge (*pictus*)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* - Seen well a few times (*galerita*)

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* - Excellent views at Melka Ghebdu

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* - Brief views at Lake Langano (*maxima*)

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* - Common in the Rift Valley (*rudis*)

Bee-eaters Family Meropidae

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* - Seen a few times at lower altitude (probably all *cyanostictus*)

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus* - Many good sightings (*lafresnayii*, split by BirdLife as **Ethiopian Bee-eater**)

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki* - Great views along the Gondar-Metema road

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* - Several good sightings in the Awash area

Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* - Seen well along the Gondar-Metema road

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* - Seen well at Doho Lodge (*superciliosus*)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* - Several sightings

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* - Seen well at Doho Lodge and Lake Langano

Hoopoes Family Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* - Several sightings in the lowlands. Pale birds at Awash appeared to be migrant *epops* birds, and darker birds in the Yavello area resident *senegalensis*

Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* - Seen along the Gondar-Metema road

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus somaliensis* - Seen en route to Negele and around Lake Langano (*neglectus*)

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* - Seen well at Lake Langano (*notatus*)

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* - Seen well at Awash (*minor*) and south of Yavello (*cabanisi*)

Ground Hornbills Family Bucorvidae

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* - Several good views

Hornbills Family Bucerotidae

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* - Common around Awash and in the south, and along the Gondar-Metema road

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni* - Seen well from Lake Langano southwards

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris* - Seen well at Awash, and also near Yavello

Hemprich's Hornbill *Lophoceros hemprichii* - Good views at Debre Libanos, Jemma Valley, Lake Langano and Lalibela

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* - Seen a few times in the lowlands (*nasutus*)

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* - Many good sightings in the central regions, but first at Hareenna

African barbets Family Lybiidae

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus* - Seen well at Jemma Valley (*uropygialis*) and from Lake Langano southwards (*affinis*)

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* - Two juvenile birds seen in Hareenna Forest (*xanthostictus*)

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* - Seen a few times in the lowlands (*diademata*)

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala* - First seen at Doho Lodge (*melanocephalus*) and later at Yavello (*stigmatothorax*)

Banded Barbet *Lybius undatus* - First seen in Addis Ababa (*undatus*), but also at Awasa and Lake Langano (*leucogenys*) among other sites

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito* - Several good sightings in the lowlands

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus* - Seen well at Awasa and Lake Langano (*aequatorialis*)

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* - Good views at the Genale River (*versicolor*)

Yellow-breasted Barbet *Trachyphonus margaritatus* - Good views in the Awash area (*margaritatus*)

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii* - Several in the Yavello area (*darnaudii*)

Honeyguides Family Indicatoridae

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae* - Heard twice at Awasa (*ellenbecki*)

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* - Seen several times (*diadematus*)

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* - Good views en route to Negele

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* - Seen well at Lake Langano

Woodpeckers Family Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* - Excellent views at Debre Zeyit, Awasa and Lake Langano (*aequatorialis*)

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* - Several good sightings (*nubica*)

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* - Heard distantly at Lake Langano

Abyssinian Woodpecker *Dendropicos abyssinicus* - Superb views of a pair at Dinsho

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* - Seen well at Awash (*hemprichii*) and at Mega (*massaicus*)

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae* - Heard along the Gondar-Metema road

Eastern Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos spodocephalus* - Good views at Lake Langano, Awasa and Lalibela

Falcons Family Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* - Just one seen by Michael only, between Adama and Awash, but heavy traffic at the time meant that we did not stop (*castanotus*)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* - A few sightings, with our best views at Awash

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* - Scattered sightings, mostly in rocky areas (probably all *rufescens*)

Fox Kestrel *Falco alopex* - Flight views in the Jemma Valley

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* - Seen well around Yavello

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* - One male on the Soda plains was seen by Michael only

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* - Good views of one pale morph bird and one dark morph bird near Negele

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* - One seen by Don near the Genale River

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* - Good numbers seen in the Negele and Yavello areas

African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* - Heard pre-dawn in the plantations just south of Goba

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* - Nice views on the Sanetti Plateau (*abyssinicus*)

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* - One seen perched near Mega (race not determined)

African & New World Parrots Family Psittacidae

Yellow-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus flavifrons* - Excellent views at Bishangari Lodge

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* - Heard along the Gondar-Metema road

Red-bellied Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris* - Seen well at Doho Lodge, Lake Langano and in the south (*rufiventris*)

Old World Parrots Family Psittaculidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* - Good views along the Gondar-Metema road

Black-winged Lovebird *Agapornis taranta* - Many good sightings

Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae

Grey-headed Batis *Batis orientalis* - Seen well in the Awash area and at Mega (*orientalis*)

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* - Seen at Debre Zeyit, Lake Langano, Negele and Gibe Gorge

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo* - Seen south of Yavello

Brown-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira cyanea* - Seen at Awasa and near Bishangari (*aethiopica*)

Helmetshrikes Family Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* - Seen en route to Negele and near Yavello (probably *vinaceigularis*; lacked the white wing bar)

Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* - Seen well at Mega and near Yavello (*approximans*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* - Seen from Awash to Yavello (*similis*)

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Telophorus cruentus* - Seen from Awash to Yavello (*hilgerti*)

Three-streaked Tchagra *Tchagra jamesi* - One good sighting of a secretive pair near Yavello (*jamesi*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* - A few good sightings (*habessinicus*)

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis* - Seen at Jemma Valley, Lake Langano, etc. (*erythraea*; plumage and vocalisations are distinctive from other races of Northern Puffback, so it may be split as **Ethiopian Puffback**, a regional endemic)

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii* - Seen well near Yavello

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris* - Seen from Awash to Yavello

Red-naped Bushshrike *Laniarius ruficeps* - Seen well near Yavello (*rufinuchalis*)

Ethiopian Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus* - Several good sightings

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* - Heard along the Gondar-Metema road

Brubru *Nilaus afer* - Seen at Awash (*hilgerti*) and in the Yavello area (*minor*)

Cuckooshrikes Family Campephagidae

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* - One pair near Mega

Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea* - Good views of a yellow-shouldered male at Lake Langano

Shrikes Family Laniidae

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli* - Many sightings in the lowlands

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* - Common in the Negele and Yavello areas (all seemed to be *collurio*)

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides* - Several sightings, from the Awash area to Yavello

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* - Many in the south

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* - One at Ali Dege (*pallidirostris*, sometimes split as **Steppe Grey Shrike**)

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* - Seen at Lake Langano and Gibe Gorge (*intercedens*)

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* - Seen by some on the Soda Plains

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus* - Good numbers at Awash and on the Soda Plain

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* - A common roadside bird (*humeralis*)

Orioles Family Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* - Several good sightings (*oriolus*)

Ethiopian Oriole *Oriolus monacha* - Seen at Harenna Forest (*meneliki*) and near Lalibela (*monacha*) and heard at Bishangari

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* - A few in the south (*rolleti*)

Drongos Family Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* - Common in dry bush country (*divaricatus*)

Monarchs Family Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* - Common in wooded areas (*ferreti*)

Crows Family Corvidae

Stresemann's Bushcrow *Zavattariornis stresemanni* - Fantastic views in the Yavello area

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* - Very common on highland plains (*kordofanensis*)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* - Very common along roadsides

Somali Crow *Corvus edithae* - Most conspicuous on the Liben Plains and seen again near Yavello

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* - Common near cliffs, observed on most days (*rhipidurus*)

Thick-billed Raven *Corvus crassirostris* - Some good sightings, mostly in the central region

Tits Family Paridae

White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas* - Seen at Lake Langano, en route to Negele and at Lalibela (*leucomelas*)

White-backed Black Tit *Melaniparus leuconotus* - Super views at Dinsho and hear near Lalibela

Acacia Tit *Melaniparus thruppi* - Seen near Negele and Yavello (*barakae*)

Penduline Tits Family Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus* - Seen from Awash to Yavello

Larks Family Alaudidae

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* - Seen on the Ali Dege Plains

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus* - Good views at Bilen Lodge and in Awash

Foxy Lark *Calendulauda alopex* - Seen well south of Yavello (*macdonaldi*)

Archer's Lark *Heteromirafr archeri* - Superb views of one on the Liben Plain

Red-winged Lark *Mirafr hypermetra* - Good views at Awash (*gallarum*)

Flappet Lark *Mirafr rufocinnamomea* - Seen well at Lalibela (*rufocinnamomea*)

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafr cantillans* - Seen well at Awash (*marginata*)

Gillett's Lark *Mirafr gilletti* - Good views at Awash (*gilletti*)

Short-tailed Lark *Spizocorys fremantlii* - Good views at Soda Plain (*megaensis*)

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* - Seen above Jemma Valley and at Gemessa Gedel (*praetermissa*) and on the Sanetti Plateau (*huei*)

Erlanger's Lark *Calandrella erlangeri* - Seen well after leaving Jemma Valley

Somali Short-toed Lark *Alaudala somalica* - Seen on the Liben and Soda Plains (*megaensis*)

Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* - Seen from Addis to Lalibela (*schoanus*)

Somali Bulbul *Pycnonotus somaliensis* - A few in the Awash area

Dodson's Bulbul *Pycnonotus dodsoni* - Good views in the south

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* - Seen at Goba and Harena Forest (*spurius*)

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans* - Seen at the Genale River

Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* - Seen at Debre Libanos, Harena and en route to Yavello (*antinorii*, **Brown Saw-wing**) and at Lalibela (*pristopectera*, **Blue Saw-wing**)

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* - Seen at Jemma Valley and Lake Langanu (*schoensis*)

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* - Big flocks in the Awash and Lake Langanu areas (*riparia*)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* - Common and widespread, recorded every day (*rustica*)

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* - Seen from Awash to Negele (*aethiopica*)

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* - Several sightings at lower altitude (*smithii*)

White-tailed Swallow *Hirundo megaensis* - Superb views of this quick-flying endemic south of Yavello

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprocne fuligula* - Seen at Debre Libanos, en route to the Bale Mountains and at Lalibela and Gondar (either/and *fusciventris*, *pusilla*)

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* - Several good sightings (*abyssinica*)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* - Seen at Jemma Valley and Melka Ghebdu (*melanocrissus*)

Crombecs, African warblers Family Macrophenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* - Good views at Gibe Gorge (*amauroura*)

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* - Several good sightings (*leucopsis*, split by BirdLife as **Eastern Crombec**)

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* - Seen well around Lake Langanu (*loringi*)

Somali Crombec *Sylvietta isabellina* - Good views at Negele and Yavello

Leaf warblers and allies Family Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* - Good views near Goba (*omoensis*) and heard near Lalibela (*umbrovirens*)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* - Abundant and seen throughout

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* - One at Doho Lodge and one at Awash

Reed warblers and allies Family Acrocephalidae

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* - One seen and other heard at Awasa

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* - Good views at Awasa (*parvus*)

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* - Seen at the Genale River and Awasa

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* - Rather common at Awasa

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* - At least one at Awasa (*fuscus*)

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* - Two very rufous birds at Awasa appeared to belong to the *cinnamomeus* subspecies

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* - One at the Genale River

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* - Heard at Debre Zeyit (*massaica*)

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida* - A few scattered sightings (*pallida*)

Grassbirds and allies Family Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* - Seen well at Awasa (*abyssinicus*)

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* - Fantastic views at Dinsho (*cinnamomeus*)

Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* - Seen well at Awasa (*pyrrhomitra*)

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* - Several good views, first in the Jemma Valley (*cantans*)

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* - Seen at Lake Langanu and in the south (*fricki*)

Boran Cisticola *Cisticola bodessa* - Good views on Soda Plain (*bodessa*)

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus* - Seen well on Soda Plain (*schillingsi*)

Ethiopian Cisticola *Cisticola lugubris* - Good views at Sululta Plains and in the Bale Mountains

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus* - Heard on the edge of the Jemma Valley (*robustus*)

Red-pate Cisticola *Cisticola ruficeps* - Seen very well along the Gondar-Metema road (*scotopterus*)

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nana* - Seen well near Yavello

Foxy Cisticola *Cisticola troglodytes* - Seen at Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge (*ferrugineus*)

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* - Good views of one on the Soda Plain, which displayed too (*lavendulae*)

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* - Seen at Liben Plain and Gemessa Gedel (*brunnescens*)

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* - A surprise find in the Awash area, were >300 km outside the known range

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* - Widespread in small numbers (*subflava*)

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica* - Good views south of Yavello (*erlangeri*)

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* - Several sightings in the Rift Valley

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* - Seen well in the south (*flavocincta*, sometimes split as **Brown-tailed Apalis**)

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons* - Seen well in the Awash area (*smithii*)

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* - Several good sightings (*abessinica*)

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* - Seen at Awash and in the south

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* - Seen from Awash to Yavello (*griseoflava*)

Yellow-vented Eremomela *Eremomela flavicrissalis* - A pair seen well south of Yavello

Green-backed Eremomela *Eremomela canescens* - Very good views at Lake Langanu

Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae

Scaly Chatterer *Turdoides aylmeri* - Seen quite well near Yavello (*boranensis*)

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa* - Seen well several times (*rubiginosa*)

White-headed Babbler *Turdoides leucocephala* - Brilliant views of a party of five along the Gondar-Metema road

White-rumped Babbler *Turdoides leucopygia* - Seen at Negele (*omoensis*), Awasa and Lake Langanu (*lacuum*) and Lalibela (*limbata*). At the latter birds had a yellowish-orange eye

Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae

Abyssinian Catbird *Parophasma galinieri* - Seen well at Dinsho and near Goba

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* - Seen briefly at Harena Forest and well at Bishangari (*abyssinica*)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* - Seen well a few times

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* - Seen en route to Negele and at Melka Ghebdu

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* - One seen by Michael only at Bilen Lodge

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* - Seen quite a few times, but no adult males seen

Brown Parisoma *Sylvia lugens* - Seen at Ghion Hotel in Addis (*lugens*) and in the Bale Mountains (*griseiventris*, **Bale Parisoma**)

Banded Parisoma *Sylvia boehmi* - Seen well in the Yavello area (*marsabit*)

White-eyes Family Zosteropidae

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus* - Seen at Jemma Valley and Lake Langano (*abyssinicus*) and south of Yavello (*jubaensis*, **Kenya White-eye** *Z. flavilateralis*)

Montane White-eye *Zosterops poliogastrus* - Seen at Addis, Harena and Lalibela (*poliogastrus*)

Treecreepers Family Certhiidae

African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* - Great views at Awasa (*erlangeri*)

Starlings Family Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* - Seen at Awash, on the Soda Plains and along the Gondar-Metema road

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* - Very common throughout (*cyaniventris*)

Lesser Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chloropterus* - One seen ell at Gibe Gorge

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* - Regularly seen in the Rift Valley (*purpuroptera*) and along the Gondar-Metema road (*aeneocephalus*)

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* - Great views in the Negele area

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* - Common in the Rift Valley

Shelley's Starling *Lamprotornis shelleyi* - Fantastic views in the Negele and Yavello areas

White-crowned Starling *Lamprotornis albicapillus* - Seen well in the Negele and Yavello areas (*horrensis*)

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* - Seen in the lowlands (subspecies not determined)

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* - Several scattered sightings; best at Lake Langano and Gibe Gorge (*rueppellii*)

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris* - First seen at Bale, but also at Lalibela, etc.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii* - Seen in Awash town, and also south of Yavello

White-billed Starling *Onychognathus albirostris* - Seen at Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley, but our best views were at Lalibela

Sharpe's Starling *Poeoptera sharpii* - Good scope views at Harena Forest

Oxpeckers Family Buphagidae

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* - Widespread sightings

Thrushes Family Turdidae

Abyssinian Ground Thrush *Geokichla piaggiae* - Super views at Dinsho and also seen at Harena Forest

Groundscraper Thrush *Turdus litsitsirupa* - Excellent views in the highlands (*simensis*, split by BirdLife as **Ethiopian Thrush**)

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* - Fairly common at lower altitudes with *centralis* in the Yavello area and *pelios* at Lake Langano and along the Gondar-Metema road

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* - Seen south of Yavello

Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* - Common in highland forests and first seen in Addis (*abyssinicus*)

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* - Seen well in the south (*leucoptera*, sometimes split as **White-winged Scrub Robin**)

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis chokolatinus* - Common at the edge of highland forest and gardens, with many good sightings (*chokolatinus*)

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edoloides* - Seen from Lake Langano (*lugubris*) to Yavello (*schistaceus*)

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* - Seen well at Negele (*bowdleri*)

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus* - Seen at Awash (*pumilus*) and in the south (*neumanni*)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* - Seen regularly in the lowlands

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae* - Very good views at Gibe Gorge

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* - Common in highland forest and gardens (*minima*)

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa* - Common in highland forests and gardens, with *donaldsoni* at Bale and *semirufa* elsewhere

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* - Seen well at Awasa (*heuglini*)

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* - Good views at Bishangari (*intensa*)

Spotted Palm Thrush *Cichladusa guttata* - Seen at the Genale River and south of Yavello (*intercalans*)

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* - Good views en route to Negele and at Mega (there seemed to be quite a passage of them).

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* - Seen briefly en route to Negele

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* - At least three seen rather well at Awash, including some lovely males

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* - Several seen at lower altitude; mostly females but some males of *phoenicurus*

White-winged Cliff Chat *Monticola semirufus* - Seen well near Debre Libanos, at Debre Zeyit and at Lake Langano

Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* - Rather common and widespread

Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus* - Seen at Debre Libanos, Lake Langano, Melka Ghebdu and Lalibela (*rufocinereus*)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* - Common in the lowlands

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* - Some seen on the road into Bale (*albofasciatus*)

Moorland Chat *Pinarochroa sordida* - Common in highland grasslands, especially Bale (*sordida*)

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* - Seen widely, with *albiscapulata* at Lalibela and Jemma Valley and *subrufipennis* at Lake Langano

Rüppell's Black Chat *Myrmecocichla melaena* - Small groups at Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* - A breeding-plumage male was seen in Jemma Valley, and a few females in the Awash area

Red-breasted Wheatear *Oenanthe bottae* - A few in highland grasslands (*frenata*; split by BirdLife in which case it is an Ethiopian and Eritrean endemic)

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* - A few widespread sightings, but most common at Awash

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* - Several seen, mostly at Awash, but no males in breeding plumage

White-fronted Black Chat *Oenanthe albifrons* - Great views near Lalibela (*albifrons*)

Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura* - Seen well at Bilen Lodge and Awash (*lypura*)

Brown-tailed Rock Chat *Oenanthe scotocerca* - Excellent views south of Yavello (*turkana*)

Sombre Rock Chat *Oenanthe dubia* - Excellent views at the lava fields near Awash

Abyssinian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugubris* - Seen on rocky slopes in the Jemma Valley, at Melka Ghebdu and at Lalibela (*lugubris*)

Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis* - Seen south of Yavello

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* - Seen en route to Negele (*djamdjamensis*)

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallica* - Many good sightings in the Awash area

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* - Seen at the Jemma Valley, Awash and Lake Langano (*cruentata*)

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri* - Seen well south of Yavello

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze* - Common in highland forests and gardens, especially in Addis (*tacazze*)

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* - Good views of males on the Sanetti Plateau (*cupreonitens*)

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* - Some great sightings, mainly in the Rift Valley (*pulchellus*)

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* - Seen from Awash to Yavello (*osiris*)

Black-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris nectarinioides* - Several seen well at the Genale River (*erlangeri*)

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus* - Seen well in the Awash area (*habessinicus*)

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* - Good views in Addis and Lalibela (*fazoqlensis*) and south of Yavello (*albiventris*; white-bellied form)

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* - Good views at Gibe Gorge (*cupreus*)

Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* - Common at lower altitudes (*melanorhynchus*)

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* - Seen at Melka Ghebdu and Lalibela

Grey-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* - Good views at Liben Plain and south of Yavello (*australoabyssinicus*)

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi* - Good views south of Yavello

Shelley's Sparrow *Passer shelleyi* - Seen on the Liben and Soda Plains

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* - Seen along the Gondar-Metema road

Swainson's Sparrow *Passer swainsonii* - Abundant and widespread

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer emimibey* - Excellent views at Lake Langanu and seen again at Soda Plain

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata* - Seen in the Jemma Valley

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita* - Seen at Awash and in the south (*pyrgita*)

Weavers, Widowbirds Family Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* - Seen commonly at lower altitudes (*intermedius*)

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* - Common at lower altitudes (*dinemelli*)

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* - Seen well in the Jemma Valley and at Lalibela (*frontalis*)

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* - Seen at Awasa and Lake Langanu (*melanota*)

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* - Three races seen: *baglafaecht* at Addis and Lalibela, *reichenowi* in the Bale Mountains (**Reichenow's Weaver**) and *emini* at Awasa

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus* - Seen from Doho Lodge to Lake Langanu (*luteolus*)

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* - Several good sightings (*crocatius*)

Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula* - Seen well in breeding plumage at Debre Zeyit, Awash, Lake Langanu and Awasa

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* - Seen well in breeding plumage at Bilen Lodge (*intermedius*)

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* - Seen well in breeding plumage south of Yavello (*uluensis*)

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei* - Seen in breeding plumage on the Liben and Soda Plains

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* - Seen widely, some in breeding plumage (*abyssinicus*)

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* - Seen en route to Negele and at Lake Langanu (*melanotis*, split by BirdLife as **Northern Red-headed Weaver**)

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* - Seen regularly in small numbers in the lowlands, including some males in breeding plumage (*aethiopica*)

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* - Seen at Jemma Valley and Gibe Gorge (*craspedopterus*)

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* - Seen widely

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* - Seen in the Bale Mountains and near Ankober

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* - Seen at Sululta (*traversii*)

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* - One flock seen briefly south of Yavello and then seen well at Awasa (*eques*)

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* - A couple seen on the Jemma River escarpment and again at Awasa (*laticauda*, split by BirdLife as **Red-cowled Widowbird**). Interestingly nominate Red-collared Widow does not retain the long tail in breeding plumage.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrildidae

Red-billed Pytilia *Pytilia lineata* - Superb views at Melka Ghebdu

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* - Seen south of Yavello (*soudanensis*)

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* - A few seen at Jemma Valley and at Awash (*alexanderi*)

Bar-breasted Firefinch *Lagonosticta rufopicta* - Several seen well at Gibe Gorge (*rufopicta*)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* - Seen widely; *somaliensis* in the Yavello area, *brunneiceps* at Awasa and *rhodopsis* at Lalibela

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* - Several seen at Bishangari

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* - Common and widespread (*bengalus*)

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* - Seen well at Negele and Yavello

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia* - Seen well at Harenna Forest, Awasa and Lalibela

Abyssinian Waxbill *Estrilda ochrogaster* - Seen in large numbers at Gibe Gorge

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* - Several good looks, the first in the Jemma Valley

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* - Seen at Awasa (*peasei*)

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda chamosyna* - Seen well at Awash and south of Yavello (*chamosyna*)

African Silverbill *Euodice cantans* - First seen at the Ghion Hotel in Addis, where not expected, and then in the Jemma Valley and along the Gondar-Metema road (*orientalis*)

Grey-headed Silverbill *Odontospiza caniceps* - Excellent views south of Yavello

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* - Seen several times (*scutata*)

Indigobirds, Whydahs Family Viduidae

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* - Seen in non-breeding plumage in the Jemma Valley and at Lalibela (*ultramarina*)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* - Non-breeding plumaged bird seen at Jemma Valley and Awasa

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* - One female seen near Yavello

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea* - Several seen in non-breeding plumage in Awash

Wagtails, Pipits Family Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - Seen regularly in small numbers: commonest was *flava*, but we also had good views of *lutea* and *thunbergi*

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* - Seen at Debre Libanos, the Jemma Valley, Lalibela, etc.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* - Seen at Gibe Gorge (*vidua*)

Abyssinian Longclaw *Macronyx flavicollis* - Seen very well at Sululta Plain

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* - Just one brief sighting at Sululta Plain (*cinnamomeus*)

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* - Seen on the rocky slopes at the Jemma Valley and Melka Ghebdu (*hararensis*)

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* - Quite common on the Liben Plains and also seen at Gibe Gorge (*omoensis*)

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* - Seen on several occasions (*trivialis*)

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* - Great views of breeding-plumaged birds in highland grasslands (*rufogularis*)

Finches Family Fringillidae

African Citril *Crithagra citrinelloides* - Regular sightings in moister areas (*citrinelloides*)

Southern Citril *Crithagra hyposticta* - Birds seen at Debre Zeyit matched this species, but presumably these are simply grey-faced African Citril

Yellow-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra xanthopygia* - Several seen well in the Jemma Valley

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi* - Several good sightings in the lowlands

Yellow-throated Seedeater *Crithagra flavigula* - Seen well at Melka Ghebdu

Salvadori's Seedeater *Crithagra xantholaema* - Great views near Negele after a long, hot search

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* - Seen at the Jemma Valley (*gommaensis*) and Gibe Gorge (*grotei*)

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata* - First seen at Awash and again in the south (*maculicollis*)

Ankober Serin *Crithagra ankoberensis* - After waiting out the rain we were rewarded with good views of about 25 at Gemessa Gedel

Northern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra donaldsoni* - One male seen well south of Yavello

Brown-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra tristriata* - Common around Addis and elsewhere in the highlands

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata* - Common in scrublands in the highlands (*striolata*)

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* - Seen in Addis and at Goba (*flavivertex*)

Ethiopian Siskin *Serinus nigriceps* - Common in highland grasslands especially at Bale

Buntings Family Emberizidae

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* - Good views in the Jemma Valley

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* - Seen in the Jemma Valley (*tahapisi*)

Somali Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura* - Seen from Awash to Yavello

Northern Carmine Bee-eater





Abyssinian Woodpecker



White-backed Black Tit



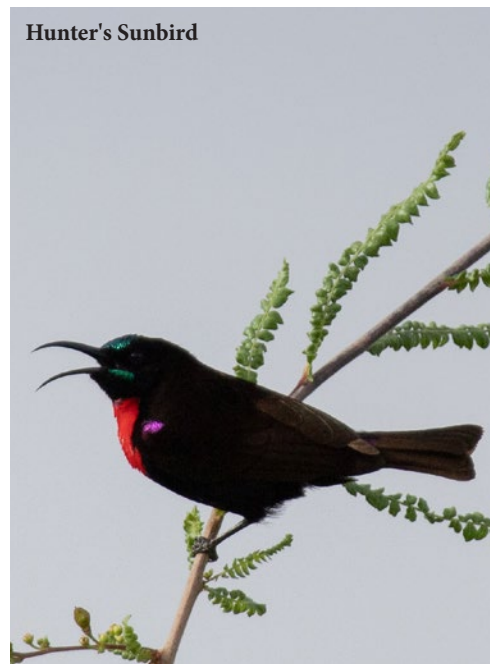
Gambaga Flycatcher



Scaly Chatterer



Yellow-necked Spurfowl



Hunter's Sunbird



Rouget's Rail



White-headed Babbler (Michael Mills)



Ruspoli's Turaco



Red-throated Wryneck



Northern White-faced Owl



Double-toothed Barbet



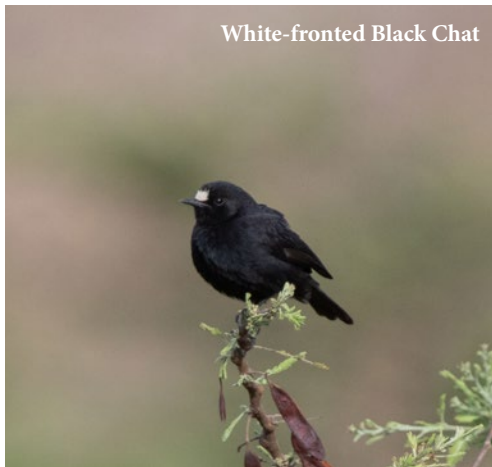
Somali Bunting



African Hill Babbler



Abyssinian Catbird



White-fronted Black Chat



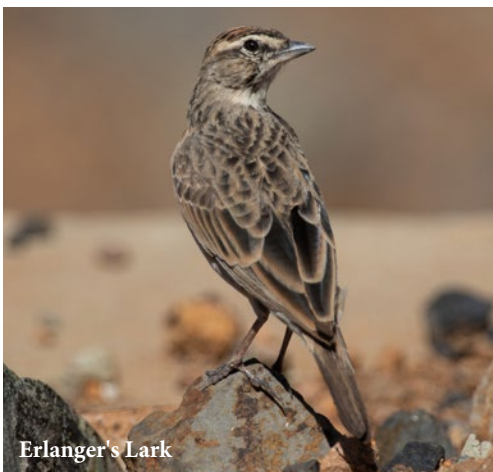
Arabian Bustard



Black-winged Lovebird



Green-backed Eremomela



Erlanger's Lark



Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher



Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike



White-backed Duck



Egyptian Plover



White-winged Cliff Chat



Ethiopian Siskin



Graceful Prinia



Harwood's Francolin



Gelada



Red-throated Pipit



Sombre Rock Chat



Rufous Chatterer

Bare-faced Go-away-bird



Moorland Francolin



Vulturine Guineafowl