Ethiopian Endemics - RSPB Private Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 19 January 2014





Black-winged Stilt





Colobus Monkey

Report and images compiled by Barry Oxley



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Participants: Ray Green

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Day 1

Friday 10th January

We arrived at Heathrow for our overnight flight to Addis Ababa, departing an hour later than scheduled.

Day 2

Saturday 11th January

Although late taking off we nevertheless landed on time at Addis, and after buying our visas and exchanging dollars for Birrs met up with Abiy our guide and Asrate our driver. The Ethiopian airlines food was surprisingly tasty and appreciated and we endured an uneventful overnighter flight, arriving around 7.30am. Although rather tired after the formalities we were quickly transported to the nearby Ghion Hotel, where we freshened up and settled into our rooms. It was still early in the morning so we opted for a walk around the hotel gardens at about 10.30a.m. admiring dazzling Tacazze Sunbirds, the more subdued Speckled Mousebirds, a skulking Brown Parisoma, and smart Ruppels Robin-Chat. A more familiar Booted Eagle and Red-rumped Swallow flew overhead with an exotic lone Nyanza Swift, whilst many Dusky Turtle Doves scratched among the leaf litter for insects, and endemic Abyssinian Slaty Flycatchers darted from lookout points to snatch flies. We had only moved a few yards from the hotel entrance so far, and moving further into the gardens watched various seedeaters peck morsels from the plants. Here a lone African Citril perched atop a blooming frangipani tree keeping a watchful eye on the Hooded Vultures circling overhead. We had arrived in Ethiopia with a bang, and amid a plethora of "garden" birds, gratefully retired for lunch with brain overload.

After a short rest, at around 2.00 p.m. we boarded our comfortable coach, exited Addis and made for the Garfersa Reservoir. Disembarking, we immediately accumulated a following of local children which was to be the norm for the rest of the week. The marshy edges of the reservoir were dotted with many familiar European waders avoiding the harsh northern winter. A Somali Fiscal Shrike was perched on a post and seemed unconcerned with our presence; Yellow-billed Kites and an Augar Buzzard quartered the skies as we logged the endemic Wattled Ibis, Blue-winged Goose and White-collared Pigeons. Red-breasted Wheatears competed with Red-throated Pipits scurrying among the dry tussocks in the drier areas looking for insects. Here another familiar European species appeared in the shape of three Ortolan Buntings, these were joined by Abyssinian Siskins which perched up on some fence posts. There were numerous Yellow Wagtails of the race *thunbergii* here and after a while we jumped across a stream to get good views of a Yellow-throated Longclaw, and also managed to acquire a few biting ants on the way. Upon our return a pair of Red-billed Oxpeckers appeared on the back of some cattle for a viewpoint, and as a grand finale to our first day. Arriving back at Addis we joined a long queue of traffic to enter the hotel, and Abiy informed us there were various weddings being performed in the grounds, our first encounter with the local customs. Birds had appeared thick and fast today and after dinner we retired in readiness for another enthralling day.

Day 3

Sunday 12th January

After catching up on sleep we breakfasted at about 7a.m. and then spent 30 minutes birding in the hotel grounds before departing north to the Solulta Plains, making a short stop for some bones from a local butcher. We climbed to about 8,000 feet before making our first stop which was at an open flat managed grassland which flooded in the rainy season, a small river dissected this and here we found more Blue-winged Geese. Many Thekla Larks were perched on rocks here, and an Isabelline Wheatear stood characteristically erect nearby, here also Abiy located a lone Erlangha's Lark. We had again attracted the local children's attention who wanted a peep through our 'scopes, and returned to our coach with an entourage before departing for Debre Libanos. Abiy informed us that there were 84 different tribes in Ethiopia and most do not catch and eat birds, which accounted for their abundance and confiding habit.

Lunch was taken at a German run hotel overlooking the Jemma Gorge, a magnificent spot, and we sat outside trying to eat lunch and watch the prolific bird activity. The bones previously bought were placed on a convenient rock within viewing distance and soon two Tawny Eagles arrived to consume the sparse remaining scraps of meat, while Fan-tailed Ravens cavorted above, finally landing at a respectful distance. Ruppell's and Griffon Vultures soared overhead keeping an eye on the proceedings and eventually a Lammergeier appeared but soon disappeared again, returning now and then to see if the other scavengers had finished feeding. Lammergeiers are the last at the table and we hoped they would display their "bone breaker" title, but were told we would be long gone before they would perform. Clearly the Tawny's were top dog here.

After an exciting lunch we walked to the nearby historic Portuguese Bridge, a Mountain Wagtail was in residence here together with a Mocking Cliff Chat and in the distance we watched a Verreaux's Eagle soaring and eventually diving into it's eyrie in the rocks.

Heading up the road to a nearby Monastery the coach stopped at a huge fig tree under which was the local cattle market. The fig was fruiting and seemed full of chattering White-billed Starlings, these together with a White-cheeked Turaco and Montane White-eyes were feasting on the harvest. The Monastery was a tourist attraction and consequently was attended by the usual accompaniment of stalls and traders, however after a quick peep inside the grounds we chose to bird outside the compound. The friendly locals engaged us in conversation and were curious about our origins, but we eventually managed to escape to see a Banded Barbet in a lone tree. Nearby we found a sombre Brown Woodland Warbler, flamboyant White-backed Black Tit and an Abyssinian Woodpecker in some secondary woodland.

It was about 110k back to Addis and upon entering the city we hit more wedding parties, arriving back at the Ghion about 6.15 p.m. Finally we celebrated another stimulating day with a bottle of very palatable local wine, had a fine meal and retired for another comfortable night.

Day 4

2

Monday 13th January

All packed and aboard the coach at 7.45 a.m. we departed south for Wondo Genet, about 210k, passing through congested towns celebrating Epiphany, the Ethiopian equivalent to our Christmas, and a public holiday.

Our first stop was at Chelkelna Lake around 10a.m. After parking the coach we walked through a market garden positioned to take full advantage of the fertile soil and close proximity of water. The crops were buzzing with bird activity with numerous wagtails and small passerines flitting and feeding. Aptly named African Quailfinches and a smart Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark vied with an African Pipit for our attention while Swallows and Martins swooped above the crops catching insects. It was difficult to proceed with all this avian activity and the non-breeding Bishops and Weavers tested Abiy's I.D skills to the limit. We listened attentively to his descriptions and gratefully acknowledged his diagnosis, before arriving at the waters edge. Lesser Flamingos were filter feeding close in and a few Greater Flamingos were doing likewise further away, various familiar waders mingled with noisy Spur-winged Lapwings, Glossy Ibis and some African Spoonbills. As we exited the waters edge we noticed a lone Isabelline Shrike perched in the bushes, and a lone Greater Spotted Eagle lurking among the plant stems.

Climbing aboard the coach we drove around the other side of the lake to witness an amazing Marabou Stork gathering, hundreds of these large scavengers were soaring overhead together with thermalling White Storks, many had landed nearby and somewhat reluctantly moved aside as we approached. There was more aquatic vegetation here which suited ducks such as Garganey, Hottentot Teal and a number of our more familiar wildfowl.

Lunch was taken at the Dreamland Hotel at Debrezat which overlooked a deep lake, an Ethiopian Boubou and Black-billed Barbets and a myriad of other birds distracted us from a very pleasant break.

Driving to Lake Koka and Ziway we watched locals fishing and selling their catch, White-winged Terns quartered the lakes while Woodland and Malachite Kingfishers scrutinised the water plants for a meal. Pygmy Geese, and both Fulvous and White-faced Ducks fed among the water hyacinths while African Jacanas and African Reed Warblers hopped among the plants looking for insects. Whilst passing through we stopped briefly to admire a Temmink's Courser racing around the dry fields, and here also two Goliath Herons stood statuesquely in a marsh near two handsome Black-crowned Cranes.

On driving to the Wondogenet Hotel we found the road was being resurfaced so had to make a long detour, and then frustratingly near our destination we found our way blocked by a broken down bus. This was eventually manually pushed aside and we finally arrived and settled in to our rooms, somewhat later than intended. After dinner and the checklist we retired content after another exhilarating day.

Day 5

Tuesday 14th January

We awoke to the squabbling of the Colobus and Vervet Monkeys which inhabited the trees surrounding our chalets. After breakfast we wandered around the gardens, watching the amazing Thick-billed Ravens and Hooded Vultures fighting over scraps in a rubbish hole. Flowering Frangipani and Hibiscus attracted Scarletchested and Tacazze Sunbirds and Ethiopian Orioles yodelled from the trees. It was difficult to drag ourselves away to walk to our planned destination. We were then introduced to Makoren, a local bird guide, who led us past the ladies selling surplus fruits in the village, and then followed a stream uphill, identifying new raptors as we climbed. A Mountain Buzzard, Crowned Eagle and African Harrier Hawk soared with Auger Buzzards above our heads.

Passing through tall secondary forest plants, a lurking Grey-backed Chameroptera teased us from the vegetation together with a more visible Brown-throated Wattle-eye, and from a tree a Silvery-cheeked Hornbill noisily excavated its nest hole. Finally arriving at some large trees we stopped for a rest and here our local guide disappeared to locate some target species. A Lesser Honeyguide called enticingly from a tree and both Banded and Double-toothed Barbets were clocked before the more elusive Sharpe's Starling, Spotted Creeper, Blackwinged Lovebird and Grosbeak Weaver were located. Our ascent had been challenging but the descent much easier and we arrived back at our chalets ready for a well-earned lunch.

At 4p.m. we followed a different path passing over a rickety bridge, where the locals performed laundry and car washing duties, and up a track into the forest. We arrived at a half-finished building where warm thermal water emerged from a small marsh and it was here a Little Rock Thrush and Semi-collared Kingfisher called home. After admiring a small flock of Bronze Mannikins and abundant Black Saw-wings with flashing white windows, we made for home ducking as they zoomed around us scooping up aerial insects. Weary but happy we later met for dinner, discussed the next days expedition and retired.

Day 6

Wednesday 15th January

We collected Makoren in the village at 7.45 a.m. and made for the Forestry College about 2k away. After signing in at the gate we drove along a track stopping by some huge Eucalyptus trees which had been ring barked, and after speculating this was intended to kill them, watched a nearby Narina Trogon and some Tambourine Doves. We marvelled at the magnificent native forest which once would have covered much of Ethiopia, and as we walked alongside a stream were struck by the silence, until it was disrupted by strident screeches from some feeding Yellow-fronted Parrots. Returning to the coach we said our goodbyes to Makoren who was returning via Phut Phut to Wondo, and made for the Bale Mountains.

The "notorious" Bale Mountain road was no longer notorious as the Chinese had finished construction in the previous year, so we ascended to Shasharien at about 11,000 feet quite comfortably, stopping on the way to view a Cape-eagle Owl roosting at the side of a small ravine. Abiy had an arrangement here with the village headman to keep this area and its' owl protected, a positive for ecotourism we thought. Today was to be an owl extravaganza, as at Rira village and Dinsho we were also shown an African Wood Owl and Abyssinian (Long-eared) Owl by a local guide. Here too we saw the endemic Abyssinian Catbird lurking in the native Podocarps. As we ascended we watched a lone ringtail Pallid Harrier search the upland for prey and arriving at Gessa valley pond found a confiding Rougets Rail scuttling along the edge, Yellow-billed Ducks and Red-knobbed Coots swam among the Blue-winged Geese here. At the beginning of the 2,400 sq.km Bale Mountain National Park, we watched Warthogs snuffling at the edge of the road, while Mountain Nyala and Common Reedbuck grazed nearby. Eventually arriving at the Government run Goba Wabe Shebelle camp we settled in to our cabins and met for dinner to discuss our day, before making for our beds.

Day 7

4

Thursday 16th January

Our now familiar breakfast routine completed, we spent a little time birding the gardens, spotting a rather retiring Cinnamon Bracken Warbler secretly searching for grubs in the shrubbery, and noted the ventral difference between the Common and Dark-capped Bulbuls before making for the Bale Mountain N.P., following a rough track up to a peak of about 12,500 feet.

A number of Rougets Rail and Chestnut-naped Francolins were seen as we entered an area of Tree Heather. Moorland Chats and Black-headed Siskins were common here and the fascinating Giant Lobelia plants dominated the hillsides. Many of the alpine plants were of the *Helichrysum* family with grey furry leaves to combat the harsh climate. A sighting of an Ethiopian Wolf caused some excitement here, however after counting seven of these we became quite blasé', one individual wandered unconcernedly past our vehicle door not even sparing us a glance, clearly these animals did not fear our presence as we snapped away with our cameras. Giant Mole Rats and Grass Rats played cat and mouse with predators up here as they nervously darted in and out of their burrows. We felt very privileged to see these rare wolves and seeing seven of the estimated 500 or so left was the highlight of our day.

Tawny, Steppe and Golden Eagles liked the high altitude and chilly wind here as did many Augur Buzzards, which were taking full advantage of the strong updraughts from the warm dry plain below. A few Red-billed Choughs called and scratched among the short sward looking for beetles and grubs here which reminded us of home.

Finally descending we admired the St. John's Wort trees and the impressive Kosso tree *Hygenica abysinica*, (used for tapeworm we were told by Abiy) and stopping to search for a "Bale" Brown Parisoma in some rough bushes near a village, accumulating another gathering of local children in the process, "give give". Back at camp we enjoyed our last day here before retiring after another exhilarating day.

Day 8

Friday 17th January

Departing promptly from our camp for Awassa we stopped at Dinsho River in the lovely Gessa Valley where Abiy was relieved to find a flock of 40 or so Spot-breasted Lapwings, another endemic, which he told us moved around a lot at this time of year and were somewhat unpredictable. From a hillock a Lesser-spotted Eagle watched the flock as they wheeled around, presumably singling one out for lunch. It was a beautiful morning and we were reluctant to leave this area but we had 200 kilometres to drive. However we made a number of stops on the way starting with a flypast of a smart Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk. As we descended a winding hill Asrate stopped to allow us looks at a dead sheep presumably run over recently, this was being eaten by a Ruppell's Vulture and some Thick-billed Ravens. As we reached the plain we stopped again to view some vultures congregated around another road kill, here Lappet-faced and White-backed scrapped with the local Hooded Vultures for a share.

Nearing Awassa, the telephone lines were adorned with dazzling Carmine Bee-eaters, and a Grey-backed Fiscal scrutinized its territory while being watched by a Long-crested Eagle perched atop a pole. We arrived at the splendid United African Hotel at about 1p.m., to the sound of Fish Eagles calling, lunched and rested, we made for nearby Lake Awassa finding more of the now familiar water birds. Here a Red-faced Crombec, an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, and both Scarlet-chested and Marico Sunbirds were in the trees surrounding the lake. In a large fig tree a fine Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling vied with a Gambian Sun Squirrel and Vervet Monkeys for attention. Returning to camp we made the most of the last rays in the camp grounds finding Blue Coucal and Little and Spectacled Weavers in an unkempt corner, before our dinner and bed.

Day 9

Saturday 18th January

Packed and ready for off we departed early for our long drive to Ais, knowing Abiy had a few stops planned on the way. We made our first visit to the nearby Lake Awassa fish market to watch the boats return from their nights fishing. It was a spectacle with buyers jostling each other for the best fish and the Marabous jostling each other for the scraps. Kingfishers included the huge Giant Kingfisher, and White-winged Terns vied for a share of the bounty with the local Fish Eagles. Over-wintering waders and a myriad of other water birds quartered the marsh for their breakfast, an amazing spectacle.

Stopping at Lake Largarno?? we found our first Pygmy Falcon, and nearby a few White-headed Buffalo-weavers, here also were a Northern White-crowned Shrike, Rufous Chatterer, Northern Red-billed Hornbill and both Bare-faced and White-bellied Go-away Birds. A roosting Verreaux's Eagle Owl with pink eye lids completed a most rewarding walk. We had lunch at a camp overlooking the lake before another short walk which produced a Red-throated Wryneck, Masked Shrike and rather cryptic Slender-tailed Nightjar roosting on the ground. Ruppell's and Superb Starlings dazzled us as we returned to our vehicle.

Abiy had warned us that today was a national holiday as it was Epiphany. As we passed through the towns on the way to Addis we were gridlocked by processions of people returning from church and celebrating their special day. This resulted in a rather late arrival at the Ghion, but we quickly cleaned up had a pleasant meal and departed for the airport. The roads had cleared and we arrived in plenty of time said our grateful goodbyes to Abiy and Asrate, checked in and awaited our early morning flight home.

Day 10

6

Sunday 19 January

We departed from Addis Ababa airport at about 1.40 a.m for an uneventful overnighter, arriving at Heathrow at around 7.00 a.m local time.

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only; E = Endemic)

							January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Somali Ostrich	Struthio camelus molybdophanes							1		
2	Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena									1
3	Scaly Francolin	Pternistis squamatus				Н					
4	Chestnut-naped Francolin	Pternistis castaneicollis					3	10	4		
5	Erckel's Francolin	Pternistis erckelii		1							
6	White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata			10						
7	Fulvous Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor			10						
8	Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis			5						1
9	Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos			2						
10	Blue-winged Goose	Cyanochen cyanoptera		40			30	4	30		
11	Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	50	20	20		10		20	6	
12	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea						3			
13	Pygmy Goose	Nettapus auritus			6						
14	African Black Duck	Anas sparsa			1						
15	Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata		6			20				
16	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	6		10						
17	Garganey	Anas querquedula		2							
18	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca	2	30							
19	Hottentot Teal	Anas hottentota			6				3		
20	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1		20						
21	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus			20						
22	Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor			100						
23	Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis			6						
24	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra					1				
25	Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus			1						
26	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia			30						
27	Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer			500				100	50	
28	African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	3	6	20		6		30	20	
29	Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash			4	2	2				

						,	January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	Wattled Ibis	Bostrychia carunculata	15	50	1		10	10	10		
31	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus			5				1		
32	African Spoonbill	Platalea alba			8						
33	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides			1				3		
34	Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	6	✓	✓				10	✓	
35	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	2	3	5						
36	Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath			2						
37	Great Egret	Ardea alba			3						
38	Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia			1				1		
39	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta							1		
40	Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta		1	6		1		3	3	
41	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus			50					3	
42	Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens			50						
43	Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus	1		10				6	6	
44	White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus							1	1	
45	African Darter	Anhinga rufa			3						
46	Black Kite	Milvus migrans							2		
47	Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
48	African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	1	1	3				6	6	
49	Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus		1			1				
50	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		1							
51	Hooded Vulture	Necrosyrtes monachus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	White-backed Vulture	Gyps africanus					1		1		
53	Rüppell's Vulture	Gyps rueppellii		3				1	1		
54	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		30		3					
55	White-headed Vulture	Trigonoceps occipitalis				1	1		1		
56	Lappet-faced Vulture	Torgos tracheliotus					2		1		
57	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus			1						
58	Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus						1			
59	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus					1				
60	African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus				1					
61	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	Melierax poliopterus			1					1	

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							January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
62	African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro		1							
63	Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris					1		1		
64	Mountain Buzzard	Buteo oreophilus				1	2				
65	Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	3	6		1	10	15	10	3	
66	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Aquila pomarina						2	1		
67	Greater Spotted Eagle	Aquila clanga			1						
68	Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax	1	2	4		2	1	1		
69	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis						5			
70	Eastern Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca			2						
71	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos						3			
72	Verreaux's Eagle	Aquila verreauxii		1							
73	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	1								
74	Martial Eagle	Polemaetus bellicosus					1				
75	Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis			1				1		
76	Crowned Eagle	Stephanoaetus coronatus				1					
77	Pygmy Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus								1	
78	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus					1	3	2		
79	Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus					1				
80	Saker Falcon	Falco cherrug						1			
81	Rouget's Rail	Rougetius rougetii					3	2	10		
82	Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostra							4		
83	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			3				2		
84	Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	2		3		2		2		
85	Black Crowned Crane	Balearica pavonina			3						
86	Common Crane	Grus grus			40						
87	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	2		5				6	6	
88	Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta			40						
89	Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus	2		30				4		
90	Black-winged Lapwing	Vanellus melanopterus	5								
91	Spot-breasted Lapwing	Vanellus melanocephalus							40		
92	Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	2	2							
93	African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus			20				20		

							January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
94	Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	2		20						
95	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus							1	1	
96	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis		1	1				1	1	
97	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia			1		1				
98	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	2	1	5		1	1	1		
99	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	1		1		1		1		
100	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	2						1		
101	Little Stint	Calidris minuta			5						
102	Dunlin	Calidris alpina			3						
103	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	10	6	10						
104	Temminck's Courser	Cursorius temminckii			1						
105	Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus			30						
106	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus huegleni								1?	
107	Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica			3						
108	White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus			5				1	40	
109	Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	10		4		6		✓	✓	
110	Feral Pigeon	Columba livia 'feral'	✓	✓	✓						
111	White-collared Pigeon	Columba albitorques	30	8			1050		40		
112	Lemon Dove	Columba larvata				1					
113	Dusky Turtle Dove	Streptopelia lugens	✓	✓				1	3		
114	Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens			✓	✓			2		
115	Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	2			6	2	3	2		
116	Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria				2	4				
117	Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis			5						
118	Black-winged Lovebird	Agapornis taranta	2			6			6	1	
119	Yellow-fronted Parrot	Poicephalus flavifrons					6				
120	White-cheeked Turaco	Tauraco leucotis		3		2					
121	Bare-faced Go-away-Bird	Corythaixoides personatus								1	
122	White-bellied Go-away-Bird	Corythaixoides leucogaster								1	
123	Blue-headed Coucal	Centropus monachus							2		
124	Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas							1		
125	Cape Eagle-Owl	Bubo capensis					1				

						,	January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
126	Greyish Eagle-Owl	Bubo cinerascens								1	
127	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bubo lacteus								1	
128	African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii					1				
129	Abyssinian Owl	Asio abyssinicus					1				
130	Slender-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus clarus								1	
131	Nyanza Swift	Apus niansae	1	1							
132	Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	6	10	6	6	4		6	6	
133	Blue-naped Mousebird	Urocolius macrourus								1	
134	Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina					1				
135	Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus			6				1	2	
136	Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala		1			1				
137	Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis			1	1			3	1	
138	African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta							1		
139	Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus			2				3	3	
140	Half-collared Kingfisher	Alcedo semitorquata				1					
141	Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima								1	
142	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis			2				4	4	
143	Little Bee-Eater	Merops pusillus								1	
144	Ethiopian Bee-eater	Merops variegatus lafresnayii		6	4	2	4			3	
145	Northern Carmine Bee-Eater	Merops nubicus			1				10	10	
146	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops								1	
147	Crowned Hornbill	Tockus alboterminatus			1						
148	Northern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus								1	
149	Von Der Decken's Hornbill	Tockus deckeni								1	
150	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	Bycanistes brevis				12	4		6		
151	Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	Bucorvus abyssinicus								3	
152	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus				1					
153	Banded Barbet	Lybius undatus		1		2			2		
154	Black-billed Barbet	Lybius guifsobalito			4					1	
155	Double-toothed Barbet	Lybius bidentatus				2					
156	Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor				1					
157	Red-throated Wryneck	Jynx ruficollis								2	

						,	January				
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158	Nubian Woodpecker	Campethera nubica							1		
159	Abyssinian Woodpecker	Dendropicos abyssinicus				1					
160	Eastern Grey Woodpecker	Dendropicos spodocephalus		1	1					1	
161	Western Black-headed Batis	Batis erlangeri							1		
162	Brown-throated Wattle-Eye	Platysteira cyanea				2			1		
163	Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus		1							
164	Northern Puffback	Dryoscopus gambensis				1			1		
165	Slate-colored Boubou	Laniarius funebris								4	
166	Ethiopian Boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus			1				2		
167	Brubru	Nilaus afer								1	
168	Northern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus ruppelli								1	
169	Isabelline Shrike	Lanius isabellinus			1						
170	Grey-backed Fiscal	Lanius excubitoroides							1	2	
171	Somali Fiscal	Lanius somalicus	1	1		1					
172	Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus								1	
173	Ethiopian Oriole	Oriolus monacha				2	4				
174	Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis							1		
175	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax						6	4		
176	Cape Crow	Corvus capensis		6			✓	✓			
177	Pied Crow	Corvus albus	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
178	Somali Crow	Corvus edithae					1				
179	Fan-tailed Raven	Corvus rhipidurus		30	6	2	2		1		
180	Thick-billed Raven	Corvus crassirostris				10	4	2	6	4	
181	White-backed Black Tit	Parus leuconotus		2							
182	Erlanger's Lark	Calandrella erlangeri		1							
183	Thekla Lark	Galerida theklae		10			4	✓	3		
184	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucotis			1						
185	Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus		6	4	✓	2	2			
186	Dark-capped Bullbul	Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor					2	2	1		
187	Black Saw-Wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera				30					
188	Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga					4				
189	Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola			✓				✓	✓	

						,	January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
190	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia							✓		
191	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica		10	✓				✓		
192	Pale Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne obsoleta						1			
193	Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula		5	6						
194	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	2	2							
195	Red-faced Crombec	Sylvietta whytii							1		
196	Brown Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus umbrovirens		1				1	1		
197	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		1			2	5	1		
198	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus			1						
199	African Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus baeticatus			1				1	2	
200	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna pallida							1		
201	Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus						1			
202	Singing Cisticola	Cisticola cantans		1							
203	Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana							1	1	
204	Ethiopian Cisticola	Cisticola lugubris						2			
205	Stout Cisticola	Cisticola robustus	1	1							
206	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	Cisticola brunnescens	2								
207	Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	1				1	1			
208	Buff-bellied Warbler	Phyllolais pulchella				1					
209	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata				2	1				
210	Rufous Chatterer	Turdoides rubiginosa							1	2	
211	White-rumped Babbler	Turdoides leucopygia		1		3			2		
212	Abyssinian Catbird	Parophasma galinieri					1				
213	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla				2					
214	Brown Parisoma	Sylvia lugens	2	1		1					
215	Bale (Brown)Parisoma	Sylvia lugens griseiventris						1			
216	Montane White-Eye	Zosterops poliogastrus	1	2		1	1	6			
217	Spotted Creeper	Salpornis spilonotus				1				1	
218	Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea			20						
219	Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	200√	6					6		
220	Rüppell's Starling	Lamprotornis purpuroptera			1				1	6	
221	Superb Starling	Lamprotornis superbus			1					6	

						,	January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
222	Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio			1						
223	White-billed Starling	Onychognathus albirostris		20							
224	Plum Coloured Starling (violet backed)	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster							1		
225	Sharpe's Starling	Poeoptera sharpii				1					
226	Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorhynchus		2							
227	Abyssinian Ground Thrush	Geokichla piaggiae				1					
228	Groundscraper Thrush	Psophocichla litsitsirupa	3					2	1		
229	African Thrush	Turdus pelios				1					
230	Abyssinian Thrush	Turdus abyssinicus	3			✓	✓				
231	Rüppell's Robin-Chat	Cossypha semirufa	1			1					
232	White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini							1		
233	Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus							1		
234	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	1								
235	African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	1				2		3		
236	Red-breasted Wheatear	Oenanthe bottae	20				1				
237	Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina		3							
238	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe							3		
239	Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka	1	2							
240	Moorland Chat	Pinarochroa sordida					10	✓			
241	Rüppell's Black Chat	Myrmecocichla melaena		1							
242	Mocking Cliff Chat	Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris		1							
243	Little Rock Thrush	Monticola rufocinereus		1		1				1	
244	African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	1	2			2		2		
245	Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher	Dioptrornis chocolatinus	2	1					1		
246	Northern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis edolioides							1	1	
247	African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	2			3	4	3			
248	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis				2			1		
249	Tacazze Sunbird	Nectarinia tacazze	6	4		2					
250	Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis							1		
251	Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus	1	2		✓					
252	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali			3					✓	
253	Swainson's Sparrow	Passer swainsonii	1	2	2	1	2		4	6	

Ethiopian Endemics - RSPB Private Tour

						,	January				
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
254	White-headed Buffalo Weaver	Dinemellia dinemelli								1	
255	Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht	2	1			2	1	2		
256	Reichenow's Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht reichenowi			1						
257	Little Weaver	Ploceus luteolus							2		
258	Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis							1		
259	Rüppell's Weaver	Ploceus galbula			10						
260	Grosbeak Weaver	Amblyospiza albifrons				1					
261	Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus	1		10	1					
262	Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea			100s						
263	Yellow-crowned Bishop	Euplectes afer	10								
264	Northern Red Bishop	Euplectes franciscanus			6	1					
265	Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis	1					4			
266	Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala							1		
267	African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata		1	2	2			6	6	
268	Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	Uraeginthus bengalus		1					2	6	
269	Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia	2	1							
270	African Quailfinch	Ortygospiza fuscocrissa		6							
271	African Silverbill	Euodice cantans	6								
272	Bronze Mannikin	Lonchura cucullata	10			10	6		6		
273	Village Indigobird	Vidua chalybeata	1		1						
274	Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura				1					
275	Black-headed Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg			4						
276	Grey-headed Wagtail	Motacilla flava thunbergi	✓	✓		1	2		✓	✓	
277	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		1		1					
278	Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara		2		1					
279	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	6								
280	Abyssinian Longclaw	Macronyx flavicollis	4						1		
281	African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus			1						
282	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis					1				
283	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus	✓					2			
284	Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex						1			
285	Ethiopian Siskin	Serinus nigriceps	4				4	✓	✓		

							January				
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286	African Citril	Crithagra citrinelloides	2	1			1				
287	Reichenow's Seedeater	Crithagra reichenowi			3						
288	Brown-rumped Seedeater	Crithagra tristriata	10	10		1	4	✓			
289	Streaky Seedeater	Crithagra striolata	4				8	✓			
290	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana	3								

Mammals

1	Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax	Heterohyrax brucei	Н						
2	Bale Mountain Vervet	Chlorocebus djamdjamensis		10				10	
3	Blick's Arvicanthis	Arvicanthis blicki				✓	✓		
4	Colobus monkey	Colobus angolensi		6	10			10	
5	Olive Baboon	Papio anubis					4		
6	Gelada	Theropithecus gelada	6						
7	Ethiopian Wolf	Canis simensis				7			
8	Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus			10		6		
9	Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus				2			
10	Mountain Nyala	Tragelaphus buxtoni			6		6		
11	Common Reedbuck	Redunca redunca			4		10		
12	Gambian Sun Squirrel	Heliosciurus gambianus					1		
13	Ethiopian African Mole Rat	Tachyoryctes macrocephalus				6	1		

Invertebrates

1	Wild Pansy Butterfly		1				
2	Hummingbird Hawk Moth				2		