

Ethiopian Wolves

Naturetrek Tour Report

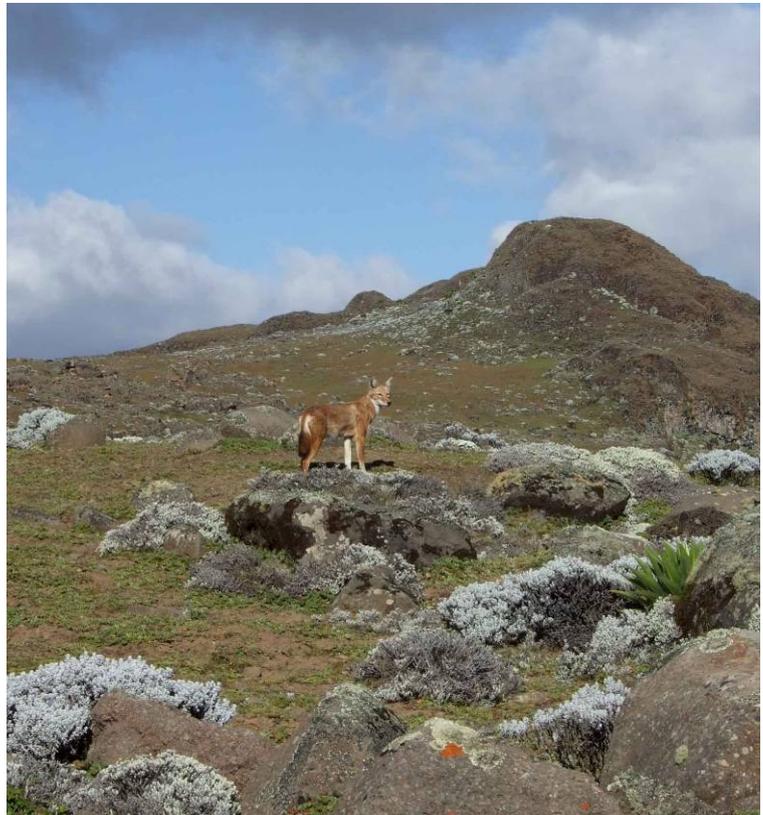
22 November - 3 December 2008



Beisa Oryx at Awassa



Pygmy Goose at Awassa



Ethiopian Wolf on Sanetti Plateau

Report and images compiled by Will Wagstaff



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders: Yilma Delleleqn Abebe (Local Guide)
Will Wagstaff (Naturetrek Leader)
Dereja (Driver)

Participants: Dru Benson
Duncan Collins
Carol Collins
Celia Crook
Bob Empson
Lionel Gardiner
Tess Gardiner
Judith Kertland
Ant May
Julie Michel
Stephen Vincent
Sheila West.

Days 1/2

Friday 21st/Saturday 22nd November

With inclement weather forecast for the UK the prospect of some warm African sunshine was on our minds as we assembled at Heathrow. As our plane was late arriving we were nearly two hours late leaving but some time was made up so we landed only an hour or so late in the sunshine at Addis Ababa where we were met by our guide, Yilma.

It was only a short drive to the hotel where we freshened up and got ready for our journey south. Driving out of the capital we soon met with the birds that were to become very familiar such as Yellow-billed Kite, Hooded Vultures and sundry pigeons and doves and a quick look at our first endemic species, Thick-billed Raven. Our first stop was for lunch at a hotel at Nazareth where a wedding was being held in the function room as we sat out on the veranda with more kites circling overhead. We had time to have a short stroll around the gardens where we found African Thrush, African Paradise Flycatcher, Speckled and Blue-naped Mousebirds. We had not been going for long when we saw a group of three Abyssinian Ground Hornbills crossing the main road and continuing to feed as if we were not there. We also had our first view of Northern Carmine Bee-eater, very quickly voted as one of the most beautiful birds we had ever seen.

We continued our way to Awash, stopping before the reserve to have a look for Crocodiles on the lake. We did get poor views of one and also saw African Spoonbill, Great White Egret, Little Egret and an African Darter in flight. Leaving the road we turned towards the reserve as the light faded although that did not stop us finding some roosting Helmeted Guineafowl and flushing a Dusky (Sombre) Nightjar from beside the track. Once we had been allocated our tents we had our meal under the stars before heading for bed after a long day.

Day 3

Sunday 23rd November

Our aim today was to explore the park, first heading towards Kudu Valley on the far side of the main road. Birds were appearing and disappearing on all sides, shrikes in particular did show well as did several species of hornbill. A group of Egyptian Vultures were roosting on a pylon close to a pair of Cardinal Woodpeckers in a dead tree. Salt's DikDik were noted scooting away from the road as we drove through the acacia scrub. The pond in Kudu Valley was a magnet for all wildlife with Hamadryas Baboon soon on the list along with a couple of Warthogs that vanished when they saw us. Swallows and a few swifts were zooming low over the water. African Paradise Flycatchers were in the trees as were Orange-bellied Parrots, Ruppell's Glossy Starlings and many more. We strolled around the lake adding more and more species as well as getting better views of Woodland Kingfisher and very mobile group of Green Sandpipers. Eventually it was time to head back to the camp for lunch, following which we had time for a siesta. Those doing some exploring found some more crocodiles along the riverbank, a few Olive Baboons, two more Warthogs and found recent Hippo footprints coming up from the water.

Our afternoon drive looked at the more open savannah where we managed to find our first Beisa Oryx, albeit at some distance. A short walk found lots of Hoopoes on the track, at least five together, with hundreds of Swallows and Sand Martins swooping low over the grass. On the path flocks of Chestnut-backed Sparrow Larks were feeding and a group of Cut-throat Finches sat in a nearby bush. Pied Wheatears had been replaced by Isabelline Wheatear perching on the low bushes and some more Salt's Dikdiks were seen. The Black-backed Jackal that walked away from us showed very well, posing every now and again to make sure we had seen it, while the Soemmerring's Gazelle we found a little later was much more distant.

As the light faded we headed for the bar that overlooked the Awash Gorge where we did our log call before returning to camp. On the way we had great views of a Greyish Eagle Owl sat on the road and another perched on a near tree which stayed for us to get a better look in the scope and above us we could see Venus and three of the moons around Jupiter. On the last section of the drive two more Black-backed Jackals were seen beside the road as were some Cape Hares. Another fine meal awaited us at the camp before it was time for bed at the end of a very interesting day.

Day 4

Monday 24th November

Before breakfast we had a walk along the riverbank to the Awash Falls finding many Vervet Monkeys and a troupe of Olive Baboons. African Firefinch and Common Bulbuls were around the path as we set out and Eastern Grey Plantain Eaters and White-bellied Go-away birds were also in evidence. We spent the morning exploring some of the areas we had driven through in the dark last night. Highlights of the morning included some much closer views of Beisa Oryx and a very close Soemmerring's Gazelle. Hoopoes were also showing well as were the usual array of shrikes and wheatears. A small flock of Superb Glossy Starlings flew by and a few Black-Shouldered Kites and Dark Chanting Goshawks were sat up high. We stopped at the entrance gate where a colony of White-browed Sparrow Weavers was nest building and a Lesser Spotted Eagle flew by. As we drove to and from the town of Awash we saw more Abyssinian Rollers and kites plus our first Steppe Eagle circling with two White-backed Vultures. Yellow-billed Kites and Fan-tailed Ravens were much in evidence of the town before we returned back to camp for lunch and a siesta. Wandering around camp some saw and photographed African Pygmy Kingfisher although the Nile Monitors were too quick for the camera!

The afternoon drive soon found a posing Buff-crested Bustard next to the track but the most striking bird was the Rosy-patched Bush-Shrike that climbed up the vegetation beside us. A short walk took us to overlook the gorge, a superb view but not much wildlife. Moving on again our only Lesser Kudu of the trip walked across the road in front of us but soon walked out of sight. The Lanner Falcon that zipped overhead was found roosting a little further on enabling us to get good views of this huge falcon. Another large grey raptor perched in an acacia proved to be a Secretarybird which sat for all to see. We had a short break at the bar overlooking the gorge before driving back as dusk fell. The Greyish Eagle Owl was seen again and a Plain Nightjar sat on the road in the headlights. We also saw a few more hares but no jackals tonight before returning to the camp for dinner. Just before the camp a pair of White-tailed Mongooses showed well on the track.

Day 5

Tuesday 25th November

Those up and about early had walk around camp area before we packed and said goodbye to our hosts who had looked after us so well. We made a brief stop at the lake near Awash where we saw many Long-tailed Cormorants, Gull-billed Tern, White-breasted Cormorants, a skulking Purple Heron, Squacco Heron and Senegal Thick-knees. At the far end of the lake a pair of Saddle-billed Storks was a good find. Our next stop was at a crowd of vultures and Marabou beside the road. Hooded Vultures were the most common along with White-backed but we also had good views of Griffon, Egyptian and three Lappet-faced Vulture.

It was a very scenic drive as we made our way back through the Rift Valley to Nazareth and then south towards Ziway Our next stop was at the overflow to Lake Koka where large numbers of Marabou were gathered on the banks with African Fish Eagles perched on the nearby poles and Hamerkops roosting on the old boats. On one side of the road Black-crowned Crane, Goliath Heron and Spur-winged Goose were noted along with more Squacco Herons and the inevitable Egyptian Geese. A Malachite Kingfisher showed well on the lake side of the road with Pink-backed and White Pelicans a little further out and Pied Kingfishers hovering over the narrow channels.

During the lunch stop at Ziway a Lesser Whitethroat and Chiffchaffs were in the trees above as was a Shikra and a posing Yellow-billed Kite.

A short drive took us to the edge of Lake Ziway which was full of birds including Grey-headed Gulls, Marabou, Black-winged Stilt, Wood Sandpiper, and many Yellow Wagtails of various races. Overhead two flocks of White-faced Ducks flew by and Pied Kingfishers were very evident until the Peregrine flew by. Northern Carmine Bee-eaters and Whiskered Terns were on the distant lines of posts and African Jacanas were feeding on the floating mats of vegetation. We reached Wondo Genet after dark and were soon in our rooms with time to sort out our gear before dinner.

Day 6

Wednesday 26th November

Before breakfast we had a wander around the grounds and over the road to the hot springs. Silver cheeked Hornbills were very evident as were the Guereza Colobus especially at dawn. Black-headed Oriole and Red shouldered Cuckoo-shrike were also seen along with lots of African Thrushes and Double-toothed Barbets. Some superb White-cheeked Turaco showed well as did Mountain and Grey Wagtails. A Variable Sunbird was admiring itself in car wing mirror as we crossed back to the hotel.

We were soon on the road on the long drive to Goba in the Bale Mountains. Although we had not gone far before we stopped to watch our first Blue-breasted Bee-eaters and some African Citril and a Long-crested Eagle a little further on the road. Having stopped for fuel we drove through some incredible scenery and a vast arable region. We added a few birds to the list including endemics such as Wattled Ibis, the superb Abyssinian Long Claw, White-collared Pigeon plus Red-throated Pipit and Yellow-billed Duck. Dwarf Ravens were quite common along with a scattering of Thick-billed and Fan-tailed Ravens plus the ubiquitous Yellow-billed Kites. We stopped at roadside hotel for lunch where found two Ruppell's Robin Chat and an African Thrush thanks to a helpful gardener.

The road then climbed steadily through more mountainous scenery finding Botta's Wheatear, Thekla Lark and many Dusky Turtle Doves on the roadside and a Steppe Eagle. Leaving the tree line at over 3000m we descended into a high level valley where some flocks of Slender-billed Starlings were wheeling. Further on our first Rouget's Rail were found and another endemic in the shape of some Blue-winged Geese were also seen from the road. As the light started to fade a magnificent Mountain Nyala crossed the road and was soon followed by several Warthogs and three Bohor Reedbuck. We continued on to Goba and our hotel where we arrived to find that they were on an emergency generator and only the main section of the building was lit. Still it did not take long to get our rooms and return to the restaurant for a welcome drink and meal after a long day. The electricity came on again as we ate enabling all those battery chargers to get working ready for our trip to the mountains in the morning.

Day 7

Thursday 27th November

It was a bright sunny morning as we headed up the mountain where our first stop was to walk along a forested edge where we found Abyssinian Catbird, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Montane White-eye plus some reminders of home such as Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Auger Buzzards became common as we climbed past the tree line where we had a quick stop to have a look at some Mountain Chats, Streaky Seedeaters and a Cinnamon Bracken Warbler. We also saw another endemic bird in the shape of a Bale Parisoma.

Our first stop on the highlands found Spot-bellied Plover, Ruddy Shelduck, Greenshank, many Black-headed Siskins and a few Red-throated Pipits. Lots of Grass Rats of various species were zipping about close to the road making looking for Mole Rat more difficult. Our main target up here was the Ethiopian Wolf and we had been looking for a while when one was found sat not far from the road. It then wandered about for a while before going up over a nearby ridge.

We had stopped for lunch over looking a small pool when our second Ethiopian Wolf was seen on a nearby slope. This one was harder to see as it went behind a rock as if playing hide and seek. We had another stop shortly after lunch where a variety of birds of prey were gliding overhead including Golden, Eastern Imperial and Steppe Eagles and a juvenile Lammergeier gave a superb but brief view.

The vegetation got a little thicker on the far side of the plateau so we retraced our route, collecting a couple of the Wolf Project research workers on the way. They must have brought us luck as we proceeded to find another seven wolves during the afternoon including a group of four. One of the females behaved as if we were not there, hunting for prey, crossing back and fore across the road to the delight of all. A Giant Mole Rat was its target at one point which enabled us to get a quick look at this elusive species.

Shortly after we had left the pack of four wolves in a valley floor we had chance to see another Giant Mole Rat. This one only showed its head at first before coming right out of its burrow, a very rare sight. During the afternoon we found two pairs of Choughs feeding on the short grass.

We thought we had finished with the wolves but just as the vegetation got thicker another appeared beside the road. This had been tagged and was identified as one that had been tagged many miles from here in 2003. We had been very lucky as we had now seen nine of the twenty nine known to be on the Sanetti Plateau.

It was then time to head downhill, somewhat quicker than the speed we had come up! We managed to see a few Chestnut-naped Spurfowl beside the road before reaching the tree line and then back to Goba where we dropped the two researchers and returned back to the hotel.

Day 8

Friday 28th November

First stop this morning was in the forest a little higher than he had visited yesterday. It was quiet at first but we were soon getting good views of Mountain Thrushes and listening to the amazing song of the Abyssinian Catbird when Stephen found a small troop of Colobus Monkeys. They were rather shy at first and difficult to see but we managed to get good views of this most striking mammal. On our way back to the road we found a superb Abyssinian Ground Thrush and a less colourful Tawny-flanked Prinia! Above us one tree held a few Dark-capped Bulbuls, two Montane White-eyes and a White-cheeked Turaco.

Higher up we spent a while looking at various sites for Rock Hyrax to no avail but did find a couple of Starck's Hares. On the plateau we found many of the birds that we had seen yesterday especially the Spot-breasted Plovers and Blue-winged Geese. The grass rats running here and there came under much discussion but were forgotten when we found our first Giant Moles Rats of the day. We had reached one of the areas we had seen wolves yesterday and found one on the other side of the road shortly followed by a second individual. The second animal had caught one of the rats and gave us a good demonstration of how to eat quickly! A Starck's Hare showed well at the base of a rocky hill enabling us to see one sat still for a change. Above us we found five species of eagle during the day with one of the Golden Eagles seen perched not far from the road. Auger Buzzards were by far the commonest raptor but one of the most exciting was the adult Lammergeier that glided overhead at one point. It seems our luck was in with wolves again as we found two more as we headed for the Harena Escarpment for our picnic. The mist came and went but we were able to see fields what seemed miles below us as we went to the view point.

Returning across the plateau we again saw Giant Mole Rats plus the myriad small rats before finding an Ethiopian Wolf quite close to the road obviously looking for something at the base of a large rock. After a few minutes of moving back and for it began digging and soon caught and ate its prey - as seen on TV, and we had our own David Attenborough commentary at times!. We thought that five was a reasonable total for the day but this soon went up to six when one jumped up from a roadside rock and showed no urgency as it wandered away enabling us to get some good photos in the afternoon sunshine. Just before we left the plateau a Moorland Francolin showed how camouflaged it was as it sat beside the track. Another two a little further on were more mobile and easier to see. It was then time to head back down the hill after another enjoyable day at high altitudes.

Day 9

Saturday 29th November

We set off back down from the highlands nice and early which gave us time to have a stop at the National Park headquarters at Dinsho. It did not take long to start finding mammals with superb male Mountain Nyalas and their females plus some more elusive Menelik's Bushbuck. Small groups of Warthogs were feeding in the glades between the trees; we came across several of their holes and wallows as we wandered along the tracks. Overhead a pair of Steppe Eagles was displaying and a White-backed Tit could be heard singing along with the more accomplished vocals of the Abyssinian Catbirds. One particular male Nyala posed well in a bush before taking an even more photogenic pose with a landscape behind it. Eventually it was time to hit the road and continue the long voyage back to the town of Shashemene.

The first valley we drove through gave us another chance to see more Nyala and Warthogs plus a handful of the Rouget's Rail. In this area a small flock of Yellow Bishops were feeding, including some very attractive black and yellow males. The small pond at the end of this section contained a few Blue-winged Geese, a Hamerkop and a pair of Yellow-billed Ducks. The drive through this spectacular scenery kept us entertained where we saw a pair of Chough, plus the more expected members of the crow family. Lots of Wattled Ibis were seen along with four Sacred Ibis. Wheatears and Chats were often noted as were a few Common Fiscals. White-collared Pigeons were replaced by Red-eyed Doves as we descended but the Speckled Pigeons were everywhere. We stopped at the same roadside restaurant we had used on the way up but the Ruppell's Robin-chat was more elusive this time.

During the afternoon we continued through this vast grain growing region finding Lanner and Saker Falcons plus a pair of White Wagtails in one of the ditches. Having reached the main road it did not take long to get to Awassa and our hotel just after dusk.

Day 10

Sunday 30th November

Dawn found us on the bank at the edge of the hotel overlooking the lake. Malachite and Pied Kingfishers seemed to be everywhere. Close to us several pairs of the rather beautiful Pygmy Geese were feeding and many small birds were along the main track including Northern Red (Orange) Bishop and Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus. Having added a wide variety of species to the list from Rufous Chatterer to White-browed Robin Chat to Common Moorhen it was time for breakfast and move on. Well that was the plan until we spent a while watching the black and white Guereza Colobus in the trees above us.

First stop today was at the fish market where there was so much activity it was difficult to know where to look. Whether it was to the Marabou and Yellow-billed Kites stealing fish from the land or to the masses of gulls, terns and pelicans in the water or the myriad people going about their business that at first glance seemed like chaos! Bobs conversation with one of the locals brought dividends as he was told about some nearby Hippos which we soon found in the water close to all the hubbub of the market.

Walking around the back of the site we found Village Indigobird, Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus and a pair of the very pretty Amethyst Starlings. Guereza Colobus and Vervet Monkeys were in this area along with lots of Silver-cheeked Hornbills and a few Hadada Ibis. On the shore a lone tree was home to a Monitor Lizard and a pair of Banded Barbets was breeding in a hole near the top.

Leaving this site we drove on to the Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary. As we reached the reserve the first of several Oribi were seen in the long grass. As we picked up the guide we had good views of Superb Glossy Starling before we drove and walked some of this very scenic reserve. The Hartebeest did not take long to find as they were taller than the long grass unlike some of the Oribi. Sadly the main herds were too far away but those we had seen had showed well before we returned to the main road and drove on for lunch.

We then continued to the lodge at Bishingari overlooking Lake Langano. Some walked a while whilst the rest of the group and the luggage were ferried to the camp as the track and bridge could not take our bus. It was after dark by the time we assembled in the restaurant for the first of the excellent meals we were to have here in this most scenic setting.

Day 11

Monday 1st December

The first part of our day spent in the area of the camp saw us exploring the more open side near the lake. Here we added Jacobin Cuckoo, Black-backed Puffback and many Yellow-fronted Parrots to the list. Red-faced Crombec and a scattering of Palaearctic migrants were in the acacia trees along with several pairs of Black-headed Batis'. Silver-cheeked Hornbills were crashing about as usual as were a troupe of Olive Baboons at the edge of the lodge. A Gymnogene gave a very good fly by, low over our heads at one point.

Having had a stop for breakfast we walked through the more shaded wooded areas where Grey and Nubian Woodpeckers were seen along with more Olive Baboons and a few Colobus. Black-headed Orioles were singing well as were the Tropical Boubous. Both Banded and Double-toothed Barbets showed well as did the Sun Squirrels. One of the latter seemed to be gathering leaves to a breeding hole on one of the big fig trees. A Hemprich's Hornbill showed well as did a pair of Little Bee-eaters near the boundary fence. On our way back we had a look at the two Senegal Thick-knees resting beside the small beach. Here we also found a Green-backed Heron and some Red-billed Firefinches.

Following lunch we relaxed for a while before gathering to walk to a point overlooking an area of reedbeds. We soon saw the Hippo we had come to look for, which then showed well, albeit at distance for some time. This area was alive with birds from the flocks of White-winged Black Terns to two species of pelican, lots of waders including our first Kittlitz's Sandplover plus Little Ringed and Ringed Plovers. Two species of swallow and two species of martin were roosting in the reeds where several Squacco Herons were perched. In the main reedbeds we found Purple and Goliath Herons, Little, Intermediate and Great Egrets plus Woolly-necked and Yellow Billed Storks. All in all an amazing site and a rather good sunset before we headed back to the camp at the end of a very nice day.

Day 12

Tuesday 2nd December

Those up about early had another chance to see the Olive Baboons and the Colobus as well as Crested Francolin, the Yellow fronted Parrots and many more. Once breakfast was over we began our day by transferring back to the main road and then on the short drive to the entrance of the Abiyata-Shala National Park where the feral Somali Ostriches were gathered. A short walk from here found a few Warthog and our first Grant's Gazelles whilst overhead White-backed and Ruppell's Vultures were soaring.

On the way to our next stop at the overlook above the isthmus between the two lakes two Cape Hares made a brief showing. From here we could see thousands of flamingos around the shores of Lake Abiyata and below us a pair of Black-billed Wood-hoopoes was seen.

Having returned to the road we drove to see the masses of flamingos on the shore with even more away in the distance. Yellow Wagtails of many races were flitting back and fore as we wandered across the short turf to get better views of the flamingos. The scattering of Greater Flamingo were outnumbered by the vast hordes of feeding Lesser Flamingos. Also along the waters edge were many Ruffs with Kittlitz's Sandplover, Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and our first Avocets of the trip. At one point a small flock of flamingo flew by having been disturbed by a Montagu's Harrier. Eventually it was time to go but we did find a pair of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse that showed very well from the bus and a less obliging Senegal Coucal plus two Cape Hares.

At the lunch stop at Ziway we found more birds with a pair of Black-winged Lovebirds zipping overhead and a Booted Eagle circling in the thermals with the kites, vultures and Marabou. Our last stop of the day was at Debre Zeyt where many Hamerkop were feeding by the gate along with a few Sacred Ibis and very mobile group of Glossy Ibis. Many Little Grebes were on the main part of the lake and Red-knobbed Coots were along the more secluded parts. In the trees above us a Peregrine sat for a while and African Paradise Flycatchers flitted back and fore. Malachite Kingfisher and Common Sandpiper joined the White-breasted Cormorant on the small jetty. Three Blue-breasted Kingfishers were darting around on the higher slopes and a very smart Scarlet-chested Sunbird eventually sat for all to see before we boarded the bus to continue our journey.

As the light faded we entered the hubbub of Addis and reached our hotel not far from the airport.

Day 13

Wednesday 3rd December

Yilma, with his bag of goodies, joined us as we finished breakfast and packed for the final time. It was only a short transfer to the airport where we said goodbye and thank you to Yilma and Dereja our driver. Our flight went via a very wet Rome and landed early in London on a cold December evening at the end of a successful tour. I hope you all enjoyed your tour and that this trip report will bring back memories of an amazing country with a tremendously varied wildlife.

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Species Lists

Mammals

(List follows the nomenclature in The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals. Kingdon 2007)

Wart Hog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

Eight were in Kudu Valley at Awash on 23rd; four were near Awash on 25th; twenty in highlands on 26th; 25+ at and near Dinsho on 29th; two were at Bishingari on 2nd

Common Duiker *Cephalophus grimmia*

Two were at Bishingari on 1st

Menelik's Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki*

Three were at Dinsho on 29th

Mountain Nyala *Tragelaphus buxtoni*

One was seen on the way to Goba on 26th; six were on the plateau on 27th and 40+ were in the Dinsho area on 29th

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

Three were seen at dusk on the way to Goba on 26th and one was at Dinsho on 29th

Lesser Kudu *Tragelaphus imberbis*

A female was at Awash on 24th

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa*

Forty plus were at Awash on 23rd and nine were seen there next day

Grant's Gazelle *Gazella granti*

Twelve plus were at Shala/Abiyata reserve on 2nd

Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii*

One was at Awassa on 23rd and eight were seen there on 24th

Swayne's Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus swaynei*

Six were at the Hartebeest reserve on 30th

Salt's Dik-dik *Madoqua saltiana*

At Awash five were seen on 23rd; 8+ on 24th and six on 25th

Oribi *Ourebia ourebi*

Seven were at the Hartebeest reserve on 30th

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Two were at Awassa near Fish Market on 30th and one was at Bishingari on 1st

Abyssinian (Cape) Hare *Lepus (capensis) habessinicus*

Five were seen at Awash on evening of 24th with four there next day. Two were at Abiyata on 2nd.

Starck's Hare *Lepus starcki*

Five were seen on the Sanetti Plateau on 28th

Ethiopian Wolf *Canis simensis*

Nine were on the plateau on 27th and six were there on 28th

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

Three were seen at Awash on 23rd

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

One was seen on way to Goba on 26th

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*

Two were seen near the camp at Awash on night drive on 24th

Slender (Black-tailed) Mongoose *Galerella sanguinea*

Two were seen at Awash on 23rd

Hamadryas Baboon *Papio hamadryas*

Thirty plus were at Awash on 23rd

Olive Baboon *Papio cynocephalus*

At Awash two were seen on 23rd, 30+ on 24th and six on 25th; 20+ were at Bishingari on 1st-2nd. Hybrids between Hamadryas and Olive Baboons were seen at Awash on 23rd.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

Common at the Awash camp on 23rd-25th and at Wondo Genet on 26th; 10+ were at Awassa on 30th

Guereza (Black-and White) Colobus *Colobus guereza*

One was at Awash on 25th; many were at Wondo Genet on 26th; 12+ in woods above Goba on 28th; 20+ were at Awassa on 30th and 6+ were at Bishingari on 1st-2nd

Giant (Big-headed) Mole-rat *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*

Five were on the Sanetti Plateau on 27th with 6+ seen there next day

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambensis*

Five plus were at the Bishingari camp on 1st.

Diurnal grass rats (possibly *Lophuromys melanonyx* or *Arvicanthis blicki*) were seen on the Sanetti Plateau on 27th-28th but as many species occur here specific identification is not possible. The same can be said for the rats seen at Wondo Genet on 26th and at Bishingari on 1st.

Following inspection of photographs it appears that all the gazelles at the Shala/Abiyata reserve on 2nd were Grant's and not Thompson's Gazelle and as such the latter have been taken from the list. (My thanks to Ant for identifying these from his photos). We also saw two dead Spotted Hyenas by the roadside and found a dead White-toothed Shrew in the woodlands above Goba.

Reptiles

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

One was near Awash on 22nd; three were near Awash camp on 23rd with five there on 24th

Nile Monitor *Varanus niloticus*

Up to six were seen at Awash on 23rd-25th; one was at Awassa on 30th and one at Bishingari on 1st

Gecko sp

One was at Awash on 24th

Terrapin sp

One was at Awash on 23rd

Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone pardalis*

One was beside road as we left Awash on 25th

Birds

(List follows the nomenclature from Birds of Africa South of the Sahara by Sinclair and Ryan 2003)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Ten plus were at Lake Awassa on 30th; five on Lake Langano on 1st and twenty plus at Debra Zeyt on 2nd.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Seven were on Lakes Koka and Ziway on 25th and eight were on Lake Langano on 1st.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Three were on Lake Koka on 25th; eight on Lake Awassa on 30th; four on Lake Langano on 1st and four at Debra Zeyt on 2nd.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

One was near Awash on 22nd; six were at Lake Koka on 25th; ten plus at Lake Awassa on 30th; many were on Lake Langano on 1st and four there on 2nd.

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Twenty plus were on the lakes between Awash and Wondo Genet on 25th and 50+ were on Lake Awassa on 30th.

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Singles were on the lake near Awash on 22nd and 25th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Up to three seen on the lakes on four dates

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Two were on bank opposite the Awash camp on 24th.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

Three were on Lake Koka on 25th and one on Lake Langano on 1st.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One was at Lake Koka on 25th and two were on Lake Langano on 1st.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Three were seen on 22nd; ten plus on Lakes Koka and Ziway on 25th; ten plus on Lake Langano on 1st and one on 2nd.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

One flew over Lake Awassa on 30th and three were at Lake Langano on 1st.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers seen on five dates near lakes apart from 50+ at Lake Awassa on 30th

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Small groups were noted around livestock on four dates with a max of 50 on 2nd.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Six plus were on the lakes between Nazareth and Ziway on 25th; six plus were on Lake Awassa on 30th and 10+ were on Lake Langano on 1st.

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striata*

One was at Lake Langano on 1st.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Seen on most lakes in small numbers apart from 20+ on Lake Awassa on 30th

Marabou *Leptoptilos crummenferus*

Seen on five dates often in large numbers circling over towns or recent kills

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Four were at Lakes Koka and Ziway on 25th and one was at Lake Langano on 1st

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Three were on Lake Langano on 1st

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

A pair was on the lake near Awash on 25th

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*

Up to thirty were noted on five dates near the major lakes.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Seen daily in small numbers in Rift Valley with 10+ on 30th the maximum count

Wattled Ibis *Bostrychia carunculata*

Seen daily in the mountain regions between 26th and 30th with a max of 100+ on 29th

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Eleven flew over Awassa on 30th; one was at L. Langano on 1st and three were at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Singles were seen near Awash on 22nd and over Lake Langano on 1st.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Six were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

Hundreds if not thousands were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd.

White-faced Tree Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Two flocks totalling thirty five flew over Ziway on 25th

Blue-winged Goose *Cyanochen cyanoptera*

Up to ten per day were noted in the Highlands between 26th and 29th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopchen aegyptiacus*

Small numbers were seen and heard on five dates

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Six were in the Bale Mts. on 27th with flour there on 28th

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Six were on Lake Koka on 25th and one on Lake Langano on 1st

Pygmy Goose *Nettion auritus*

Ten plus were on Lake Awassa on 30th

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Fifteen plus were seen on the way to Goba on 26th; one was on the Bale Mts on 27th and two on way from Goba on 29th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

One flew over Lake Langano on 1st.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Two were at Awash on 22nd and five were there on 23rd

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Singles flew over Lake Ziway on 25th and over Lake Awassa on 30th.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

Common in all habitats, seen daily

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

One was over Addis on 22nd; ten plus were at Lakes Koka and Ziway on 25th with a similar number at Lake Awassa on 30th; four were at Lake Langano on 1st and 5+ were noted on way to Addis on 2nd.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*

Singles were seen in the Bale Mts. on 27th and 28th and near Awassa on 30th

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Ten plus were at Awash on 23rd; four near road kill on 25th with singles on 26th and 27th in highlands.

Hooded Vulture *Neophen monachus*

Common, seen in all locations except around Lake Langano

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*

Seen in small numbers on eight dates

Ruppell's Griffon Vulture *Gyps ruppellii*

Two to five were noted on five dates.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Two were at roadside kill with other vultures near Awash on 25th

Black-breasted Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

One was at Awash on 23rd with two there next day

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotus*

Three were on a road kill on our way from Awash on 25th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Three were seen on way from Awash on 25th

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Up to five were noted on five dates, often from road in farmland.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygarrus*

One was at Lake Abiyata and two from the road on 2nd

African Harrier Hawk *Polyboroides typus*

Two were seen from stop on way to Goba on 26th and singles were then near Awassa on 30th and at Lake Langano on 1st.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

Up to ten seen on six dates in Rift Valley.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

One was seen in Kudu Valley at Awash on 23rd

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

One was at the lunch stop at Ziway on 25th

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*

One was in Bale Mts. on 28th and another flew over the bus on way back from Goba on 29th

Common 'Steppe' Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

One was seen on way to Ziway on 25th

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus*

One was seen on way to Awash on 22nd

Auger Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Seen in highlands on six dates with 20+ in Bale Mts. on 27th and 28th

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

One was over Awash on 24th

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

One was over the Bale Mts. on 28th

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Seen on eight dates in the highlands with a max on 6 on 28th

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila helica*

Singles were seen on way to Awash on 22nd and in Bale Mts. on 27th and 28th.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Three were in the Bale Mts. on 27th with two there next day

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

One flew over the lunch stop at Ziway on 2nd

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Singles were at Awash on 25th and in Bale Mts. on 28th

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Singles were seen on way from Wondo Genet on 26th and near Awassa on 30th

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

One was perched in a tree at Awash on 23rd

African Pygmy-falcon *Polibierax semitorquatus*

A female was at Awash on 23rd and a male there next day plus a male at near Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Seen almost daily in small numbers beside the road

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

One was at Awash on 23rd; two were in the Bale Mts. on 27th with one there next day and one on 28th

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

One was seen from road on way to Awassa on 29th

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One flew over Lake Ziway on 25th and one was perched at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena*

Two were at Lake Langano on 1st with one there on 2nd

Moorland (Grey-wing) Francolin *Francolinus psilolaemus*

Three were in the Bale Mts. on 28th

Yellow-necked Francolin *Francolinus leucoscepus*

Two were at Awash on 23rd and two were at Lake Langano on 1st

Chestnut-naped Francolin *Francolinus cataneicollis*

In the highlands six were seen on 27th, three on 28th and one on 29th

Harlequin Quail *Cortunix delegorguei*

Two were seen on track at dusk in awash on 23rd

Helmeted Guinea-fowl *Numida melagris*

Ten plus were seen on way to Awash on 22nd and thirty plus were at Awash on 23rd

Black (Northern) Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*

Two were seen at Lake Koka on 25th

Wattled Crane *Grus carunculatus*

Two were on Bale Mts. on 27th

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Two were seen on way to Awash on 22nd and eleven seen from road on return to Addis on 2nd

Rouget's Rail *Rallus rougetii*

Up to six were noted in Bale Mts. on three dates

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Two were at Lake Awassa on 29th

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Four were on Lake Awassa on 29th and fifty plus were at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Buff-crested Bustard *Eupodotis gindiana*

Five were at Awash on 23rd

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Four were at Lake Koka on 25th and twenty plus were at Lake Awassa on 29th

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Three were near Awash on 22nd; four at Lake Awassa on 29th and two at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Six were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Senegal Thick-knee *Burhinus senegalensis*

Two were at Awash on 24th with three there on 25th and three at Lake Langanano on 1st

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

One was at Lake Langanano on 1st

Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus spinosus*

Two were at Awash on 23rd; thirty plus at various sites on 25th; five at Lake Langanano on 1st and many at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Black-headed Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus tectus*

Seven were in Kudu Valley at Awash on 23rd

Black-winged Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus melanopterus*

Fifty one were in a roadside flock on 26th

Crowned Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus coronatus*

Two were seen on way to Awassa on 29th; three were at Lake Langanano on 1st and two were seen on way to Addis on 2nd

Spot-breasted Plover (Lapwing) *Vanellus melanocephalus*

Twenty plus were noted in the Bale Mts. on 27th and 28th

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One was at Lake Langanano on 1st and one at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Five were at Lake Langanano on 1st

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Eight were at Lake Langanano on 1st and ten plus on Lake Abiyata on 1st

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Two were at Lake Langanano on 1st

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

One was at Lake Ziway on 25th

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One was at Lake Awassa on 30th

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Two were at Lake Awassa on 30th and three at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Singles were at Lake Ziway on 25th with two beside the road on 29th and two at Lake Awassa on 30th

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seen on small ponds on six dates with four at the pool in Kudu Valley on 23rd the maximum count

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Three were seen on way to awash on 22nd; one at Lake Ziway on 25th; 3+ at Awassa on 30th and 6+ at Lake Langano on 1st

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles were noted on 22nd and 23rd, five plus on 25th and two on 1st

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Ten plus were on Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Eight were at Lake Langano on 1st

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Five were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One was seen on way to Awash on 22nd; ten plus on 25th and 100+ were at Lake Abiyata on 1st

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini*

One was at Lake Langano on 1st

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic Gull) *Larus fuscus fuscus*

Three plus were at Lake Awassa on 30th

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

Five were at Lake Ziway on 25th; many were on L. Awassa on 30th and 20+ were on L. Langano on 1st

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Thirty plus were at Lake Ziway on 25th and many were on Lake Awassa on 30th

Gull-billed Tern *Geobelidion nilotica*

Three were at Lake Ziway on 25th; six plus at L. Awassa on 30th and one on Lake Abiyata on 2nd.

Whiskered Tern *Chilodoniastria hybrida*

Twenty plus were on Lake Ziway on 25th and many were on Lake Awassa on 30th

White-winged Black Tern *Chilodoniastria leucopterus*

One hundred plus were on Lake Awassa on 30th and on Lake Langano on 1st

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

A pair was seen from track away from Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Common around all settlements, seen daily

White-collared Pigeon *Columba albitorques*

Common in the highlands between 26th and 29th

Lemon Dove *Aplopelia larvata*

A pair were at Lake Langano on 1st

Dusky (Pink-breasted) Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

Common in the highlands between 26th and 29th plus two were at Lake Langano on 1st

African Collared (Rose-Grey) Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

One was at the Hartebeest Sanctuary on 30th

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Small numbers were seen and heard in the Rift Valley on five dates

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Seen and heard regularly in Rift Valley on seven dates

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Pairs were seen on 22nd and 24th with several noted near Awassa on 30th

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

Common, often seen in pairs or small groups on six dates in the Rift Valley

Bruce's Green Pigeon *Treron waalia*

Two were at Bishingari camp on 1st

Black-winged Lovebird *Agapornis taranta*

Two were seen at the lunch stop at Ziway and two more heard at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot *Poicephalus meyerii*

Three were in Kudu Valley near Awash on 23rd

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

Ten plus were at the pool in Kudu Valley on 23rd

Yellow-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus flavirons*

Fifty plus were at Bishingari Camp on 1st with ten plus there on 2nd

White-cheeked Turaco *Tauraco leucotis*

Five were at Wondo Genet on 26th and one in woods above Goba on 28th

White-bellied Go-away Bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster*

Five plus were at Awash on 23rd with singles there on 24th and 25th with one at Lake Langano on 1st

Eastern Grey Plantain Eater *Crinifer zonurus*

One was at Awash on 24th

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

One was at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

One was at Awash on 24th

Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus*

Four were at Awassa on 30th

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

One was at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

One was at the Awash camp on 23rd and two were there on 25th

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

One was heard at Awash camp on 22nd and seen there on evening of 23rd

Greyish Eagle Owl *Asio cinerascens*

Two were seen on night drive at Awash on 23rd with one there on 24th

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

One was heard at Bishingari camp on 1st

Sombre Nightjar *Caprimulgus fraenatus*

One was seen on drive to Awash on 22nd

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus*

One was sat on the track on night drive at Awash on 23rd

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Six plus were in Kudu Valley on 23rd and three were over Awash on 24th

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Six plus were over road on way from Wondo Genet on 26th

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

One was seen by bridge at L Koka on 25th

Speckled Mousebird *Colinus striatus*

Thirty plus were seen on the way to Awash on 22nd; two were seen on 25th; four on 26th with many at Bishingari on 30th-2nd

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Common around Awash 22nd-25th

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

One was in the camp and one at the pond in Kudu Valley on 23rd; one was at Awash falls on 24th; one was at Wondo Genet on 26th and two were at L Awassa on 30th

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Five plus were seen at Koka and Ziway on 25th; 6 were at L Awassa on 30th and one was at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ceyx pictus*

One was seen and photographed at Awash camp on 24th

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Four were at L Koka and Ziway on 25th ; 3 were at L Awassa on 30th and three on L Langano on 1st

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Eight plus were at Awash on 23rd with one there next day; two were seen on way to Ziway on 25th; four were at Lake Langano on 1st and two at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegates*

Five were seen near Wondo Genet on 26th; 2 were at Awassa on 30th and 2 near Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

Seen in Rift Valley on six dates, often common on roadside wires

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius*

One was seen in Kudu Valley on 23rd

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinica*

Up to five per day were noted in the Rift Valley on six dates

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Seen in Rift Valley on seven dates with a maximum of 20+ on 24th

Black-billed Wood-hoopoe *Phoeniculus somaliensis*

Two were at Awash on 23rd and two were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Black Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus aterrimus*

One was at Bishingari on 2nd

Northern (Abyssinian) Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

Three were by the roadside on our way to Awash on 2nd

Hemprich's Hornbill *Tockus hemprichii*

Two were at Bishingari on 1st and two were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Up to six were in the Awash area between 23rd and 25th

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Ten plus were at Awash on 23rd; two on 24th and three at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Eastern (Northern) Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris*

Two were at Awash on 23rd with one there on 25th

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

One was at Awash on 23rd

Silvery-checked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

Several were at Wondo Genet on 26th and at Awassa on 30th and at Bishingari on 1st and 2nd

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pgoniulus chrysoconus*

One was heard at Bishingari on 1st

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*

One was heard at Awash on 23rd

Banded Barbet *Lybius undatus*

Two were at Awassa on 30th and six were at Bishingari on 1st

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito*

Two were at Awash on 23rd with four there on 24th and three were at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Double-toothed Barbet *Lybius bidentatus*

Two were at Wondo Genet on 26th and eight were at Bishingari on 1st

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

One was heard at Awash on 24th and two seen at Bishingari on 1st

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Two were at Awash on 23rd

Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

Four were at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Flappet Lark *Miafra rufocinnamomea*

Six plus were at Awash on 23rd and two at the Hartebeest Sanctuary on 30th

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark *Eremopterix leucotis*

Fifty plus were at Awash on 23rd and 24th

Thekla Lark *Galerida malabarica*

Many were noted at the roadside in the highlands between 26th-29th

Black Saw-Wing *Psalidoprocne pristopterea*

Two were seen on way to Goba on 26th

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Up to fifty were at Awash between 23rd and 25th with less at Awassa and Langano on 30th-1st

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

One was at Awash on 25th with many in the Awassa and Langano areas on 30th-2nd

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common in Rift Valley in all habitats but absent in the highlands

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

Ten plus were at Awassa on 30th and again at L. Langano on 1st

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Four were at Lake Koka on 25th

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Thirty plus were at Awash on 23rd and 24th

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophyrus*

Two were at Awash on 23rd and one was there on 24th; one was at Awassa on 30th

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One was at Wondo Genet on 26th and up to ten per day were in the highlands on 27th-30th and one was at Bishingari on 1st

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One was at Bishingari on 1st and one heard at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Abyssinian Longclaw *Macronyx flavicollis*

Two were seen on way to Goba on 26th and one was on the Sanetti Plain on 27th

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Two were seen on way to Awassa on 29th

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

One was at the Awash Camp on 23rd-25th

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Seen daily in all locations except on Sanetti Plain, with birds belonging to the Black-headed, Ashy-headed and Sykes races noted as well as many indeterminate birds

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

One was at Wondo Genet on 26th

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

Three were at Wondo Genet on 26th

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Campephaga phoenicea*

Females were seen at Wondo Genet on 26th and at Bishingari camp on 1st

Dark-capped (Black-eyed) Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

A few were seen around hotel at Goba on 27th

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*

Seen in small numbers on seven dates in the Rift Valley

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Seen in small numbers in the Rift Valley on five dates, most common in Bishingari Camp on 1st

Mountain Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus*

Up to ten per day were seen in Highlands on 27th-30th

Groundscraper Thrush *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

Ten plus seen on way to and from the highlands on 26th and 29th

Abyssinian Ground Thrush *Zoothera piaggiae*

One was in the woods near Goba on 28th

Ruppell's Robin-chat *Cosypha semirufa*

Two were at Dodola on 26th and 29th and three in the woods above Goba on 27th

White-browed Robin-chat *Cosypha benglini*

Two were at Awassa on 30th

Ethiopian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus albofasciatus*

A male was seen on way to Goba on 26th and three on way back to Awassa on 29th

Moorland Chat *Pinarochroa sordida*

Many were on the highlands on 27th-29th

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Two were seen on way to Awash on 22nd; one on way to Goba on 26th; ten plus at Awassa on 30th and one at Bishingari on 1st

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe plascbanka*

Easily seen by roadside in Rift Valley on eight dates; the commonest wheatear

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Up to six per day were noted on five dates in the Rift Valley

Red-breasted (Botta's) Wheatear *Oenanthe bottae*

Thirty plus were seen on way to Goba on 26th and again on way back on 29th

Pale Flycatcher *Bradornis pallidus*

One was at Awash on 23rd

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis chocatina*

Two were in woods near Goba on 27th and 4+ were there on 28th

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Two were at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

One was seen on way to Awash on 22nd and in Highlands on 28th

Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Four were at Bishingari Camp on 1st and two were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

African Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone viridis*

Two were at Awash on 23rd and two to four were at Bishingari on 1st-2nd

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

One was in the woods above Goba on 28th

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus*

Two were at Lake Ziway on 25th

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncos*

One was at Awash on 23rd

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicandata*

Birds were heard at Awash on 23rd-25th and two were at Bishingari Camp on 1st-2nd

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Two were at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

One was in the highlands on 27th

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Two were at Lake Awassa on 30th and one at Lake Langano on 1st

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

One was at Lake Awassa on 30th and one was singing at Lake Langano on 1st

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*

One was at Awash on 23rd

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

Two were in the woods above Goba on 28th with one at Dinsho on 29th

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Up to two were noted on four dates in rift valley and ten plus were in the woods above Goba on 27th

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Two were at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Singles were at in Bale Mts. on 27th and at Debre Zeyt on 2nd with 6+ at Bishingari on 1st

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One was at Bishingari camp on 1st

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One was at Lake Ziway on 25th

Bale Parisoma *Parisoma griseiventris*

One was in Bale Mts. on 27th

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosus*

Two were at Lake Awassa on 30th

White-rumped Babbler *Turdoides leucopygius*

Ten plus were at Wondo Genet on 26th; 3 at Lake Awassa on 30th and 6+ at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Abyssinian Catbird *Parophasma galinieri*

Up to four were seen and heard in the woods above Goba on 27th and 28th

White-winged Black Tit *Parus leucomelas*

Singles were at Bishingari on 1st and at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

White-backed Black Tit *Parus leuconotus*

One was heard at Dinsho on 29th

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis*

Three were at Awash on 23rd

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

A female was at Bishingari on 1st

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallicus*

One was at Awash on 23rd

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

A female was at Awash on 24th and a male was at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze*

Singles were at Nazareth on 22nd, Awash on 24th, Bale Mts. on 27th and Dinsho on 29th

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

Pairs were at Ziway on 25th and at Awassa on 30th

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus*

A male was at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

A male and two females were at Ziway on 25th and four were at Bishingari on 1st

Montane White-eye *Zosterops poliogastra*

Six plus were in the woods on Bale Mts. on 27th; with two there on 28th and one at Dinsho on 29th

Eastern (Black-headed) Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

One was at Wondo Genet on 26th and two were at Bishingari Camp on 1st

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Six plus were at Awash on 23rd and five plus were there on 24th

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Six were at Awassa on 30th with 8+ were at Bishingari on 1st and 4+ were noted near Abiyata on 2nd

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus*

Three plus were at Awash on 23rd with two there next day

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

One was seen on way to Awash on 22nd; 3 on way to Goba on 26th; and 10+ on way to Awassa on 29th

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Six plus were at Awash on 23rd with two more noted next day

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Four were at Awash on 23rd

Northern Puff-back *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Three were at Bishingari at 1st

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

Two were at Bishingari on 2nd

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopiensis*

Seen and heard on seven dates with a maximum of five at awash on 23rd

Rosy-patched Bush-shrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*

One was at awash on 24th

White Helmet-shrike *Prionops plumatus*

Four were at awash on 23rd and two were there on 24th; three were at Bishingari on 2nd

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Up to ten per day were seen I Rift Valley on six dates

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Four were on the Sanetti Plateau on 27th and two were seen near Dinsho on 29th

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

In small numbers, often around towns, on seven dates

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis*

Several were seen on way to Goba on 26th

Somali Crow (Dwarf Raven) *Corvus edithae*

Two were seen near Addis on 22nd ; and seen daily in small numbers between 29th and 2nd

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

Up to six per day were seen on seven dates in all habitats

Thick-billed Raven *Corvus crassirostris*

Up to twenty per day on six dates, absent from Awash area

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Three were seen on 22nd near Nazareth and six were at the Hartebeest reserve on 30th

Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Seen on eight dates in all habitats, especially in villages

Ruppell's Glossy Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroterus*

Twenty plus were in the Awash area on 23rd and 24th; ten plus were seen on 30th-2nd

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

Ten plus were at Awash on 24th with two there on 25th; 50+ were at the Hartebeest reserve on 30th and 50+ were at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Two were at Awassa fish market on 30th

Slender-billed (Chestnut-winged) Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

Fifty plus were seen on way to Goba on 26th and 15+ were at Bishingari on 1st

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Twenty plus were seen on 25th; one on way to Goba on 26th and 20+ at Awassa on 30th

Swainson's Sparrow *Passer swainsonii*

Seen most days around habitation but never numerous

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Singles were at Awash on 23rd and 25th and 6+ were at the Hartebeest reserve on 30th

White-headed Buffalo-Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

Ten plus were at Awash on 23rd and 20+ were there on 25th

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Up to six were at Awash on 23rd-25th; 2 were at Awassa on 30th; 6 at Bishingari on 1st and 20+ at Lake Abiyata on 2nd

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Singles were at Addis Ababa on 22nd and at Goba on 27th

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

A pair was at Awassa on 30th

Ruppell's Weaver *Ploceus glabula*

Two were at Bishingari on 1st

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

One was at Awash on 24th

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Many were at Awash on 23rd and 25th

Northern Red (Orange) Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus*

A pair was at Awash on 30th

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Twenty plus were near Dinsho on 29th

Grosbeak Weaver *Ambylospiza bifrons*

One was at Awassa on 30th

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

Six plus were at Awash on 23rd- 24th ; four were at Bishingari on 1st and two at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Six plus were at Awash on 23rd; twenty plus at Awassa on 30th and six at Bishingari on 1st

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccyzygia quartinia*

Two were in the woods above Goba on 27th

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Two were at Awash on 23rd

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda charmosyna*

Two were at Awash on 23rd

African (Warbling) Silverbill *Euodice cantans*

Two were at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*

Four were at Nazareth on 22nd; six on 24th at Awash and four at Awassa on 30th

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

Fifty plus were at Awash on 23rd and two were there on 24th and a male was at Bishingari on 1st

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

One was at Awassa fish market on 30th

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri*

One was at Awash on 25th

Eastern Paradise-Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*

Two were seen near Awash on 22nd then up to three per day at Awash on 23rd-25th

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*

Six were in the highlands on 27th; ten plus were at Dinsho on 29th and two at Debre Zeyt on 2nd

Ethiopian (Black-headed) Siskin *Serinus nigriceps*

Many were in the highlands on 27th-28th

African Citril *Serinus citrinelloides*

One was at Wondo Genet on 26th and twenty plus were at Awassa on 30th

Brown-rumped Seedeater *Serinus tristriatus*

One was in the highlands on 26th and two were on plateau on 27th

Streaky Seedeater *Serinus striolatus*

Many were in the highlands on 27th-28th

Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting *Emberiza tabapsi*

Two were near Awash on 25th