# The Best of Ethiopia

# Naturetrek Tour Report

# 8 - 26 February 2019



Gelada Baboon



Mountain Nyala



Ethiopian Wolf



Report & images by Marcus Kohler



Tour participants: Marcus Kohler (leader) and Melkamu Alemu (Local guide) with 10 Naturetrek clients

#### Summary

Journeying through the ancient lands of Ethiopia we witnessed the myriad of habitats and the special species that inhabit these regions, from Ethiopian Wolves and Bale Monkeys, Aardwolf, Blue-winged Geese and Rouget's Rails to soaring Verreaux's Eagles and squabbling Geladas

#### Day 1

#### **Friday 8th February**

We left Heathrow on time for our evening flight on Ethiopian Airlines, arriving at 8am in the morning at Addis Ababa.

## Day 2 Saturday 9th February

Addis airport was a hive of confusion, but we were soon through and setting off in the Addis rush-hour for a breakfast in the Ghion Hotel accompanied by our fantastic Ethiopian guide, Melkamu. Post breakfast, the grounds brought our first endemic birds, Brown-rumped Seedeater, the stunning Banded Barbet and Wattled Ibis, while Tawny-flanked Prinia, African Thrush, Mountain Buzzard and a brief Black Sparrowhawk gave a flavour of the birding we would come to expect.

Next it was back to the airport for our short internal flight to Bahir Dar, and the subsequent short transit to the Lake Tana hotel for lunch. Overhead, Scarlet-chested sunbirds showed well, while on the lake, a Caspian Tern was a real rarity. An afternoon walk brought many new birds such as Malachite Kingfisher, posing Double-toothed Barbets on a dead branch, and Black-billed Barbets.

On the marsh, Black Crake, African Jacana, Squacco Herons and Sacred Ibis showed well, while in the foreground Wood and Common Sandpipers patrolled the edge. In the gardens, Black-winged Lovebirds, Ruppell's Robin Chat and Violet-backed Starling were seen. It was a tired but happy group that took the opportunity to recharge with an early dinner and rest.

#### Day 3

## **Sunday 10th February**

An early morning walk around the hotel brought better views of Ruppell's Robin-Chat, a brief African Grey Woodpecker and Bruce's Green Pigeon, while we could hear Thrush Nightingales from the neighbouring marsh. We headed off this morning to the famous Blue Nile falls, stopping at a rubbish dump, which was full of raptors: Tawny and Steppe Eagles, distant Egyptian as well as White-backed, and many Hooded vultures; a Cinnamonbreasted Bunting and Carmine Bee-eaters offering brilliant colour in a challenging landscape

We continued to the Blue Nile falls walk stopping en route for our first Giant Kingfishers posing on a riverbank, numerous Striped Kingfishers. Crossing a 17th century bridge gave us an opportunity to see many birds: a Lesser-spotted Eagle flew over, White-billed Starlings and chats flitted along the stream while our first Rock Hyraxes froze on the rocks. A Blue-breasted Bee-eater posed by the track, and as we walked along, we encountered our first Grivet Monkeys. Little Bee-eater was also present along the walk and Shikra and Augur

Buzzard were seen at close quarters. It was hot, but the falls provided a lovely backdrop and we watched our first Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus. Also here was a Walberg's Eagle and immature African Harrier-hawk circled above us.

Lunch was back at the Tana Hotel before we took a boat to one of the islands on the lake. We stopped for a fisherman feeding the group of Great White Pelicans as White-winged, Gull-billed and a vagrant Caspian Tern flew around us. The Pallas's Gulls kept their distance however.

Landing on the Island, a Giant Kingfisher was showing well and we saw our first Silvery-cheeked Hornbills in the forest. A Citrus Swallowtail flitted among the vegetation. The church itself was fascinating with murals of biblical moments in occasional graphic detail.

We had a brief walk around the island where we could hear and eventually caught up with the endemic Yellowfronted Parrot, with a party of four above us as well as scoped views of a stunning White-cheeked Turaco

We returned by boat across Lake Tana to our hotel with Silvery-cheeked Hornbills visible from the bay. In the evening Marcus took a night walk which produced a White-Tailed Mongoose, a Tree Rat species and a tree frog.

#### Day 4

## Monday 11th February

After a brief pre-breakfast walk and views of Montane Nightjar and our first Grey-backed Camaroptera, we headed off on a day to explore the wonders of the city of Gondar. En route we were soon observing discrete flocks of Common Cranes on the Rogers plain. A stop to observe these birds at close quarters, enabled us to see the endemic Erlanger Lark, our first stunning Cut-throat Finches, a charming bird; as well as Northern, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears. A very pale male Montagu's Harrier flew past us, one of several we were to observe today. At another stop, a flock of African Quailfinch were feeding and Ethiopian Cisticola, Siberian Stonechat and Yellow-browed Canary were seen. A Bluethroat appeared briefly. We had to leave the plains and the many flocks of cranes behind and proceeded to climb into the mountains. Soon the huge granite monolith of Devil's Finger loomed and we stopped by the rock to observe the vultures, dominated by White-backed but with Griffon, Hooded Vultures and Lanner Falcon also seen.

We lunched at a traditional Ethiopian restaurant in Gondar called the Four Sisters, where we could also watch Variable and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, Village and Baglafecht Weavers as well as Red-billed Firefinches and White-cheeked Turacos at close quarters. The restaurant provides local food of spicy lentil, bean and meat in the form of *wat* served on *injera* - a large sourdough flatbread made of fermented *teff* flour.

Our afternoon was visiting the stunning Royal enclosure, with its 17th century castles and hugely impressive series of ruins totally out of context with perceptions of east Africa. We proceeded to the Church of Debre Birhan Selassie, which is renowned for being one of the most beautiful churches in Ethiopia. Built at the end of the seventeenth century, it was rebuilt a century later. Built into the high surrounding wall are 12 towers representing the 12 apostles. These high towers and walls probably helped the church survive as all others in the vicinity were destroyed by attacks from Sudanese. Our first Thick-billed Ravens, an extraordinary endemic and undoubtedly the most impressive raven in the world, were nesting in a large Juniper next to the church. After visiting, we noticed a Lanner Falcon coming in quickly followed by a second. An amazing display of combat

followed as the pair of Lanners swooped down and attacked the Thick-billed Ravens on the nest. One Lanner even rested above our heads in a tree before continuing the bombardment. Had the Thick-billed Ravens taken the Lanner's nest site or were the Lanners trying to oust them to take over themselves? It was a dramatic display of iconic species at close range though. We drove onto Fasildas pool, our journey quite surreal as every hill and viewpoint was taken as the Gondar community supported their team in a big semi-final football match. Walking through impressive Fasildas pool, a place where many reaffirmed their baptism every year, Abyssinian Orioles were showing well in the trees, African Grey woodpecker was in the grounds and Brown-rumped Seedeaters fed with Red-cheeked Cordon Bleus. Speckled Pigeons were nesting in the ruins and as we left an African Goshawk flew over the baths and a group of Green Wood Hoopoes climbed the walls.

Amid the sounds of football celebrations and beeping horns, we travelled to the Gondar Hotel, where we had a glorious view of the city as Hooded Vultures, Steppe and Tawny Eagles and vultures kettled on the backdrop of the hotel. Many roosting with Thick-billed Ravens in the eucalyptus on the edge of the hotel.

#### Day 5

**Tuesday 12th February** 

An early morning walk with good views of roosting raptors, notably Steppe and Tawny Eagles. We took things a little easier this morning enabling Mel to find a roosting African Wood Owl. Our journey now was the steady climb to Simien Mountain Lodge. Stops along the way brought key new birds such as Abyssinian Wheatear and White-winged Cliff Chat. On the wires our first Abyssinian Rollers were showing well. Moorland Chats became common roadside birds, with the many Pied and Isabelline Wheatears. Lesser kestrels were more in evidence now, though still not in the more familiar large flocks that occur in Europe

We arrived at our lovely lodge with an afternoon free to sit amongst the Geladas. These large impressive grazing monkeys are the last of their kind, with impressive pink chest markings and delightful manes, we could enjoy sitting next to them while they totally ignored us. They have a complex social structure, as would any group with such large numbers and constant mini battles between males were observed as they moved between us.

#### Day 6

## Wednesday 13th February

This morning we headed off to some amazing viewpoints to observe the upland wildlife along dirt tracks within the Simien Mountains. We had great observations of our first African (golden) Jackal as we began, the first of three encounters with this species today. Fan-tailed and Thick-billed Ravens mobbing a distant grassland attracted attention and there was the briefest of views of a Serval running for cover into the dwarf forest. We observed Lammergeier from the cliff tops but our aim today was to travel sufficiently far into the park to find Walia Ibex. Our first two viewpoints proved negative, but then on a small ridge close to the bus we found a magnificent Male ibex. This rare endemic, the most southern representative of this European group, was an impressive animal. Cameras clicked as the ibex moved slowly along the ridge. A few kilometres back and we encountered a second male which gave prolonged views. Lunch was on a ridge with Lammergeier making appearances as White-billed Starlings flew amongst the rocks.

In the afternoon, we continued to explore the mountains, White-shouldered Black Tits were in the gnarled lichen covered trees so characteristic of the mountain habitat. Raptors were frequent, notably but not exclusively Eastern Long-legged Buzzards, Augur Buzzards and Steppe Eagles were found.

Arriving at the edge of a herders' village we found 12 Spot-breasted Lapwing, another endemic of Ethiopia. Just like many of the other Ethiopian endemics, its movements and habits are poorly understood. Among them ran Blick's Grass Rats. On our return we found three Klipspringers. This endemic subspecies, of one of the most endearing African gazelles in its own genus, looked down on us form a prominent rock above the bus enabling wonderful photo opportunities.

#### Day 7

#### **Thursday 14th February**

This morning we returned to the nearest viewpoint, where we were hoping to see the Geladas come off the vertical ridges as the morning sun broke through. A huge roar below betrayed a Leopard on the ridge, three Klipspringers scattered but we couldn't see this rare resident. We proceed onto a walk to a spectacular viewpoint with stunning scenery. This short walk was full of birds such as Ethiopian Boubous, White-shouldered Black Tits, and a skulking Abysinnian Catbird moved through the woodland. We walked the ridge to a spectacular viewpoint where we were surrounded by the dramatic volcanically formed rock formations and extreme escarpment where again we could scope White-backed and Ruppell's Vultures, and admire the waterfall whilst Crag Martins and Alpine Swifts flew by.

Our return to the bus was interrupted by a bachelor group of Geladas providing photo opportunities against a backdrop of the viewpoint and within the forest.

At lunch we sat on a ridge with a Verreaux's Eagle beneath us, only flying and revealing its partner when mobbed by a Peregrine.

After lunch we joined a group of c500 Geladas, and sat among them, watching their squabbles and being totally ignored whilst they fed, posed and grazed around us. Sitting with Geladas must be comfortably within the top ten wildlife moments one can experience, the contrast of the impressive features of these baboon-like monkeys with huge canines and impressive manes, with their vegan grazing activities is a remarkable experience.

#### Day 8

## Friday 15th February

It was time to bid farewell to the Simien Mountains and the spectacular views. We made several stops en route as we repeated our journey to Gondar and stopped en route for a coffee at Befiker Kossye Eco Lodge. A lovely spot, once visited by Queen Elizabeth II, we looked down upon a Lammergeier whilst Cinnamon Bracken Warbler flitted in the bushes. Another day, another impressive viewpoint.

We returned for a traditional lunch and at the Four Sisters restaurant in Gondar; where we enjoyed a range of traditional food, such as Shekla Tibs, Tapabino, Shiro and Bayayinetu, eaten with Ejern. Wonderful food. The afternoon was free to enjoy the birds around Goha hotel where we could enjoy the raptors kettling and roosting around us from our prominent location. Somali Starlings flew across and White-winged Black Chats Plainbacked Pipits, provided more immediate views whilst the African Wood Owl was still present roosting near the hotel.

#### Day 9

# Saturday 16th February

Today we bade farewell to this region and headed for Gondar airport and our brief flight back to Addis Ababa. Our journey now took us to a vastly different environment as we drove to the lowlands of Awash. We passed through many villages and means of transportation contrasted between the land cruisers and buses of tourists tuk-tuks and the horse and carts, exploited donkeys and walking of the local community. Groups of camels were seen belonging to partially nomadic communities and a different suite of birds was much in evidence.

Wattled and Superb Starlings began to be seen, Olive Baboons were on the roadside, we stopped for a stunning Pygmy Falcon as we passed vast areas of acacia grassland when gradually changed to lava fields. A number of Eastern Chanting Goshawks were seen. Our final journey to Awash Lodge was punctuated by stops for many new birds, White-browed Sparrow Weavers were now suddenly common and we encountered our first White-headed Buffalo Weavers. As we approached the lodge, we saw for the first time some of its key mammals. Salt's Dik-dik with their contrasting pelage stood nervously in the shade, our first Beisa Oryx were next to the road and several Lesser Kudu were also seen.

We were warmly welcomed on arrival at Awassa Lodge with a lovely evening meal by the falls and spotlighting which showed at least four crocodiles relaxing at the base of the falls. This impressive simple and warmly-welcoming lodge was to be our home for the next three nights.

#### **Day 10**

## Sunday 17th February

Awash Falls Lodge is a special place in a magical setting, with comfortable but basic lodge accommodation that ensures you feel part of the African bush. The staff here, couldn't be more helpful,

This morning we headed off pre-breakfast to explore the park. Shining and Hunter's Sunbirds were seen, whilst on the Llala Sala plains we saw Beisa Oryx and our first Soemmerring's Gazelle, restricted to the Horn of Africa. A Spotted Hyena was seen briefly whilst we also saw a range of hornbill species: Eastern Yellow-billed, Grey and Northern Red-billed. A Woodland Kingfisher showed well, and Purple Grenadier, Cardinal Woodpecker, Greyheaded Batis, Silverbill and Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit were amongst the smaller birds. White-browed Scrub Robin and Grey-headed Bush Shrike were a skulking presence. A sole Woodchat Shrike was showing well, whilst we saw Tawny Eagle at the nest and Steppe and Black-chested Snake Eagles. After a lovely lunch by the river, at our lodge, where Marcus's got a fleeting view of a possible Red-sea Swallow.

In the afternoon we visited the Lava Lake. A bizarre landscape of lava rocks set against a lake which had a range of waders and White-winged and Gull-billed Terns circling. Wood Sandpiper and Hamerkop were in the pools with a "Feldegg" Black-headed Yellow Wagtail. The only chat we could find was a couple of Blackstarts, whilst the target for the afternoon, the Sombre Rock Chat, remained very elusive. Lesser Kestrel and Turkestan Shrike were on the lava rocks. We continued the short distance for our dusk rendezvous at the hyena cave. A short if somewhat challenging walk across some rock fissures, with Rock Hyrax looking on and we were set on the hill above watching two large depressions in this bizarre landscape. Almost immediately a Spotted Hyena slowly and deliberately emerged from the cave. It looked around and took a position outside. It took some time before others arose but suddenly there were at least seven above ground, whilst bats and a lone Blackstart was also seen. It was very special to be so close to such an iconic and much misunderstood species.

#### **Day 11**

## Monday 18th February

Marcus has gone walkabout the night before and found a huge Rock Python, which was still showing pre-dawn, so the group had a mad pre-breakfast dash to enable everyone who wanted to, to see this. Marcus efforts to keep it visible nearly ended in tears and they met face to face on the rocks, a close shave for his Roman nose and the pythons taste buds. We thus set off a little later, but our journey to the Awash road brought great views of Dark Chanting Goshawk. We stopped almost immediately for a Kori Bustard striding along the Acacia savannah and while passing through the town, met our first Hamadryas Baboons posing on the roadside. Animal mortality is sadly high on the Ethiopian roads but the baboons seemed totally savvy and able to negotiate the many hazards for an easy meal. Strong rectangular faces and magnificent manes characterize this species. We had been given permission to travel to the seldom-visited Alledeghi Wildlife Reserve, home to some of the rarest of Ethiopia's mammals.

At the Headquarters of the reserve, we picked up our scout noting Silverbills, Cut-throat Finches, and finally, Ethiopian Swallows in the grounds. Our drive was filled with hope. Chestnut-backed Sparrowlarks flocked around the lava stones and Somali Ostriches could be seen in loose pairs, one with a Carmine Bee-eater as a passenger. Now instead of single Soemmerring's Gazelle, a group of 58 nervously watched us on the grassland. Aledeghi has a real sense of wilderness, animals totally unhabituated and as we made our way across the plain, we had Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse around the bus showing well. As we edged the plain, two Gerenuk watched us shyly from the Acacia scrub. Scoping proved difficult but using the bus we could watch the classic feeding mechanism of this rare antelope of the Horn of Africa as it stood on its hind legs and fed on the acacia leaves.

We were to see a total of six Gerenuks today with great views of this shy animal. We had been warned that Grevy's Zebra was out of range of safe access but we were lucky enough to see two distant ones - the heat haze was bad but the impressive manes could be seen. Quite a morning! A fruitless walk for Arabian Bustard perhaps wasn't the finest hour of the tour, but Blue-naped Mousebirds and Egyptian Vulture, Gerenuk and Abyssinian Rollers were still impressive in spite of the heat.

Lunch in Awasha and a late afternoon walk by the Awash River was very pleasant with Red-billed Hornbill, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Lesser-striped and Wire-tailed Swallows, Malachite Kingfisher and great views of our first Gueraza Colobus Monkeys, which showed well above us. In the evening Marcus took a couple of very late walks and saw Black-backed Jackals, Salt's Dik-dik, Beisa Oryx, and Lesser Kudu and a White-tailed Mongoose in the grounds of our wonderful ecolodge.

#### **Day 12**

## **Tuesday 19th February**

A big day of travel today but interspersed with some of the best sightings of the trip. We set off at 7am having said our goodbyes to the marvellous staff at Awash Lodge. A Yellow-billed Stork and an African Fish Eagle were the last sightings from the lodge. Yesterday's Kudu's carcass had been dragged away and a drive across the plain was still producing new good birds. A flock of Rufous Chatters entertained, Grey Wren-warbler, like Large Dartford Warblers. Beisa Oryx, Warthogs and the Salt's Dik-diks all put in a final appearance. Then a magical moment, lying next to his feeding termite mound in broad daylight not 30 metres from the bus Aardwolf! Cameras flicked as this rarely seen solitary hyena of the night obliged. It went down a hole and we walked over and talked about the highly specialized nature of this remarkable carnivore, dependent upon termites and the

most truly solitary of the hyenas. As we were talking, it shot out from the burrow in its termite mound and nearly knocking Marcus over! What a sighting! We left Awash, stopping for a group of Orange-bellied Parrots and Helmeted Guineafowl. Mel is nothing if not determined and a return to the lava lake was necessary, Black-headed Wagtails, Blackstarts and our first Striolated Bunting obliged whilst a Wood Sandpiper posed respectfully. The lava fields are spectacular though harsh but no sign of Sombre Chat we were hoping for. Returning to the bus, a bird flew over Mel's head and into a lone tree. The Sombre Chat was by the bus the whole time! (it's been said before!). Through the telescope, we could see the diagnostic white-edged undertail coverts.

Our journey began in earnest. All life is along the Ethiopian roads, progress was slow, donkeys obstinate, lorries omnipresent, yet when we reached the new expressway, it was virtually empty. A quick coffee in Mojo, then on to Ziway (Batu) a town defined by its Marabou Storks which watched us en-masse from the Acacias. Our journey passed through fertile fields replacing the lava, and rose growing polytunnels with crops such as onions dominating. We were passing along the Rift Valley lakes and lunch was at the Haile Selassie resort under a magnificent fig tree with a sitting African Fish Eagle. We were joined by Baglefect, Village, Spectacled and Ruppel's Weavers, a stunning male White-tailed Paradise Flycatcher, and our first Northern Crombec. Our time was limited at Ziway Lake but the birds were everywhere. Over 100 Ruff, Black-tailed Godwits, Collared Pratincoles flew past with Whiskered and White-winged Terns, a Temmincks Stint was present, Greater Flamingoes, Grassland Pipits, Squacco and our first Goliath Heron and the endemic Reichenow's Seedeater.

There was much more to see but the clock was ticking and we continued our journey south-west past Langalio and Abiyala Rift Valley lakes onto Awasa, experiencing our first rainfall.

Arriving unexpectedly early, a walk around the somewhat shabby grounds of the hotel produced some great birds, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Nubian Woodpecker, Woodland Kingfisher, a perched Black Sparrowhawk, and a great view of African Hobby, whilst the Guereza Colobus posed in the trees and Maribou Storks looked on.

#### **Day 13**

## Wednesday 20th February

The Colobus awoke us and a pre-breakfast walk down at the lake was full of life. Black Crakes ran along the promenade whilst an Intermediate Egret, Common Sandpiper and Spur-winged Plover also roosted. Malachite and Pied Kingfishers sat awaiting photographs, African Reed and a brief African Swamp Warbler appeared amongst the papyrus vegetation, African Pygmy Geese showed well and flew across us whilst two Yellow-billed Ducks skulked. Purple Gallinule, and African Jacanas were present and a pair of Little Bitterns appeared close to us, the male barely a metre away though incredibly hard to see without the scope. The Marabou Storks were watching intently, an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler sang. As we returned, a Spotted Creeper was on its nest whilst Nubian Woodpecker, a Woodland Kingfisher, a stunning male Paradise Flycatcher with primaries and streamers flew around us.

After breakfast we began our journey stopping at the Awassa fish market, a spectacle of human and animal interactions. A huge raft of White-winged Terns, (one in summer plumage) flew in and out of the bay with Grey-headed and Black-headed Gulls as the Marabou Storks stood around us, and the fisherman brought in their nets. Garganey, Egyptian Geese and Great and Reed Cormorants observed from the edges while Pink-Backed Pelicans took centre stage. A raft of 38 Southern Pochard floated nervously on the edge of the bay. The market itself was functional and busy. As we left, an Acacia was full of Pink-backed Pelicans, in contrast to the many

full of Marabou Storks. We started our climb into Bale Mountains. Huge numbers of hirundines were feeding after yesterday's rain with Alpine and Mottled Swifts. A quick coffee at Shushemane and then we were heading east to Bale, climbing steadily. A local lunch of Engera, at Dodola, and the fertile fields were full of raptors. Our first Black-winged Kites were now being recorded, Lesser Kestrels were more numerous and a mixed group of White-backed and Ruppell's Vultures were seen. As we rose to 3,500 metres, Red-billed Choughs were present, also a passing Lanner. We stopped for a superb Cape Eagle-Owl at its roost, with Rock Hyraxes below and Yellow-mantled Widowbirds. Our first Rouget's Rail emerged by the roadside and as we entered the park, Reedbucks mingled with Warthogs and a Bush Duiker could be seen. A roadside pool was of life with endemic Blue-winged Geese, Yellow-billed Ducks, Pintails and Garganeys, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers and Three-banded Plovers. It was a journey of many birds!

#### **Day 14**

#### **Thursday 21st February**

This morning after a bit of a water shortage at the hotel, we found plenty as we drove through Angesse gate and onto the Sanetti plateau. Visibility was five metres at best from the bus. Rouget's Rails and Chestnut-naped Francolins about all we could see. We sat and waited on the bus for a break in the weather. A brief respite and a short walk and Mel spotted an Ethiopian Wolf. It was cold but we watched the animal distantly hunting with a characteristic leap. Returning to the bus we had not gone 200 metres when another was seen next to the road. It had a hare kill and rather than run off, we were able to watch it for 20 minutes as it ate through the hare and buried some food for later, before being joined by a second wolf. Quite an amazing sight! We continued down the escarpment and through the amazing Erica forest, though the weather descended again. Lunch was south of Rira, and a short walk revealed a perched immature Crowned Eagle, and several Guereza Colobus before the rain came again. We were looking for Bale Monkey in the bamboo but the weather looked set to defeat us. Unbelievably, a huge Giant Forest Hog pounded across the road. A rare sighting of an impressive beast. Following a tip, we tried further north, and on our second check, we found a single Bale Monkey, then four more, then 20 crossed the road! We were watching this rare primate for some time, with brief views of Tree Hyrax and a Black Sparrowhawk chasing a Mountain Buzzard.

We made our way slowly back as again the weather descended upon us. Flocks of Yellow-crowned Canaries were by the road and then, back on the plateaus, it cleared again. We found four more wolves all showing very close to the vehicle and a posing Golden Eagle. Our journey back to our lodge gave us all our first experience of African sleet (nearly snow) as the weather turned again.

#### **Day 15**

#### Friday 22nd February

This morning we decided to explore the Gesay valley. The weather was much brighter today and we retraced our steps north out of the park briefly through the town of Robe and then to the headquarters. Set in beautiful Juniper forest with mature *Hagenia Abyssinica* trees, we found a Golden (African) Jackal with a fresh Reedbuck kill as we entered. A brief walk from the headquarters and there was an Abyssinian Long-eared Owl roosting high in a tree. We continued our walk through the forest with a backdrop of mountains, Mountain Nyala, the last antelope ever to be discovered in Africa, were showing well, initially large males with harems. Menelik's Bushbuck with their black and warm brown pelage were showing well in the middle distance. An Abysinnian Ground Thrush showed under the canopy, having been singing around us, we managed to catch up with six of these birds during the walk. Tucked into Cirsium plants were a male and female Abyssinian Woodpecker, feeding

incredibly low down and giving great views for all eventually. The nightingale-like song of Abyssinian Catbird was above and again, a patient approach enabled everyone to get good views of this shy enigmatic bird. The heart of the morning though was spent tracking and watching Mountain Nyala, with a supporting cast of Reedbuck, charismatic Warthogs and Menelik's Bushbuck. We could approach really closely within the pleasant shaded conditions of the woodland. A really enjoyable morning.

We lunched locally in Dinshu, most having the vegetarian meal, whilst Derek found the beer on draught, much to Alan's consternation.

In the afternoon we drove further south onto Gesay grasslands. Walking across this vast area, all antelope seen on the morning were visible while in the foreground we saw Bush Duiker and a male Pallid harrier flew past. In fact, we were to see three species of harrier here, male, female and immature Pallid, juvenile European Marsh Harrier, and female Montagu's. After some searching two Abyssinian Longclaws were found walking in and out of view but very close. This is one of the most attractive Ethiopian endemics and we enjoyed the photographic opportunities. As we left the grassland, a huge immature Marshall Eagle flew across us being mobbed by a Mountain Buzzard. A further search for Serval proved unsuccessful but we had all enjoyed another special day of contrasts in the Bale Mountains.

#### **Day 16**

## Saturday 23rd February

Yellow-breasted Waxbills were in the gardens of the hotel this morning before we headed off to Lake Langano. Passing the Gesay grassland again we had our final views of Mountain Nyala and Reedbuck, while the Warthogs dug small holes by the bus. The immature Marshall Eagle appeared again and two distant African Jackals could be seen. An African Hobby flew across us at a photo stop. Coffee at the rose hotel in Dodola and then onto Shashamene for lunch at the Rift Valley Hotel. Here Maribou Storks and Hooded Vultures kettled above and a pale phase Booted Eagle joined them briefly.

After lunch our journey continued for the 75 kilometres to Hara Langana Lodge, stopping for wildlife along the track en route, as our first Bare-faced Go-away-birds, Black-crowned Tchagra were seen as we passed many impressive mature Fig trees. The lodge itself is set on the south east of this vast Rift Valley lake. Silvery-cheeked Hornbills and African Fish Eagles were in the Fig trees by the dining room, as a male Pallid Harrier flew by and flushed some of the White-winged Terns, Squacco Herons, waders and Egrets on the lake edge. We counted at least eight Hippopotamus close to the lake shore. An early evening walk near the lake edge revealed some familiar birds as Blackcap and Lesser Whitethroat, whilst Grosbeak Weaver, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-fronted Parrot, Greater Honeyguide were among the many birds seen together with Common Duiker.

At dusk, Slender-tailed Nightjars showed briefly near the volleyball pitch and we enjoyed a superb evening meal on the lakeside.

#### **Day 17**

## Sunday 24th February

This morning we had a short bus journey before a long morning walk under the Fig dominated forest. Orangebreasted Wood Shrike sang above us, whilst in the forest, we caught up with both Emerald-spotted and Bluespotted Wood Doves. A flock of the rare Green-backed Twinspot were shy ground forest dwellers, whilst above us we found two Grey-headed Kingfishers, a perched Western-banded Snake Eagle, a large agama lizard, Blackheaded Batis and Brown-throated Wattle Eye, whilst the larger trees had troops of Colobus, Grivet and Olive Baboons. The morning belonged though to Narina Trogon, as we also enjoyed scope views of several of this sole African member of the trogon family. A visit to the lake edge was hot, Tree Pipits, White and Yellow Wagtails and Redstarts were familiar, whilst on the lake, distant Lesser Flamingos, Kittlitz and a big flock of Ringed Plovers, joined the noisy Spur-winged Plovers.

It was hot, and an Eastern Grey Woodpecker was the final new bird of the morning. A delightful lunch back at Hara lakeside and afternoon nap were next, followed by an early evening walk where we walked the edge of the lake and followed a series of huge magnificent Fig trees. A female Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk flew across and sat in a tree, Northern Black and Abyssinian Slaty Flycatchers were active as were Hoopoes. Amongst the new species were Red-fronted Barbet, Eastern Grey Woodpecker showing its red belly, whilst a fruiting Fig was fully of several species of Starling: Greater Ruppell's, Superb and Violet-backed, Bruce's Green Pigeons and sunbirds.

A dusk rendezvous brought good views of Slender-tailed Nightjar and an unexpected pair of Verraux's Eagle Owls for Derek and Cathy. After another superb dinner overlooking the lake a night walk in vain search of Aardvark only brought views of Bush Duiker and no repeat of the White-tailed Mongoose Marcus had seen the night before.

## Days 18 / 19 Monday 25th / Tuesday 26th February

This morning was free to enjoy the hotel grounds. A Water Monitor patrolled the edge of the lake and waders were more in evidence with Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff, Little Stint and Black-tailed Godwits joining the resident Senegal Thick-knees and Spur-winged Plover. As we left a Pygmy Kingfisher was seen by the bus. We left our lodge on our final big journey to Addis Ababa, stopping en route at Abijata-Shalla Lakes National Park. Here a short walk enabled us to see our last new mammal of the trip as several Grants Gazelles were present. This attractive gazelle was joined by Two Von der Decken's Hornbills. We proceeded onto the viewpoint and a stunning vista of Abijata Lake: the largest Rift Valley lake and Shalla Lake to the east. Looking like an ocean, both Greater and Lesser Flamingoes could be seen shimmering in the foreground and a Lesser Spotted Eagle dived passed us and landed.

Lunch was at Zeeway under a cloud of Brown-throated Martins until we headed onto Addis Ababa, stopping occasionally for Purple and Lilac-breasted Rollers and further views of Flamingos at Quota Lake.

We had rooms at the Jupiter Hotel in Addis to freshen up and have our final meal and say goodbye to Melkanu and our wonderful driver, Getanet. The evening was free for our own private ceremony to mark the holiday, where we competed for such prestigious awards as the "Roy Keane award for getting scope views," the Redchested Swallow (aka Sombre Chat) award for patience in the face of adversity", the "deadeye dick " and "What tree?" and "Bob Hope comedy on the road to Ethiopia awards". Of course, we had all had a wonderful holiday with over 400 species of birds recorded, 38 mammals, 29 species of butterfly (27 of which found by Derek) and a range of reptiles. A wonderful trip and group.

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Spotted Hyena

Aardwolf



Great White Pelican

# **Species Lists**

Birds ( $\checkmark$ =recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

E=E	indemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced, *=leade	only							Fe	ebrua	ry							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1 Somali Ostrich	Struthio molybdophanes										6							
2 White-faced Whistling	g Duck Dendrocygna viduata		4								40	40						
3 White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus												2					
4 Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	5	10	✓														2
5 Blue-winged Goose -	E Cyanochen cyanoptera												10	4				
6 Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	2	6	40					2			✓	✓			2	✓	✓
7 Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea													2				
8 African Pygmy Goos	e Nettapus auritus												8					
9 Garganey	Spatula querquedula			2								2	10					
10 Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata												20					
11 African Black Duck	Anas sparsa														2			
12 Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata												40	10				
13 Northern Pintail	Anas acuta												1	1				
14 Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma												38					
15 Helmeted Guineafow	Numida meleagris											100						20
16 Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena									4								3
17 Chestnut-naped Frar	ncolin - N Pternistis castaneicollis													20				
18 Erckel's Francolin	Pternistis erckelii				30	10												
19 Yellow-necked Spurf	owl Pternistis leucoscepus								1		1							
20 Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis									2		1	3					
21 Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus											6						✓
22 Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor																✓	✓
23 Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis											2					1	1
24 African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus																	
25 Black Stork	Ciconia nigra			1														
26 Abdim's Stork	Ciconia abdimii												6		1	1	1	
27 White Stork	Ciconia ciconia															2		
28 Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer	4	40						100	✓	✓	400	✓			30	✓	500
29 African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	10	✓	✓					2				✓			✓	✓	✓

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30 Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash		6	60								2	✓	1	1	✓	2	✓
31 Wattled Ibis - N	Bostrychia carunculata				4	2		10			1			10	✓	✓	✓	✓
32 Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	2										5						
33 African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	1								1								
34 Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus												2					
35 Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	4	1	1								4	4			10	10	4
36 Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	1	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			2		
37 Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			1						2			1				3	
38 Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala		2	2														
39 Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath											1					1	
40 Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea							1					1					
41 Great Egret	Ardea alba			2									1			2	2	2
42 Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia		✓															
43 Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		2	1							1	6	✓			2	6	10
44 Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	1	2	4					2		6	10				2	1	✓
45 Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	2	25	2								20				1	30	✓
46 Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens		1									10	30					2
47 Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus		4							4			10					
48 White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus	1	40	1									10			40	40	20
49 African Darter	Anhinga rufa	6	1	1												1	1	1
50 Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus caeruleus												2		1			
51 African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus		2										1			6	1	1
52 Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus				2	3	3	1				6						
53 Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		2	1		2					2							
54 Hooded Vulture	Necrosyrtes monachus	250	60	10				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5	✓		1
55 White-backed Vulture	Gyps africanus		2	40		✓	4	2		✓		✓	30			2		
56 Rüppell's Vulture	Gyps rueppelli					2	4						4					
57 Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus			30			1											
58 Lappet-faced Vulture	Torgos tracheliotos				1		1											
59 Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis							1	1	1	1	1						
60 Western Banded Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinerascens																1	
61 Crowned Eagle	Stephanoaetus coronatus													1				

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	Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
62	Martial Eagle	Polemaetus bellicosus														1	1		
63	Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis		3	2														
64	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Clanga pomarina		1						1					1				1
65	Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi		2								2		1			2		
66	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus															1		
67	Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax			4	2	1		5	2	2		2				2		2
68	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis			1	1	2	3	6	3	1			2	2		2		
69	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos													2				
70	Verreaux's Eagle	Aquila verreauxii						2											
71	Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco monogrammicus								1									
72	Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar									1								
73	Dark Chanting Goshawk	Melierax metabates		1	1							1							
74	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	Melierax poliopterus									2		2						
75	African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro			1													1	
76	Shikra	Accipiter badius		1			1	1											
77	Black Sparrowhawk	Accipiter melanoleucus	1										1		1				
78	African Marsh harrier	Circus ranivorus											1						
79	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		3										1		1			
80	Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus										1				3	2	2	
81	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus		3		1				1						1			
82	Black Kite	Milvus migrans		1	2	2										2			
83	Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer		3							1	1	7	6			$\checkmark$	✓	2
85	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus				1	3	2						2		1	2		
86	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo vulpinus		1															
87	Mountain Buzzard	Buteo oreophilus	1											1		2	1		
88	Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	1	1	4	4	2	6	6	4			2	4	12	10	✓		2
89	Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori										1							
90	Buff-crested Bustard	Lophotis gindiana									4								
91	Rouget's Rail - N	Rougetius rougetii												4	12	3	1		
92	Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostra	1	3										6					
93	African Swamphen	Porphyrio madagascariensis						1		1		1		1					

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	Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
94	Allen's Gallinule	Porphyrio alleni												1					
95	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus meridionalis												10					
96	Lesser Moorhen	Paragallinula angulata											1	1					
97	Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata											60	100	2		✓	✓	✓
98	Black Crowned Crane	Balearica pavonina		3	2														
99	Common Crane	Grus grus			1100														
100	Senegal Thick-knee	Burhinus senegalensis															4	✓	✓
101	Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis		1															
102	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus			5								10	1					
103	Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus		6							4		4	1			6	10	✓
104	Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus															3		
105	African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus		2	2														
106	Spot-breasted Lapwing - E	Vanellus melanocephalus					20									110		10	
107	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula																100	
108	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius											1						
109	Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius pecuarius																2	
110	Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris												2					
111	African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	2	1	1								6	6					
112	Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa											6						
113	Ruff	Calidris pugnax			6								1000					2	
114	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea																	4
115	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii											1						6
116	Little Stint	Calidris minuta																	1
117	African Snipe	Gallinago nigripennis																	1
118	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1	1					1					1	1		1	2	2
119	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus													1		1		
120	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis												1				1	
121	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	5		1								1	2			2		
122	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia															1	2	2
123	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola											6				6	✓	✓
124	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus												60			6	✓	✓
125	Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus												20			5	20	✓

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Commo	on name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
126 Pallas's	Gull	Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus		6										2					
127 Lesser B	Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus fuscus		2															
128 Caspian	tern	Hydroprogne caspia	1	1															
129 Gull-bille	ed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica								2								4	
130 Whiskere	ed Tern	Chlidonias hybrida											1						
131 White-wi	inged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus		10									2	100			✓	✓	✓
132 Chestnut	t-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles exustus									1	10							
133 Lichtens	tein's Sandgrouse	Pterocles lichtensteinii		1															
134 Rock Do	ove - I	Columba livia var. domestica	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
135 Speckled	d Pigeon	Columba guinea	50	✓	✓	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	√
136 White-co	ollared Pigeon - N	Columba albitorques		2	6	20	30	✓	30					30	✓	✓	30		
137 Lemon D	Dove	Columba larvata																1	
138 Dusky Tu	urtle Dove	Streptopelia lugens	✓	5	1	10	20	6	10	2			2	✓	10	✓			
139 African C	Collared Dove	Streptopelia roseogrisea														4			
140 Mourning	g Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens								20	✓	✓	✓	1					
141 Red-eye	ed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	
142 Laughing	g Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	4	20				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		√
143 Emerald	I-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos																1	
144 Blue-spo	otted Wood Dove	Turtur afer															1	2	
145 Tambou	rine Dove	Turtur tympanistria		1						2									
146 Namaqu	a Dove	Oena capensis		3	2						✓	✓	✓				✓	1	✓
147 Bruce's 0	Green Pigeon	Treron waalia		1	2							1	1			н		4	
148 White-ch	neeked Turaco	Tauraco leucotis		1	2				2								1	5	
149 Bare-fac	ed Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides personatus																6	1
150 White-be	ellied Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides leucogaster							3	2	1								2
151 Eastern	Plantain-eater	Crinifer zonurus		10	6														
152 Senegal	Coucal	Centropus senegalensis	6																
153 Blue-hea	aded Coucal	Centropus monachus													1				
154 White-br	rowed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus										6	1						
155 Levaillan	nt's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii									н					1			
156 Red-che	ested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius													1				
157 African S	Scops Owl	Otus senegalensis											н						

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
158 Cape Eagle-Owl	Bubo capensis												1					
159 Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bubo lacteus																2	
160 African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii				1		1	1										
161 Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum										1							
162 Abyssinian Owl - N	Asio abyssinicus														1			
163 Sombre Nightjar - *	Caprimulgus fraenatus									1								
164 Montane Nightjar	Caprimulgus poliocephalus		1	1														
165 Star-spotted Nightjar	Caprimulgus stellatus															4	3	
166 African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus									4	6	✓	✓					
167 Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba						6						300			✓		
168 Mottled Swift	Tachymarptis aequatorialis												10					
169 Common Swift	Apus apus																	
170 Nyanza Swift	Apus niansae				✓		1				✓	✓						
171 Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	25	6	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
172 Blue-naped Mousebird	Urocolius macrourus									10	10	✓						
173 Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina																5	
174 Purple Roller	Coracias naevius								2									1
175 Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus																	2
176 Abyssinian Roller	Coracias abyssinicus				3			4	2	✓	✓	✓						
177 European Roller	Coracias garrulus								1									
178 Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus																1	
179 Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala																2	
180 Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti		6	4														
181 Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis			1							1	1						
182 African Pygmy Kingfishe	r Ispidina picta																	1
183 Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	1	1								1		6					1
184 Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima		4	2														
185 Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis		5	1									6			3	6	10
186 Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus		✓															4
187 Blue-breasted Bee-eater	Merops variegatus lafresnayii		✓	4	3				1	5	5	✓	2					2
188 Northern Carmine Bee-e	ater Merops nubicus		10	4					1	5	5	✓	2					2
189 Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops									3							5	5

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Com	nmon name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
190 Africa	can Hoopoe	Upupa africana											1						
191 Gree	en Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus			1														
192 Black	k-billed Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus somaliensis	2		5							2						2	
193 Abys	ssinian Ground Hornbill	Bucorvus abyssinicus							3	3		1	4	2			3		
194 North	thern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus										2	1				2		2
195 Von	der Decken's Hornbill	Tockus deckeni										1							3
196 Easte	tern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus flavirostris									10	10					2		
197 Crow	wned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus																	
198 Hem	nprich's Hornbill	Lophoceros hemprichii			2	1							2				4	2	
199 Africa	can Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus								1	✓	✓							
200 Silve	ery-cheeked Hornbill	Bycanistes brevis	2	2									3	10			2	6	20
201 Red-	-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus pusillus	Н															2	2
202 Yello	ow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus		1													1		
203 Red-	-fronted Barbet	Tricholaema diademata																2	1
204 Black	k-throated Barbet	Tricholaema melanocephala		Н															
205 Band	ded Barbet - N	Lybius undatus	1														2	2	
206 Black	k-billed Barbet	Lybius guifsobalito			4						4	3	2						
207 Doub	ble-toothed Barbet	Lybius bidentatus	6		8									1				2	
208 Yello	ow-breasted Barbet	Trachyphonus margaritatus									2	1							
209 Less	ser Honeyguide	Indicator minor																Н	
210 Scaly	ly-throated Honeyguide	Indicator variegatus																Н	
211 Grea	ater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator															1	1	
212 Nubia	ian Woodpecker	Campethera nubica												1	3				
213 Bear	rded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus																	1
214 Abys	ssinian Woodpecker - N	Dendropicos abyssinicus														2			
215 Card	dinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens									1	1	1						
216 Africa	can Grey Woodpecker	Dendropicos goertae	1		4														
217 Easte	tern Grey Woodpecker	Dendropicos spodocephalus																3	
218 Pygn	my Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus								2									
219 Less	ser Kestrel	Falco naumanni			1	1	1		1	1	1		1	10		15	20		
220 Com	nmon Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus			6	4	1	1	4	10	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	10		✓
221 Africa	can Hobby	Falco cuvierii											1				2		

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Co	ommon name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
222 Lar	nner Falcon	Falco biarmicus		1	2				2					1					
223 Sal	aker Falcon	Falco cherrug																	
224 Pei	eregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus			1	1	1	1	1										
225 Yel	ellow-fronted Parrot - E	Poicephalus flavifrons		6													4		
226 Ora	ange-bellied Parrot	Poicephalus rufiventris											6						
227 Bla	ack-winged Lovebird - E	Agapornis taranta	4	2	6	1			2	✓			2				2	10	✓
228 Gre	ey-headed Batis	Batis orientalis									2		1						
229 We	estern Black-headed Batis	Batis erlangeri												1				2	
230 Bro	own-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira cyanea																2	
231 Gre	ey-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti									1								
232 Ora	ange-breasted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus								1								2	
233 Ro	osy-patched Bushshrike	Telophorus cruentus									2		1						
234 Bla	ack-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus															1		
235 No	orthern Puffback	Dryoscopus gambensis	Н	н	н													5	
236 Eth	hiopian Boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus	Н	н	2			2					Н	н			1	2	1
237 Bru	ubru	Nilaus afer																1	1
238 Re	ed-shouldered Cuckooshrike	Campephaga phoenicea																2	
239 No	orthern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus ruppelli									1	✓	✓	✓					4
240 Re	ed-tailed Shrike (Turkestan)	Lanius phoenicuroides									1								
241 Gre	eat Grey Shrike	Lanius excubitor buryi									1	6							
242 Gre	ey-backed Fiscal	Lanius excubitoroides		1													6	✓	10
243 Soi	omali Fiscal	Lanius somalicus									1		4						
244 No	orthern Fiscal	Lanius humeralis	3	2	✓	1			2					2		4	8		
245 Wo	oodchat Shrike	Lanius senator									1								
246 Ma	asked Shrike	Lanius nubicus									0							1	
247 Eu	ırasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus																	
248 Afr	rican Golden Oriole	Oriolus auratus													Н				
249 Eth	hiopian Oriole - N	Oriolus monacha		н	2			н	Н							Н	2	2	
250 For	rk-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis								2	4	2	4	2			2	✓	✓
251 Afri	rican Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis		1	1	1		2	1				2	2			4	✓	1
252 Re	ed-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax					20	6	10					6			4		
253 Ca	ape Crow	Corvus capensis			4	2	2	2	✓	5				✓		✓	✓		✓

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
254 Pied Crow	Corvus albus							✓	10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
255 Somali Crow	Corvus edithae												4		✓	4		
256 Fan-tailed Raven	Corvus rhipidurus		4	12	10	6	15	100	20	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
257 Thick-billed Raven	Corvus crassirostris			6	10	20	25	40	5				1		2	30		
258 White-winged Black Tit	Melaniparus leucomelas																2	
259 White-backed Black Tit - N	Melaniparus leuconotus					2	3								2			
260 Mouse-colored Penduline T	it Anthoscopus musculus									4								
261 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-I	ark Eremopterix leucotis										100							
262 Thekla's Lark	Galerida theklae				1	2	4	2				✓	✓	✓		✓		
263 Erlanger's Lark - E	Calandrella erlangeri			6														
264 Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	1	✓	✓	1					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
265 Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor													✓	✓	✓		
266 Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera												1	1		2	100	1
267 Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola											✓	✓			20	✓	100
268 Sand Martin	Riparia riparia									✓			✓				✓	✓
269 Banded Martin	Riparia cincta									1								
270 Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	10	✓	✓			2	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
271 Red-chested Swallow	Hirundo lucida																	10
272 Ethiopian Swallow	Hirundo aethiopica										4							
273 Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii		6								5							
274 Pale Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne obsoleta											✓						
275 Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
276 Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum										3		✓			✓	✓	✓
277 Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis			6									1			1		
278 Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	2					1											
279 Northern Crombec	Sylvietta brachyura											1					1	
280 Red-faced Crombec	Sylvietta whytii																1	
281 Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus				10	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
282 Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita						1			1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓			
283 Brown Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus umbrovirens												2					
284 Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris	1	1								1							
285 Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus			1														

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	Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
286	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus										1							
287	African Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus baeticatus										4							
288	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna pallida												1					
289	Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus					1												
290	Boran Cisticola	Cisticola bodessa																	1
291	Ethiopian Cisticola - N	Cisticola lugubris				1	1	1							1	1	1		
292	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	Cisticola brunnescens						6											
293	Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	1													2			
294	Buff-bellied Warbler	Phyllolais pulchella																3	
295	Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida											1						
296	Red-fronted Warbler	Urorhipis rufifrons												2					
297	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata			1	1						1		1			1	2	
298	Grey Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes simplex											3						
299	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis									2		1						
300	Rufous Chatterer	Turdoides rubiginosa									5								
301	White-rumped Babbler	Turdoides leucopygia							2		5							10	2
302	Abyssinian Catbird - E	Parophasma galinieri				н										2			
303	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla													1		3	4	3
304	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca															1	5	
305	Abyssinian White-eye	Zosterops abyssinicus											2	2			2	✓	
306	Montane White-eye	Zosterops poliogastrus poliogastrus	10		✓			2	2	1						10			
307	African Spotted Creeper	Salpornis salvadori												2					
308	Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster		1	2													6	
309	Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea								50		✓	✓				✓		✓
310	Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	8	✓	✓	✓			2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
311	Lesser Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chloropterus		6	✓	✓													✓
312	Rüppell's Starling	Lamprotornis purpuroptera									✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
313	Superb Starling	Lamprotornis superbus									✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
314	Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio		4	10	3													
315	Slender-billed Starling	Onychognathus tenuirostris				2													
316	Somali Starling	Onychognathus blythii			1	1			2	1		1							
317	White-billed Starling - N	Onychognathus albirostris					10	10	✓										

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
318 Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus		3						2	✓	✓	1			✓	✓	✓	✓
319 Abyssinian Ground Thrush	Zoothera piaggiae														5		1	
320 Groundscraper Thrush	Turdus litsitsirupa				10	20	4	10					✓	✓	✓	5		
321 African Thrush	Turdus pelios	1	2	2								✓	✓				✓	
322 Abyssinian Thrush	Turdus abyssinicus			10				2						✓	✓	5		
323 White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys leucoptera									2	2							
324 Grey Tit-Flycatcher	Myioparus plumbeus	3																
325 Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher - N	Melaenornis chocolatinus			2		1	1							1	2		2	
326 Northern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis edolioides		1														4	2
327 African Grey Flycatcher	Melaenornis microrhynchus pumilus									2	1							
328 African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	1											1	1	1		2	
329 Rüppell's Robin-Chat	Cossypha semirufa	1	3	6	2		2		1					1				
330 Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica			1														
331 Thrush Nightingale	Luscinia luscinia		н															
332 Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus																10	1
333 White-winged Cliff Chat - N	Monticola semirufus				4			2	1									
334 Common Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis				1			1					2					
335 Little Rock Thrush	Monticola rufocinereus				1													
336 Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius					2												
337 Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra		1															
338 Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola maurus variegatus	1		1				4										
339 African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus												2		2	2		
340 Moorland Chat	Pinarochroa sordida				5	20	10	1		5			✓	✓	✓	✓		
341 Mocking Cliff Chat	Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris		6	2	3			2	1									
342 Rüppell's Black Chat - N	Myrmecocichla melaena				1			1										
343 Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe					1												
344 Red-breasted Wheatear	Oenanthe bottae			6	2	20		6					4			1		
345 Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina		1	1	2	1			2	✓	✓		✓			2	1	6
346 Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka			1	6	20		20	5	✓	✓	✓	✓				1	2
347 Blackstart	Oenanthe melanura									2		2						
348 Sombre Rock Chat - N	Oenanthe dubia											1						
349 Abyssinian Wheatear	Oenanthe lugubris				1													

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
350 Nile Valley Sunbird	Hedydipna metallica									6	8	2						
351 Hunters sunbird	Chalcomitra hunteri									1								
352 Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	2	5	✓	✓			2					✓	2			4	
353 Tacazze Sunbird	Nectarinia tacazze				✓	✓	2	4						✓		✓		
354 Beautiful Sunbird	Cinnyris pulchellus										4		4				2	
355 Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis															1		
356 Shining Sunbird	Cinnyris habessinicus									6	2	1						
357 Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus			✓	1	1	2	4										
358 Swainson's Sparrow	Passer swainsonii	20	10		✓			1	1			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
359 Bush Petronia	Gymnoris dentata		2								1							
360 Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	Bubalornis niger									10	✓					2		
361 White-headed Buffalo Weaver	Dinemellia dinemelli								5	✓	✓	✓				✓		
362 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali								2	✓		✓				✓	$\checkmark$	✓
363 Thick-billed (grosbeak)Weaver	Amblyospiza albifrons															10	2	
364 Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht	10	10	10	5			✓	✓		✓	✓						
365 Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht emini														✓			
366 Little Weaver	Ploceus luteolus									1		1	1				1	
367 Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis											1	4				5	1
368 Rüppell's Weaver	Ploceus galbula									10		5					1	
369 Lesser Masked Weaver	Ploceus intermedius											3					1	
370 Vitelline Masked Weaver	Ploceus vitellinus										6							
371 Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus		30	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
372 Chestnut Weaver	Ploceus rubiginosus																	
373 Red-headed Weaver	Anaplectes rubriceps leuconotos												2			1	6	
374 Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea		50						✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
375 Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis				6								10			✓		
376 Yellow-mantled Widowbird	Euplectes macroura						20											
377 Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba									4								
378 Cut-throat Finch	Amadina fasciata			4						✓	✓							
379 Green Twinspot	Mandingoa nitidula																10	
380 Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala		✓	✓			✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	1
381 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	Uraeginthus bengalus		12	50	4			4				✓				✓	✓	✓

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	Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
382	Purple Grenadier	Uraeginthus ianthinogaster									2								
383	Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia															2		
384	Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild												10					
385	Quailfinch - N	Ortygospiza atricollis fuscocrissa			6														
386	African Silverbill	Euodice cantans									6	4		2					
387	Bronze Mannikin	Lonchura cucullata			3									20					
388	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava		1															
389	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava flava		1	1				1		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
390	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg	5	1									2	1				1	
391	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		1															
392	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		✓	2								✓					10	
393	Abyssinian Longclaw - E	Macronyx flavicollis														2	3		
394	African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus											1						
395	Plain-backed Pipit	Anthus leucophrys					1		1										
396	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis																10	
397	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus												8	4		6		
398	African Citril	Crithagra citrinelloides	3							1			6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
399	Reichenow's Seedeater	Crithagra reichenowi											1				2		
400	Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica			4														
401	Ankober Serin - E	Crithagra ankoberensis				1	20												
402	Brown-rumped Seedeater	Crithagra tristriata	6		10	✓	✓	✓							1		✓	✓	
403	Streaky Seedeater	Crithagra striolata	1		4	5	5	6	✓							10	✓	✓	
404	Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex														200			
405	Ethiopian Siskin - E	Serinus nigriceps					20								✓	✓		✓	
406	Striolated Bunting	Emberiza striolata							2			1							
407	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi		1	1														
Mai	mmals																		
1	Yellow-spotted Hyrax	Heterohyrax brucei					1												
2	Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis		8							30			6					
3	Grivet Monkey	Chlorocebus aethiops		20							10	10	10	5				10	
4	Bale Monkey - E	Chlorocebus djamdjamensis													30				

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Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
5 Guereza	Colobus guereza										6	4	10	10		10	20	10	
6 Olive Baboon	Papio anubis				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
7 Hamadryas Baboon	Papio hamadryas											50	20						
8 Gelada Baboon - E	Theropithecus gelada				500	300	500												
9 Ethiopian Highland Hare - E	Lepus starcki										✓								
10 Abyssinian Grass Rat - E	Arvicanthis abyssinicus			✓	✓	✓	✓												
11 Blick's Grass Rat - E	Arvicanthis blicki													✓					
12 Giant Mole Rat - E	Tachyoryctes macrocephalus													2					
13 Gambian Sun Squirrel	Heliosciurus gambianus		1									1	1			1	2	1	
14 Unstriped Ground Squirrel	Xerus rutilus										1								
15 Serval	Leptailurus serval					1													
16 Leopard	Panthera pardus						н												
17 White-tailed Mongoose	Ichneumia albicauda		1								1					2			
18 Spotted Hyaena	Crocuta crocuta										7						Н		
19 Aardwolf	Proteles cristata											1							
20 Golden Jackal	Canis aureus					4				2					1	2			
21 Black-backed Jackal	Canis mesomelas										2	2							
22 Ethiopian Wolf - E	Canis simensis												7						
23 Grevy's Zebra	Equus grevyi										2								
24 Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus									10	6	8	12		✓	✓		2	
25 Giant Forest Hog	Hylochoerus meinertzhageni												1						
26 Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius		51													5	9	4	
27 Walia Ibex - E	Capra walie					2													
28 Gerenuk	Litocranius walleri										6								
29 Salt's Dik-dik	Madoqua saltiana								3	6	6	6							
30 Grant's Gazelle	Nanger granti																	10	
31 Soemmerring's Gazelle	Nanger soemmerringii									1	60	1							
32 Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus					5	3												
33 Beisa Oryx	Oryx beisa								2	6	1	4							
34 Bohor Reedbuck	Redunca redunca		1					1					30		50	✓			
35 Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia												1		3	5	10	2	
36 Mountain Nyala - E	Tragelaphus buxtoni														40	4			

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Commo	on name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
37 Lesser	Kudu	Tragelaphus imberbis								1	2	2					✓		
38 Bushbu	uck - E	Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki														4			
Butterflies	S																		
1 Citrus S	Swallowtail	Papilio demodocus		✓									✓						
2 Commo	on/Eastern Dotted Border	Mylothris agathima	✓																
3 African	Clouded Yellow	Colias electo				✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓		
4 Brown-v	veined White	Belenois aurota	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓							
5 Commo	on Orange-tip	Colotis evenina										✓							
6 Meadow	w White?	Belenois or Pontia sps (not zochalia or aurota)														✓			
7 African	Migrant	Catopsilia florella																✓	
8 Commo	on Grass Yellow	Eurema hecabe		✓															
9 Autumn	n Leaf Vagrant	Afrodryas leda										✓							
10 Yellow	Pansy	Junonia hierta		✓															
11 River S	Sailer	Neptis serena	✓	✓														✓	
12 Acraea	sps?	Similar to A. stenobea (suffused Acraea)						✓											
13 Abyssin	nian Red Admiral	Vanessa abyssinica						✓	✓					✓		✓			
14 Painted	d Lady	Vanessa carduai						✓	✓							✓			
15 Guinea	Fowl	Hamanumida daedalus									✓								
16 Eyed Pa	ansy	Junonia orithya						✓			✓								
17 Violet-e	eyed Evening Brown	Melanitis lybia										✓							
18 Gaudy	Commodore	Precis octavia														✓			
19 Foxy Er	mperor ?	Charaxes jasinus?		✓															
20 African	Monarch	Danaus chrysippus				✓			✓		✓	✓							
21 White A	Acraea sps?	Poss. Black-tipped Acraea caldarena?								✓									
22 Acraea	sps?	Similar to Yellow-banded but blue on forewing							✓										
23 Black P	Pie	Tuxentius melaena (?)						✓											
24 Clover I	Blue	Actizera stellata						✓	✓							✓			
25 Long-ta	ailed/ Pea Blue	Lampides boeticus						✓											
26 Small C		Lycaena phaleas pseudophaleas (Ethiopian subspecies)						✓	✓										
	Blue sps	Euchrysops sps ?		✓					✓							✓			
	an Bronze	Cacyreus ethiopicus														✓			

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29	African Common Blue	Leptotes pirithous																✓	
30	Bronze Hairtail ?	Athene sps. Poss A. aurobrunnea															✓		
31	Swift Skipper ?	Borbo sps. Poss B. perobscura																✓	
32	Small Elfin	Sarangesa phidyla		✓															

# Reptiles



Rock Python



Malachite Kingfisher

Water Monitor

Rock Python





Gelada

Blue-headed Agama





