

ANN AND ROLAND GO BIRDING IN ETHIOPIA

January 4th – 21st 2013

Travel

We travelled with KLM from Manchester-Amsterdam-Addis Ababa via Khartoum and vice versa at a cost of £639.02 each.

Addis Airport is a nightmare. You can get through immigration faster if you buy your visa on arrival than if you buy it in advance as they have a special channel. You have to go through a security check before you leave the airport. There were long, chaotic queues and the majority of passengers had masses of luggage. Allow **at least** one hour to get through both immigration and security.

When leaving Addis, you have to queue outside and go through security with **all** your luggage. This can take forever. ☹️ You still have to go through security with your hand luggage after you have checked in. You also have to complete an exit card. There are plenty of shops but it is cheaper to buy souvenirs beforehand.

Guide

We used Abiy Dagne who was recommended to us by Tom Lawson. Abiy was a brilliant guide. Unfailingly polite and friendly, he went out of his way to ensure that we were well looked after everywhere we went. As for the arrangements, all we had to do was literally pay-up and turn-up. He sorted absolutely everything once we had settled on an itinerary. As a bird guide, he had extremely acute hearing and phenomenal eyesight. Contact him on abiymill@yahoo.com. He is based in Addis and is also a Mammals expert. Couldn't recommend him enough. He guides for individual groups, Ethiopian Quadrants and various birding companies.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia was one African country not on our list of places to go. We decided to give it a whirl after Tom had recommended it. We are so glad we listened to him and went there. Amazing. I could never do this country justice in my ramblings and hardly know where to start when summing it up. The culture and history are fascinating and rich. The people are lovely. The scenery was absolutely stunning and there was so much greenery. Agriculture and market-gardening is widespread and horticulture is a thriving industry. Sugar cane is grown on a large scale and sugar is exported. Nothing like Bob Geldof's Ethiopia!

Itinerary

January 4th. Arrive Addis Ababa transfer to Ghion hotel for overnight stay.

January 5th. Drive to Debre Libanos. Overnight Ethio-German lodge.

January 6th. Drive to Jemma Valley. Overnight Debre Birhan Eva hotel.

January 7th. Drive to Melka Gebdu back to the Ankober Serin area. Overnight Addis Ghion hotel.

January 8th. Drive to Awash though Debre Zeit. Overnight Awash Falls Lodge.

January 9th. Awash National Park. Overnight Awash Falls Lodge.

January 10th. Excursion Bilein Lodge. Overnight Awash Falls Lodge.

January 11th. Drive to the other side of Awash NP to the hot springs. Overnight Awash Falls Lodge.

January 12th. Drive south to the Rift Valley. Overnight Lake Langano Savanna Beach Resort.

January 13th. Drive to the other side of lake birding Abiata Shala NP. Overnight Bishangari Lodge.

January 14th. Full day Bishangari and overnight.

January 15th. Drive to Bale NP though Dinsho. Overnight Goba Wabashabelle Hotel.

January 16th. Full day with picnic lunch Senetti Plateau. Overnight Goba Wabashebelles Hotel.

January 17th. Drive to Sof Omer Cave. Overnight Goba Wabashabelle Hotel.

January 18th. Drive to Awassa. Overnight Africa United Hotel.

January 19th. Birding round the fish markets. Overnight Wondo Genet Hotel.

January 20th. Back to Addis birding on the way.

Accommodation

Ghion Hotel, Addis: a touch of faded splendour! Fabulous gardens, good facilities, no complaints.

Ethio-German Lodge: Fabulous setting. Food OK. Accommodation good – mattress on brick bed but comfortable!

Debre Birhan Eva Hotel: an oasis in the city! Nice food and accommodation.

Awash Fall Lodge: Loved it. Good food and accommodation plus tame ostriches!

Savanna Beach Resort: Nice, modern bungalows in pleasant setting by Lake Langano but expensive. Wonderful breakfast.

Bishangari Lodge: My favourite. Comfortable accommodation, brilliant setting but food not wonderful.

Goba Wabashabelle Hotel: Built by the Russians some years ago. Another touch of faded splendour. Room adequate, food interesting. Free condoms.

Climate

Mostly dry. A few showers at the beginning of our stay plus a few hours of absolutely torrential rain on the day we were due to go to Bilein. Not good for the unsealed roads! Often a bit cool early morning and late evening but warm-hot during the day depending on location. High altitude so drink plenty and make sure you have high factor sun-cream and a hat.

Currency

The Ethiopian birr (ETB). The exchange rate was 28.75 birr to the Pound when we were there.

Diary

January 4th 2013

Abiy was waiting for us in the Arrivals Hall as arranged and we were soon whisked away to the Ghion Hotel for a night's rest.

Day One: January 5th 2013

After an early morning buffet breakfast we went to explore the grounds and were soon joined by Abiy. He was keen to get going but we did manage to spot **African Paradise Flycatcher, Red-eyed Dove, Mourning Dove, Speckled Mousebird, Wattled Ibis, White-collared Pigeon, Abyssinian Thrush, Brown-rumped Seedeater, Chiff Chaff, Brown Parisoma, Tacazze Sunbird, Streaky Seedeater, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Kite, Gabar Goshawk, Pied Crow and Thick-billed Raven** before we left.

On the way out of Addis we saw lots of people arriving for the market with donkeys laden with firewood and dried cowpats. Others were carrying live chickens and we learnt that it was Ethiopian Christmas on the Monday (January 7th) so people would be stocking up for the celebrations. Most Ethiopians are Orthodox Christians though there are a good many Muslims too. There was the usual African chaos but somewhat amplified by the wealth of pedestrians and donkeys all vying for a place on the "road" along with the odd vehicle, cow, goat etc. Don't you just love it? I know I do! Addis is a real higgledy-piggledy place and our progress was slow. Once out of the city, the countryside was wonderful with a lot of eucalyptus forest which has been planted to replace the native juniper cut down for firewood etc. Our first stop was on the Sululta Plains. We parked down a track next to a village and went for a walk down to the river and back accumulating children as we walked. The day was just warming up and it was lovely and sunny. We notched up **White-winged Cliff-chat, Speckled Pigeon and Cape Rook** on the way and the following on our walk: **Common Fiscal, Northern Wheatear, Isabelline Wheatear, Hooded Vulture, Abyssinian Longclaw, Spot-breasted Lapwing, Black-headed Siskin, Hammerkop, Red-breasted Wheatear, Cattle Egret, Common Kestrel, Yellow Wagtail, Ruff, Yellow-billed Duck, Ethiopian Cisticola, Lanner Falcon, Augur Buzzard, Egyptian Goose, Sacred Ibis, Groundscraper Thrush.**

We carried on our way all the time admiring and exclaiming on the lush scenery and soon went through another village with lots of tuk-tuks, a few people with ponies and traps and two long lines of shoe-shine boys!! We were to come across many more of these shoe-shine boys as we travelled about but never again such a great number in a small area. Evidently big business in Ethiopia. Donkeys everywhere – couldn't get over the number of donkeys! Must have seen hundreds over the fortnight, either roaming about, laden with goods, pulling carts or being ridden. Unfortunately they were not all well-treated often being whipped, pulled along by their ears or carrying/pulling too heavy a load. We did see a few lying dead by the side of the road. Whether they just dropped dead we shall never know.

Our next stop was by a stream where we saw **Yellow Bishop, African Stonechat, Theckla Lark, Red-throated Pipit, Red-rumped Swallow, Plain martin, Blue-breasted Bee-eater, Pintail Whydah, Green Sandpiper, Spur-winged Plover, Wood Sandpiper and Glossy Ibis.** Plus one or two children! A little further on we saw vultures wheeling and more arriving so stopped to investigate. A dead cow in the quarries being fought over by two dogs and a host of vultures (**Ruppell's, White-headed and Lappet**) plus a **Tawny Eagle** sitting on a post and having a good flap! We carried on to the Ethio-German Lodge at Debre Libanos where we were to have lunch and stay the night. Our room was fine: two ginormous beds on a brick base, brick-built bedside cabinets, pitiful lighting but it was all OK with us. Own bathroom and absolutely stunning view looking out across the Jemma Valley. **Fan-tailed Raven, Pied Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Ruppell's Black Chat, Swainson's Sparrow** were in the vicinity. We ate in the restaurant rather than outside because of the numerous dive-bombing **Black Kites** who were encouraged by staff and visitors alike to partake of their food. Roland and I had rice with meat sauce which wasn't wonderful but Abiy had injera (Ethiopian pancake/flatbread best made from teff) with beetroot, vegetables, lentils, peas and spicy chick-pea sauce i.e. fasting food. It was much nicer than our food, especially the chick-pea sauce! Fasting food is eaten by Christian Ethiopians on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. It was then time for a walk in the woods behind the Ethiopian Orthodox monastery leading up to the caves and the old monastery. There were lots of monks sitting begging along the road and inside the compound plus some officials with guns and whips. The path was a bit rocky in places and very stinky in others ☹ and much

frequented by monks. A strange tent arrangement harboured a holy stream and we spotted the following birds before making our way back to the monastery which we wanted to visit: **Grey Wagtail, African Citril, Little Rock Thrush, Common Bulbul, White-cheeked Turaco, Abyssinian Ground Thrush, Ruppell's Robin Chat, Mountain Wagtail, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Brown Woodland Warbler, Variable Sunbird, Mountain Thrush, Tacazze Sunbird, Baglafaecht Weaver, Peregrine Falcon, Pallid Harrier.** We had to wait a little while for our guide who spoke excellent English but very fast. It was all very interesting and the stained glass windows were very beautiful. He also explained about the Ethiopian 13 month calendar and the different time-keeping: 6.00am is one o'clock and 6.00pm is one o'clock too. The day is divided into two lots of 12 hours to more-or-less coincide with daylight hours. Simple when you get used to it and very logical! Our guide offered to show us the museum too and we found that interesting too. There is a cemetery in the olive trees behind and the graves have cages round them which are to protect them from damage by wild animals. Makes a change from vandals! We then went back to the lodge and had a quick walk down to the Portuguese Bridge from where we could see the famous Gelada Baboons but at a distance which was disappointing. Birds we saw included **Mountain Buzzard, Brown-rumped Seedeater, Rock martin, Greater Blue-eared Starling, White-billed Starling, Black-crowned Tchagra, Dusky Turtle Dove, Steppe Eagle.** We got back to the lodge just before sunset and had an Ethiopian meal of fasting food before retiring to our cold, dim room for the night. We had to be up very early the next morning (4h15) but there was no power and we had no matches to light the provided candle with We also hadn't unpacked so didn't have a torch handy And it was pitch black! Mobile phones come in very handy sometimes

Ghion Hotel

African Paradise-flycatcher
Red-eyed Dove
African Mourning Dove
Speckled Mousebird
Wattled Ibis
White-collared Pigeon
Abyssinian Ground Thrush
Brown-rumped Seedeater
Common Chiffchaff
Brown Parisoma
Tacazze Sunbird
Streaky Seedeater
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher
Yellow-billed Kite
Gabar Goshawk
Pied Crow
Thick-billed Raven
Blue-winged Goose

On way

White-winged Cliff Chat
Speckled Pigeon
Cape Rook

Sulula Plain

Common Fiscal
Northern Wheatear
Isabelline Wheatear
Hooded Vulture
Abyssinian Longclaw
Spot-breasted Plover

Terpsiphone viridis
Streptopelia semitorquata
Streptopelia decipiens
Colius striatus
Bostrychia carunculata
Columba albitorques
Zoothera piaggiae
Serinus tristriatus
Phylloscopus collybita
Parisoma lugens
Nectarinia tacazze
Serinus striolatus
Melaenornis chocolatinus
Milvus (migrans) aegyptius
Micronisus gabar
Corvus albus
Corvus crassirostris
Cyanochen cyanoptera

Thamnolaea semirufa
Columba guinea
Corvus capensis

Lanius collaris
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe isabellina
Necrosyrtes monachus
Macronyx flavicollis
Vanellus melanocephalus

Black-headed Siskin
Hamerkop
Red-breasted Wheatear
Cattle Egret
Common Kestrel
Yellow Wagtail
Ruff
Yellow-billed Duck
Ethiopian Cisticola
Lanner Falcon
Augur Buzzard
Egyptian Goose
Sacred Ibis
Groundscraper Thrush
Yellow Bishop
African Stonechat
Thekla Lark
Red-throated Pipit
Red-rumped Swallow
Plain Martin
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
Pin-tailed Whydah
Green Sandpiper
Spur-winged Plover
Wood Sandpiper
Glossy Ibis
Rüppell's Vulture
White-headed Vulture
Lappet-faced Vulture
Tawny Eagle
Fan-tailed Raven
Pied Wheatear
Blue Rock Thrush
Rüppell's Black Chat
Swainson's Sparrow

Woods and Monastery

Grey Wagtail
African Citril
Little Rock Thrush
Common Bulbul
White-cheeked Turaco
Abyssinian Ground Thrush
Rüppell's Robin-Chat
Mountain Wagtail
Grey-headed Woodpecker
Brown Woodland Warbler
Variable Sunbird
Mountain Thrush
Tacazze Sunbird
Baglafaecht Weaver
Peregrine Falcon

Serinus nigriceps
Scopus umbretta
Oenanthe bottae
Bubulcus ibis
Falco tinnunculus
Motacilla flava
Philomachus pugnax
Anas undulata
Cisticola (galactotes) lugubris
Falco biarmicus
Buteo augur
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Threskiornis aethiopicus
Psophocichla litsitsirupa
Euplectes capensis
Saxicola (torquatus) torquatus
Galerida theklae
Anthus cervinus
Cecropis daurica
Riparia paludicola
Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii
Vidua macroura
Tringa ochropus
Vanellus spinosus
Tringa glareola
Plegadis falcinellus
Gyps rueppellii
Trigonoceps occipitalis
Torgos tracheliotus
Aquila rapax
Corvus rhipidurus
Oenanthe pleschanka
Monticola solitarius
Myrmecocichla melaena
Passer swainsonii

Motacilla cinerea
Serinus citrinelloides
Monticola rufocinereus
Pycnonotus barbatus
Tauraco leucotis
Zoothera piaggiae
Cossypha semirufa
Motacilla clara
Dendropicos spodocephalus
Phylloscopus umbrovirens
Cinnyris venustus
Turdus (olivaceus) abyssinicus
Nectarinia tacazze
Ploceus baglafaecht
Falco peregrinus

Pallid Harrier

Portuguese Bridge and area

Mountain Buzzard

Brown-rumped Seedeater

Rock Martin

Greater Blue-eared Starling

White-billed Starling

Black-crowned Tchagra

Dusky Turtle Dove

Steppe Eagle

Circus macrourus

Buteo oreophilus

Serinus tristriatus

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Onychognathus albirostris

Tchagra senegalus

Streptopelia lugens

Aquila nipalensis

Day Two: January 6th 2013

A 5.00a.m. start for the Jemma Valley and Francolin. We saw a Jackal on the way .It was quite misty in places and Wheatear were constantly criss-crossing our way. Dawn was just about breaking when we got to the Jemma Escarpment where a few local men and children were waiting for us.All the adults and some of the children had long sticks with them for walking with. They are so sure-footed and nimble it makes me feel a right oaf! They were soon joined by several others and everyone was really friendly. It was a little chilly up there and as we waited the beautiful valley revealed itself to us a little at a time and the haunting sound of hymns and prayers rose from the churches and hung on the air. **White-billed Starling** bobbed out for a look and then all of a sudden there was much excitement and pointing of fingers as far below us on the valley floor a couple of **Erckels Francolin** strolled out across a field. They were soon joined by several others strutting their stuff and eventually one **Harwood's Francolin** revealed itself. Stunning stuff. Elated we returned to the vehicle only to discover we had a puncture ... After a lot of team work from the men and an impromptu English lesson from me to the children we were on our way again Back the way we had come to get our tyre repaired and what should be on the road as we rounded the corner but a cluster of Erckel's Francolin! Easier said than done with the tyre as it was Sunday and, more importantly, there was still a power cut. Time ticked by but eventually the good tyre was repaired (nail) and so was the spare tyre (another nail). It did give Roland and I the chance to do a little spotting round the village tap (closed) but not for long because of the attendant children. The villagers were also a little worried as to why we seemed to be so fascinated with their tap and why we were taking photos until we explained to them as best we could. Off we went again and as we went past the escarpment again, two of Abiy's friends were waiting with some home brew for him to celebrate Christmas with! Brunch today was a picnic. We were starving! There was bread, fruit, juice, jam, cheese, peanut butter, honey and biscuits etc. **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Pied Wheatear, Singing Cisticola, Mocking Cliff Chat and Little Rock Thrush** were around and serenaded us before we set off down the winding road into the valley some 4.000 metres below. Wonderful scenery. You just kept thinking it couldn't get any better and then it did! It was a lot warmer down in the valley – a mere 33 degrees centigrade as we set off for a stroll along the river which was rewarded with lovely views of **Pygmy and Half-collared Kingfishers, Green Sandpiper, Mountain Wagtail, Abyssinian White-eye,** a Rock Hyrax and **Red-billed Pyillia** to name but a few. All too soon we were on our way again but not before stopping at a water-source for seed-eaters. We were amply rewarded with **African Citril, Nyanza Swift, Red-faced Crombeck, Red-throated Wryneck, Blue-spotted Wood Dove, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, White-throated Seedeater, Yellow-fronted Canary, Yellow-throated Seedeater, Ethiopian Booboo** and **Lesser Whitethroat**. The villagers and cattle left us alone which was a relief!

We were still to make a couple of stops for specific birds or to look along the river or have a snack before we started towards our home for the night: the Eva Hotel at Debre Birhan. The sky was getting greyer and greyer and by the time we got to the **Rouget's Rail** spot it was thundering heavily. This was soon followed by rain. We broke the journey for a coffee but unfortunately the café we had

chosen didn't have any so we had a soft drink instead. The cost? 20 birr. 30p. Loved the wooden "bridge" across to the café ☺

How can I describe Debre Birhan? There are lots of new flats being built as you enter the town but everywhere else is an absolute jumble of corrugated iron and ramshackle buildings of varying design tumbling over each other in a complicated mass. Our hotel was hidden behind a falling-down corrugated metal fence and surrounded by buildings covered in bamboo scaffolding and scruffy wasteland. It had beautiful gardens which are a real credit to the gardener and it really is like an oasis in a sea of concrete. Our room was fine and we arranged to meet Abiy later for tea. The dining-room was large and "Star Wars" was on the telly and deafeningly loud. We asked them to turn it off and they did so as no-one was watching. There was quite a good menu but I had to order three times before I got to something they actually had! I eventually got some delicious lamb broth type stuff and injera. Roland had non-fasting food and Abiy had Tibs. Non-fasting food is injera with little piles of vegetables, meat and chick-pea sauce. Tibs is fried meat served with injera and bread.

Escarpment

White-billed Starling

Erckel's Francolin

Harwood's Francolin

Abyssinian Black Wheatear

Common Fiscal

Speckled Pigeon

Village Tap

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Brown-rumped Seedeater

Swainson's Sparrow

Baglafecht Weaver

Abyssinian Ground Thrush

African Paradise-flycatcher

Picnic

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Pied Wheatear

Singing Cisticola

Mocking Cliff Chat

Little Rock Thrush

Cape Rook

Common Bulbul

Blue Rock Thrush

Isabelline Wheatear

Rüppell's Black Chat

Tree Pipit

Jemma Valley

Augur Buzzard

Abyssinian Black Wheatear

Laughing Dove

Fox Kestrel

Common Kestrel

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Little Bee-eater

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Dark Chanting Goshawk

Namaqua Dove

Bush Petronia

Onychognathus albirostris

Pternistis erckelii

Pternistis harwoodi

Oenanthe lugubris

Lanius collari

Columba guinea

Uraeginthus bengalus

Serinus tristriatus

Passer swainsonii

Ploceus baglafecht

Zoothera piaggiae

Terpsiphone viridis

Emberiza tahapisi

Oenanthe pleschanka

Cisticola cantans

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

Monticola rufocinereus

Corvus capensis

Pycnonotus barbatus

Monticola solitarius

Oenanthe isabellina

Myrmecocichla melaena

Anthus trivialis

Buteo augur

Oenanthe lugubris

Streptopelia senegalensis

Falco alopex

Falco tinnunculus

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Merops pusillus

Sporopipes frontalis

Melierax metabates

Oena capensis

Petronia dentata

Wire-tailed Swallow
Three-banded Plover
Foxy Cisticola
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
Eurasian Hoopoe
Yellow Wagtail
Red-billed Firefinch
Red-fronted Barbet
Grey-backed Camaroptera
Half-collared Kingfisher
Green Sandpiper
Mountain Wagtail
Village Indigobird
Abyssinian White-eye
Crimson-rumped Waxbill
Red-billed Pytilia
African Pygmy Kingfisher
Black Stork
Hamerkop
Northern Puffback
Pin-tailed Whydah
Cut-throat Finch
African Citril
Nyanza Swift
Red-faced Crombec
Red-throated Wryneck
Blue-spotted Wood Dove
Red-fronted Tinkerbird
White-throated Seedeater
Yellow-fronted Canary
Yellow-throated Seedeater
Ethiopian Boubou
Lesser Whitethroat
On the way back
African Harrier-Hawk
Sacred Ibis
Great Cormorant
Grey Heron
Northern Wheatear
Long-legged Buzzard
Pallid Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Erlanger's Lark
Groundscraper Thrush
Black-shouldered Kite
Thekla Lark
Red-breasted Wheatear
Rouget's Rail
Little Grebe
Wattled Ibis
Great Egret

Hirundo smithii
Charadrius tricollaris
Cisticola troglodytes
Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii
Upupa epops
Motacilla flava
Lagonosticta senegala
Tricholaema diademata
Camaroptera brachyura
Alcedo semitorquata
Tringa ochropus
Motacilla clara
Vidua chalybeata
Zosterops abyssinicus
Estrilda rhodopyga
Pytilia lineata
Ceyx pictus
Ciconia nigra
Scopus umbretta
Dryoscopus gambensis
Vidua macroura
Amadina fasciata
Serinus citrinelloides
Apus niansae
Sylvietta whytii
Jynx ruficollis
Turtur afer
Pogoniulus pusillus
Serinus xanthopygius
Serinus mozambicus
Serinus flavigula
Laniarius aethiopicus

Sylvia curruca
Polyboroides typus
Threskiornis aethiopicus
Phalacrocorax carbo
Ardea cinerea
Oenanthe oenanthe
Buteo rufinus
Circus macrourus
Circus pygargus
Calendrela erlangeri
Psophocichla litsitsirupa
Elanus caeruleus
Galerida theklae
Oenanthe bottae
Rougetius rougetii
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Bostrychia carunculata
Egretta alba

Day Three: January 7th 2013 Christmas Day

Breakfast was served in a separate building furnished with heavy traditional furniture and pictures. All the ladies were dressed in traditional costume and the ground was strewn with straw. Roland and I were only offered eggs so he had an omelette whilst I settled for toast but Abiy got the full Ethiopian spread! Roland was right not pleased and had to have a word with him about us and food! The whole breakfast for the three of us came to 97.50 birr. About £3.20. After breakfast, Abiy went off to get the "good tyre" pumped up so I went out to take photos while there was no-one around. Some lads asked me to take a photo of them. One of them had already been celebrating liberally ☺ and another lad was determined to be on one of my pictures. It is nice when people don't mind and don't want paying but I do understand that they don't want tourists just walking up to them and taking their photo. I wouldn't like it either. It is extremely rude. **Moorland Chat** and **Swainson's Sparrow** were in the hotel gardens. Abiy returned eventually, not having found any garages open, and we set off for Melka Ghebdu. As we left Addis and got higher up into the trees we ran into a lot of low cloud and the temperature dropped to a chilly 8degrees. When we were going downhill again the scenery was absolutely fabulous: farming, farming and yet more farming. And the terracing! An absolute wonder to behold. Such contrasts between the rock, mountains, forest and valleys. As we passed through villages, children were out in their new clothes looking very smart and proud! It was a beautiful and fascinating drive to Melka Gebdu where we stopped and went for a walk by the river (21 degrees and rising) but not before stopping to admire and take photos of the camels! Yes, camels! Really lovely ones, much nicer and smaller than the ones I had seen in zoos. They are used to carry whatever in the valleys because it gets so hot and they can tolerate the conditions better than donkeys or ponies and asses. We had a good explore of the river area before retracing our steps through Ankober and heading to the spots Abiy knew for the Ankober Serin. Unfortunately as we climbed higher and higher, it got mistier and mistier and we had no luck whatsoever. At the last chance spot, Abiy said, "See that mountain, Ann? We're going to climb it!" I won't say what I thought but set off gamely and got to the top with Roland's help. Actually, it was only about 150 feet! Visibility was well... poor. Mist swirled around the rock faces and it was difficult to see the cows never mind a small bird! We waited and waited, shivering, playing the now you see it, now you don't game, it being a pinnacle of rock before we eventually gave up and took the long downwards path which actually took us up another 50 feet up in the pouring rain. Long because we were looking for an easier way down! Off we went feeling a bit disappointed when what flew in front of us but the flipping bird itself. We came to a sudden halt and started spotting: lots of stuff about but nothing new except for the **Ankober Serins**. Not good views but there nonetheless and we were just the other side of the cliffs we had been scrutinising. Abiy decided the birds must have flown down there to escape the poor conditions. Pity he didn't think of that sooner. ☺ Our next stop was for the invisible Lammergier at the rubbish dump just outside the town but it was very quiet birdwise so we sped off to the Eva Hotel for lunch. Tibs all round and absolutely yummy. We were served with special Christmas bread beforehand which was very nice and the tibs were served in dishes above charcoal burners (a bit like oil burners in appearance) to keep them warm. We all had injera to eat the food with and were served with traditional coffee afterwards. All too soon we had to set off back to Addis. Once we reached the city the roads were quieter than when we had left but still pretty hectic in places because of the preponderance of animals and bad drivers and we even encountered a pig! A fat sow ambling about on the road! There was just enough time for Roland and I to have a quick look round the grounds at the Ghion but the light was fading and then it started to rain heavily. There were vast numbers of **Yellow-billed Kites** flying overhead, obviously going to roost. An impressive sight. We had time to spare before the evening meal so I sat and wrote my diary while Roland had a potter round the hotel looking at the shops etc. He was also offered the company of a lady friend for the evening! The Christmas menu was interesting. Roland chose the

soup and I had a chicken salad which had so much chicken in it I was nearly full by the time I had finished. For our main course we chose the Chateaubriand which was served with rice and chips and was ... interesting. They seemed to have run out of Christmas Pudding and we were offered fruit salad which turned out to be a banana or a slice of papaya. And so ended Christmas Day.

Hotel

Moorland Chat

Cercomela sordida

Swainson's Sparrow

On the way

Passer swainsonii

Common Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Fan-tailed Raven

Corvus rhipidurus

Augur Buzzard

Buteo augur

Thekla Lark

Galerida theklæ

White-collared Pigeon

Columba albitorques

Lanner Falcon

Falco biarmicus

Wattled Ibis

Bostrychia carunculata

Baglafecht Weaver

Ploceus baglafecht

Blue Rock Thrush

Monticola solitarius

African Stonechat

Saxicola (torquatus) torquatus

Black-headed Siskin

Serinus nigriceps

Yellow Bishop

Euplectes capensis

River and area

Hemprich's Hornbill

Tockus hemprichii

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

Yellow-throated Seedeater

Serinus flavigula

Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Eastern Grey Plantain-eater

Crinifer zonurus

Rüppell's Weaver

Ploceus galbula

Brown Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

Shikra

Accipiter badius

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

Crimson-rumped Waxbill

Estrilda rhodopyga

Blue-breasted Bee-eater

Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii

Chestnut Weaver

Ploceus rubiginosus

African Silverbill

Euodice cantans

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

Common Bulbul

Pycnonotus barbatus

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus flavirostris

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

Turtur afer

Marico Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis

Jameson's Firefinch

Lagonosticta rhodopareia

Black-eared Wheatear

Oenanthe hispanica

Grassland Pipit

Anthus cinnamomeus

Brown-rumped Seedeater

Serinus tristriatus

Streaky Seedeater

Serinus striolatus

Tacazze Sunbird

Nectarinia tacazze

Ankober Serin

Carduelis ankoberensis

Rubbish Dump

Mountain Buzzard
Blue-winged Goose
Egyptian Goose
Groundscraper Thrush

Buteo oreophilus
Cyanochen cyanoptera
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Psophocichla litsitsirupa

Day Four: January 8th 2013

We got up early today so we could have a walk round the gardens after breakfast. We were allowed into the “new” garden which had been closed the previous evening. The only new Ghion bird we saw was **Ruppell’s Robin Chat** .

Abiy picked us up at 8 and off we went to a tyre place. Yes, another puncture. We sat in a café while he got it sorted and it was interesting sitting there watching the world go by. Such a variety of styles of clothing and hair, children in school uniform, shoe-shine boys, the lovely jacaranda trees. Then the long, slow drive out of Addis through Debre Zeit to Awash Lodge. We were on the main road to Kenya and there was lots of heavy traffic. Industry lay cheek by jowl with agriculture, donkeys, goats etc interspersed. We saw many huge industrial units including a Chinese one reputed to harbour over 240 smaller units within its compound. The Chinese have built the super main roads in Ethiopia. Just before we finally arrived at Debre Zeit we saw a massive group of camels (at least 100) and there were loads of garden centres lining the roadside. When we turned off to go to Lake Cheleka it was like going into a different world with ponies and traps, nicely laid out gardens, a farm shop and large areas devoted to market gardening and dairy processing. It was 19 degrees at the lake but felt much colder because of the breeze. We were immediately struck by the number of **Marabou Storks** – they seemed to be everywhere you looked. Fantastic! ☺ Love these birds. We spent an hour scanning the lake before moving round the other side to a couple of vantage points and then it was lunchtime. Off we went to Dreamland, a popular restaurant with tourists. It has a number of terraces leading down to Lake Bishoftu. The food there was delicious and we spotted a few new birds too. There was a lot of interest from the other diners in what we were doing with our scopes and bins so we explained and let them have a go - so maybe they will take more notice of birds now. Fully replete, we continued on our way through Madjo, a dry port just stopping to admire a **Dark Chanting Goshawk**. Ethiopia is a land-locked country and the construction of a dry port relieves the congestion at Djibouti. Next we passed through Adama (or Nazareth) a busy transportation centre on the Djibouti road with a steep hill leading down and the Victory Arch at the top. We were a bit startled to see a woman walking briskly down the road stark naked except for a beaded belt! We stopped for fuel and for Abiy to buy some Cds and a lorry-load of camels went past! Talk about surreal, especially as they were all kneeling down! Off we went again and it was difficult to stay awake – the countryside was not particularly interesting and there was so much traffic. We were passing through a volcanic area which is not good for farming though we did see the following on our way: **Hemprick’s Hornbill, Bristle-crowned Starling, Northern Carmine Bee-eater, Wattled Starling, Isabelline Wheatear, Namaqua Dove, Lannar Falcon, Augur Buzzard, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill x 11 ☺, Steppe Eagle, Olive Baboons** on the road, **Dark Chanting Goshawk, Tawny Eagle**. We stopped very briefly at Matahara for **White-backed Vulture, Pied Kingfisher, Red-billed Oxpecker** (on a donkey), and **White-headed Buffalo Weaver** before entering the Awash area. We saw a man in a land rover knock down a cow. He didn’t stop and fortunately the cow got up alright but we have no idea if it was actually OK. If you knock down and kill an animal you have to recompense the farmer. It can be very hard to avoid the vast numbers of cattle, donkeys and goats as they wander all over the place even on the main roads! None of the fields have fences or hedges. On the way to our accommodation we saw **Northern Wheatear, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Orix, Buff-crested Bustard, White-bellied Go-away Bird, European Turtle Dove, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Red-billed Hornbill Yellow-necked Spurfowl, Crested Francolin, Fork-tailed Drongo, Common Bulbul, and Somali Ostrich** (domesticated). We were

allocated a two-storey hut at Awash Falls. It was the one furthest away from the restaurant and the quietest! Downstairs we had a bathroom, a two-bedded bedroom and a large open area. Upstairs we had another bedroom and a balcony overlooking the river and from which we could also see the falls. It was lovely. How lucky are we? There was no power when we arrived but it soon came on. We wandered up to the two-storey eating area and had a wonderful meal. It was slow in arriving but worth waiting for and the injera was the best we had had so far. The coffee ceremony was interesting but the coffee you got to drink had been made earlier in the day.

Coffee Ceremony: a ritualised form of making and drinking coffee. First, the green coffee beans are roasted in a special pan over hot coals in a brazier. The preparer has to keep tossing/shaking them to stop them burning. They go darker in colour and start to pop when they are ready. They are then passed round for everyone to smell. Next, the beans are ground with a wooden mortar and pestle before being transferred to a special coffee pot called a jebena. This is usually made of clay and has a spherical base, a neck and pouring spout and a handle where the neck connects with the base. The jebena is put onto the heat to boil. A sort of stick kept in the top of the pot is used to test the coffee in the spout to see if it is boiling or not. When it is ready, it is placed at an angle on a special straw mat to settle. Ideally, when ready, the coffee should be poured from a height into the ready-waiting handleless cups without stopping so that the grounds stay at the bottom of the pot. It takes quite a while to do all this so you have to be patient! Incense is usually lit before the ceremony starts and while the coffee is coming to the boil, you are usually offered a snack such as popcorn. When you go past small traditional cafes, you often see a small table outside with a special tablecloth on it and a set of 12 or more cups ready for the ceremony.

Ghion

Rüppell's Robin-Chat

Cossypha semirufa

On the way to and at Lake Cheleke

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

Spur-winged Plover

Vanellus spinosus

African Citril

Serinus citrinelloides

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus ruber

Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Black Crowned Crane

Balearica pavonina

Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Sacred Ibis
Speckled Pigeon
African Quailfinch
White-winged Tern
Gull-billed Tern
Common Crane
Red-eyed Dove
Common Fiscal
Hamerkop
Southern Pochard
Hottentot Teal
Red-billed Duck
Squacco Heron
Yellow-billed Egret
Village Weaver
Black-winged Lovebird
Tawny-flanked Prinia
African Paradise-flycatcher
Barn Swallow
African Mourning Dove
African Spoonbill
Tufted Duck
Lesser Flamingo
Sand Martin
Red-knobbed Coot
Knob-billed Duck

Dreamland Hotel

Great Cormorant
Variable Sunbird
Western Marsh Harrier
Rüppell's Weaver
Scarce Swift
Abyssinian White-eye
Beautiful Sunbird
Laughing Dove
African Firefinch
Bronze Mannikin
Grey-headed Woodpecker
Speckled Mousebird
Mocking Cliff Chat
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
Brubru

On the way to Awash

Hemprich's Hornbill
Northern Carmine Bee-eater
Wattled Starling
Isabelline Wheatear
Namaqua Dove
Lanner Falcon
Augur Buzzard
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Threskiornis aethiopicus
Columba guinea
Ortygospiza fuscocrissa
Chlidonias leucopterus
Sterna nilotica
Grus grus
Streptopelia semitorquata
Lanius collaris
Scopus umbretta
Netta erythrophthalma
Anas hottentota
Anas erythrorhyncha
Ardeola ralloides
Egretta intermedia
Ploceus cucullatus
Agapornis taranta
Prinia subflava
Terpsiphone viridis
Hirundo rustica
Streptopelia decipiens
Platalea alba
Aythya fuligula
Phoeniconaias minor
Riparia riparia
Fulica cristata
Sarkidiornis melanotos

Phalacrocorax carbo
Cinnyris venustus
Circus aeruginosus
Ploceus galbula
Schoutedenapus myoptilus
Zosterops abyssinicus
Cinnyris pulchellus
Streptopelia senegalensis
Lagonosticta rubricata
Spermestes cucullata
Dendropicos spodocephalus
Colius striatus
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii
Nilaus afer

Tockus hemprichii
Merops nubicus
Creatophora cinerea
Oenanthe isabellina
Oena capensis
Falco biarmicus
Buteo augur
Bucorvus abyssinicus

Steppe Eagle
Dark Chanting Goshawk
Tawny Eagle
White-backed Vulture
Pied Kingfisher
Red-billed Oxpecker
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver

Awash National Park

Northern Wheatear
Abyssinian Scimitarbill
Northern White-faced Owl
Buff-crested Bustard
White-bellied Go-away Bird
European Turtle Dove
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Red-billed Hornbill
Yellow-necked Spurfowl
Crested Francolin
Fork-tailed Drongo
Common Bulbul

Aquila nipalensis
Melierax metabates
Aquila rapax
Gyps africanus
Ceryle rudis
Buphagus erythrorhynchus
Dinemellia dinemelli

Oenanthe oenanthe
Rhinopomastus minor
Ptilopsis leucotis
Lophotis gindiana
Corythaixoides leucogaster
Streptopelia turtur
Tockus flavirostris
Tockus erythrorhynchus
Pternistis leucoscepus
Dendroperdix sephaena
Dicrurus adsimilis
Pycnonotus barbatus

Day Five, January 9th, 2013

Bitten to death during the night!

Breakfast (ordered the night before) was at 6h30. I had French Toast whilst Roland had something Ethiopian and it was all washed down with rather bitter coffee before we set off to explore Awash further starting with the nearby camping sites. Just a grassy area by the river amongst the trees really. There are no facilities and whilst it has been claimed that lion have been seen there, it is hardly likely. There were lots of Grivet monkeys scampering about in the trees. Very entertaining. We watched a **Hammerkop** busy nest-building. And a strange nest it was too! Plastic and all sorts in it. From there we were to visit lots of different habitats: grassy plains, acacia thornbush, riparian forest, cliffs and gorges. We re-visited the campsite in the early evening and spent ages looking for an **African Scops Owl** in a tree. We saw it eventually but my neck hasn't been the same since!

Awash National Park

Yellow-billed Stork
Somali Bulbul
Red-billed Hornbill
Crested Francolin
Red-eyed Dove
Red-billed Firefinch
Black-billed Barbet
Red-billed Quelea
Marico Sunbird
Yellow-bellied Eremomela
Somali Bunting
Crimson-rumped Waxbill
White-throated Robin
Grey-headed Bush Shrike
Rüppell's Weaver
Laughing Dove
Namaqua Dove

Mycteria ibis
Pycnonotus barbatus somaliensis
Tockus erythrorhynchus
Dendroperdix sephaena
Streptopelia semitorquata
Lagonosticta senegala
Lybius guifsobalito
Quelea quelea
Cinnyris mariquensis
Eremomela icteropygialis
Emberiza poliopleura
Estrilda rhodopyga
Irania gutturalis
Malaconotus blanchoti
Ploceus galbula
Streptopelia senegalensis
Oena capensis

Rosy-patched Bush-shrike
Lesser Whitethroat
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
Purple Grenadier
Grey Wren-Warbler
Buff-crested Bustard
Gillett's Bushlark
Tree Pipit
Yellow-spotted Petronia
Cardinal Woodpecker
Speckled Mousebird
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver
Little Bee-eater
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
African Silverbill
Northern Wheatear
Isabelline Wheatear
Black-bellied Bustard
Southern Grey Shrike
Barn Swallow
Ashy Cisticola
Straw-tailed Whydah
Bateleur
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
Blue-naped Mousebird
Rufous Chatterer
Red-rumped Swallow
African Grey Hornbill
Grey Wagtail
Dark Chanting Goshawk
Black-crowned Tchagra
Greater Kestrel
Northern Crombec
Grey Heron
Egyptian Goose
Tawny Eagle
Fox Kestrel
Rock Martin
Speckled Pigeon
Eastern Paradise Whydah
Pin-tailed Whydah
Fork-tailed Drongo
Cut-throat Finch
Somali Fiscal
Abyssinian Roller
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark
Lilac-breasted Roller
Helmeted Guineafowl
Green-winged Pytilia
African Fish Eagle
White-crested Helmetshrike

Rhodophoneus cruentus
Sylvia curruca
Uraeginthus bengalus
Uraeginthus ianthinogaster
Calamonastes simplex
Lophotis gindiana
Mirafra gilletti
Anthus trivialis
Petronia pyrgita
Dendropicos fuscescens
Colius striatus
Dinemellia dinemelli
Merops pusillus
Bubalornis niger
Euodice cantans
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe isabellina
Lissotis melanogaster
Lanius meridionalis
Hirundo rustica
Cisticola cinereolus
Vidua fischeri
Terathopius ecaudatus
Plocepasser mahali
Urocolius macrourus
Turdoides rubiginosa
Cecropis daurica
Tockus nasutus
Motacilla cinerea
Melierax metabates
Tchagra senegalus
Falco rupicoloides
Sylvietta brachyura
Ardea cinerea
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Aquila rapax
Falco alopex
Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Columba guinea
Vidua paradisaea
Vidua macroura
Dicrurus adsimilis
Amadina fasciata
Lanius somalicus
Coracias abyssinicus
Eremopterix leucotis
Coracias caudatus
Numida meleagris
Pytilia melba
Haliaeetus vocifer
Prionops plumatus

Common Sandpiper
African Firefinch
African Mourning Dove
African Thrush
Bruce's Green Pigeon
Woodland Kingfisher
Rüppell's Starling
Pied Kingfisher
Senegal Thick-knee
African Scops Owl
Grey-backed Camaroptera
Slate-coloured Boubou
Eurasian Hoopoe
Isabelline Shrike
Ring-necked Dove

Actitis hypoleucos
Lagonosticta rubricata
Streptopelia decipiens
Turdus pelios
Treron waalia
Halcyon senegalensis
Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Ceryle rudis
Burhinus senegalensis
Otus senegalensis
Camaroptera brachyura
Laniarius funebris
Upupa epops
Lanius isabellinus
Streptopelia capicola

Day Six, January 10th, 2013

We went to the camp-site before breakfast to look for owls but it started raining somewhat heavily so we headed back for food stopping briefly just before the gate for **Orange-billed Parrot**. We saw **African Pied Wagtail** and **African Goshawk** whilst breakfasting and **Yellow-necked Spurfowl** and **Black-bellied Bustard** as we left. The skies were not looking best. Our first stop was in Awash Arba to sort out one of the tyres. Five minutes turned into 50 minutes and it absolutely peed it down! Don't know what Abiy was doing but we just sat in the van watching the rain and **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, **Speckled Pigeon** and **Hooded Vulture**! Anyway, once we were sorted we set off again and went about two miles before we had to stop for another puncture! Poor Abiy had to set to and change the tyre again though we did get to see **Wattled Starlings** whilst he was doing so! Then back we went to Awash and a tyre place with a café next door. Abiy left us there and said he wouldn't be long. Famous last words! So we settled down outside with our coffee which was very nice and watched a young girl cooking something over a brazier on the ground next to us while the world went by. Very pleasant and very interesting and then it started raining again. We weren't too bothered as it was right interesting sitting there and lots of people came over to say hello besides which the young girl had given us whatever it was she was cooking to taste. Yummy. She gave us the whole lot! So there we sat, having a munch and gradually moving our chairs further and further back in an attempt to stay out of the rain which was getting heavier and heavier. Someone appeared with a brolly to hold over us and the café area started to fill up with water so the young girl was hurriedly moving her cooking utensils etc out of the mud indoors and eventually we moved indoors too! I have never seen rain like it. It was amazing and the whole area outdoors was soon well-flooded! We were ok sitting inside though and then we noticed a young lady setting up a small table with a fancy tablecloth and cups and out came the coffee beans and before we knew it she was performing the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony for us!! Popcorn, incense, the lot!! What a treat – we couldn't believe our luck! When Abiy eventually reappeared and told us everything had been fixed he was really embarrassed and apologetic but we had had one of the best times of our lives! The sun started to come out as left the café and those lovely people behind but we had lost a lot of time and never got to our planned destination, Bilen Lodge. That's life.

Our next stop was at Ali Dege Wildlife Reserve where we picked up an armed scout. Not because of any real danger but because it is practice to do so and we set off for the Ali Dege and Illala Saha Plains after having scanned the wires outside the HQ which were full of **Sand Martins**, **Barn Swallows** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. The main road was very busy with army tanks on the move in the opposite direction and then we came to a halt because there had been an accident but Abiy was a man on a mission so he drove up the wrong side of the road and squeezed past the accident which

more-or-less blocked the road. We commented on the number of check points along this road. They are apparently necessary because of the amount of smuggling. We explored a few of the tracks off the road but didn't see much new except for an Unstriped Squirrel or two, **Pallid Harrier**, **Southern Grey Shrike**, **Somali Fiscal**. There were Dik Diks darting about and we stopped at one point to explore an abandoned house which had had three young barn owls in it. There were only two left though and one of those was dead. ☹ We went back to the road, squeezed round the accident again and went driving onto the plains past some Nomadic housing. We soon found our first **Arabian Bustard** and a hare. We also found **Grey-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Cut-throat Finch**, **Chestnut-headed Sparrow-lark**, **Red-billed Quail**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Greater kestrel**, **Ashy Cisticola**, **Somali Ostrich** (a long way away), four jackal, three more **Arabian Bustard**, 5 Gazelle, Warthogs, **Egyptian Vulture** c10, **Abyssinian Roller**, **Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** c 100, Oryx and **Pallid harrier**. At this point Abiy decided we should turn round because it looked as though it was going to chuck it down again and he didn't want to get stuck in the sandy tracks. Time was getting on anyway. Driving back we saw **Black-headed Plover**, **Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark**, **Woodchat shrike**, **Common Kestrel** and a flock of **Speckled Pigeon**. We stopped at the rubbish dump and found **Yellow-breasted Barbet**, 2 **European Hoopoe**, and **Greater Blue-eared Starling**. Time to drop our very pleasant scout off and head for home though not having had lunch we stopped for coffee on the way back. There were some young boys selling samosas in the street so we bought some and they were so good we bought some more! We saw **Von der Deckens Hornbill** in Awash NP, had another yummy tea and went back out with a scout for Nightjar. The tracks were really bad because of the rain and we saw lots of Wheatear criss-crossing our path, three **Nightjars** flying, mice, grass worms, a frog, an **African Scops Owl** and two **Steppe Eagles** on a partly-built nest on an electricity pylon. The ground was very wet and slippy slidy plus it was pitch black! Great fun.

Awash N.P.

African Pied Wagtail

African Goshawk

African Orange-bellied Parrot

Yellow-necked Spurfowl

Black-bellied Bustard

Motacilla aguimp

Accipiter tachiro

Poicephalus rufiventris

Pternistis leucoscepus

Lissotis melanogaster

On the way

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Speckled Pigeon

Hooded Vulture

Wattled Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Columba guinea

Necrosyrtes monachus

Creatophora cinerea

Ali Dege Wildlife Resort

Sand Martin

Barn Swallow

Red-rumped Swallow

Pallid Harrier

Southern Grey Shrike

Somali Fiscal

Barn Owl

Arabian Bustard

Cut-throat Finch

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark

Red-billed Quelea

Black-shouldered Kite

Western Marsh Harrier

Greater Kestrel

Ashy Cisticola

Somali Ostrich

Riparia riparia

Hirundo rustica

Cecropis daurica

Circus macrourus

Lanius meridionalis

Lanius somalicus

Tyto alba

Ardeotis arabs

Amadina fasciata

Eremopterix signatus

Quelea quelea

Elanus caeruleus

Circus aeruginosus

Falco rupicoloides

Cisticola cinereolus

Struthio molybdophanes

Egyptian Vulture
Abyssinian Roller
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse
Black-headed Plover
Crowned Plover
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark
Woodchat Shrike
Common Kestrel
Yellow-breasted Barbet
Eurasian Hoopoe

Awash N.P.

Von der Decken's Hornbill
African Scops Owl
Steppe Eagle

Neophron percnopterus
Coracias abyssinicus
Pterocles exustus
Vanellus tectus
Vanellus coronatus
Eremopterix leucotis
Lanius senator
Falco tinnunculus
Trachyphonus margaritatus
Upupa epops

Tockus deckeni
Otus senegalensis
Aquila nipalensis

Day Seven, January 11th, 2013

A cloudy start with a cool breeze. The Falls were a horrid brown colour because of all the rain. I had a close encounter with a baboon at breakfast: he wanted some toast and I was in his way! Some folks have no manners at all.

After breakfast we collected our scout again and went off to the camp-site then across the road heading towards the hot springs. We were happy to miss out the hot springs and concentrate on birding. There were an awful lot of tribesmen and women trespassing with their herds of goat/cattle and our scout had to tell them to do one which they were very reluctant to do! Some, if not all of them, would have walked up to 15kms or more to bring their animals to graze. It is a huge problem in the National Parks. We had a couple of good walks, picked up some good stuff then moved on to Metahara where the rain had had a devastating effect flooding shops and houses. People were digging ditches to drain the water away and areas that had been green grass the day before were now mini lakes!

There is a huge sugar factory in Metahara and some of the sugar produced there from the locally grown sugar cane is exported to Europe as well as the Far East and the Middle East. There are also some camel exporters! Our target, however, was Lake Beseka and we stopped at a good spot near a group of trees where a **Village Weaver** was busy constructing its nest. Fascinating. Much of the causeway was well under water and it was a weird experience being almost totally surrounded by water. They are building a new road on the other side of the lake because of the flooding problem and also a railway line parallel to the causeway which is destined to lead from Addis to Djibouti. After a while we moved up the road and went for a walk on the stark, black lava looking for **Black Redstart** and **Sombre Rock Chat** both of which we found along with **Shining Sunbird**. We have some rather amusing photos of me walking hand-in-hand with our armed scout as he helped me across the lava. We had lunch in Mettahara. Fasting injara which was very good and coffee of course. We bought a huge bag of mangoes for 45birr (about £1.50) before leaving and saw **Abdins Stork** on the outskirts. Back at Awash we had an hour or so to ourselves so I sat and wrote up my diary while Roland explored the falls and Abiy washed the car. When Roland returned we went to look at the view together and when we went back to where I had been sitting, a monkey had found the mangoes and was busy helping himself! We went out again at about 4 with our scout and saw some Gazelle as well as the following birds: **Kori's Bustard** x 2, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Pallid Harrier**, **Arabian Bustard**, **Barn Swallow**, **Singing Bush Lark**, **Ashy Cisticola**, **White-bellied Bustard** m+f, **Crowned Plover** and **Hartlaub's Bustard** x2. The evening run was very disappointing especially as conditions were so much better than the previous night. Abiy discovered his grass worms were in actual fact spiders (we could see their eyes in the headlights) and we sort of saw **Harlequin Quail** but no nightjars. Oryx and Jackal were also seen.

Awash N.P. part one

African Harrier-Hawk
White-browed Coucal
African Mourning Dove
Red-eyed Dove
Woodland Kingfisher
Eastern Grey Plantain-eater
Tawny Eagle
African Palm Swift
Nubian Woodpecker
White-rumped Babbler
Ethiopian Boubou
White-bellied Go-away Bird
Hamerkop
Striated Heron
Yellow-billed Stork
White-backed Vulture
Spur-winged Plover
Pied Kingfisher
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Black Kite

Awash N.P. part two

Buff-crested Bustard
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Eastern Chanting Goshawk
Grey-headed Batis
Gillett's Bushlark
Foxy Lark
African Grey Flycatcher
White-bellied Canary
Helmeted Guineafowl
Cardinal Woodpecker
Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit
White-bellied Go-away Bird
White-headed Buffalo-Weaver
Somali Bunting
Green-winged Pytilia
Purple Grenadier
Straw-tailed Whydah

Lake Beseka

Village Weaver
Grey Heron
Yellow-billed Kite
Black Kite
Marabou Stork
Little Egret
Squacco Heron
Yellow-billed Stork
Purple Heron
Great Egret
Pink-backed Pelican

Polyboroides typus
Centropus superciliosus
Streptopelia decipiens
Streptopelia semitorquata
Halcyon senegalensis
Crinifer zonurus
Aquila rapax
Cypsiurus parvus
Campethera nubica
Turdoides leucopygia
Laniarius aethiopicus
Corythaixoides leucogaster
Scopus umbretta
Butorides striata
Mycteria ibis
Gyps africanus
Vanellus spinosus
Ceryle rudis
Tockus flavirostris
Milvus migrans

Lophotis gindiana
Bubalornis niger
Melierax poliopterus
Batis orientalis
Miraфра gilletti
Miraфра alopex
Melaenornis microrhynchus
Serinus dorsostriatus
Numida meleagris
Dendropicos fuscescens
Anthoscopus musculus
Corythaixoides leucogaster
Dinemellia dinemelli
Emberiza poliopleura
Pytilia melba
Uraeginthus ianthinogaster
Vidua fischeri

Ploceus cucullatus
Ardea cinerea
Milvus (migrans) aegyptius
Milvus migrans
Leptoptilos crumeniferus
Egretta garzetta
Ardeola ralloides
Mycteria ibis
Ardea purpurea
Egretta alba
Pelecanus rufescens

Great Cormorant
African Darter
Spur-winged Plover
Striated Heron
Egyptian Goose
Gull-billed Tern
Green Sandpiper
Black-winged Stilt
Great White Pelican
Wood Sandpiper
Little Ringed Plover
Sombre Rock Chat
Shining Sunbird
Black Redstart
Abdim's Stork

Awash N.P. part three

Von der Decken's Hornbill
Kori Bustard
Eurasian Hoopoe
Pallid Harrier
Eastern Paradise Whydah
Arabian Bustard
Barn Swallow
Singing Bushlark
Ashy Cisticola
White-bellied Bustard
Crowned Plover
Hartlaub's Bustard
Harlequin Quail

Phalacrocorax carbo
Anhinga rufa
Vanellus spinosus
Butorides striata
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Sterna nilotica
Tringa ochropus
Himantopus himantopus
Pelecanus onocrotalus
Tringa glareola
Charadrius dubius
Cercomela dubia
Cinnyris habessinicus
Phoenicurus ochruros
Ciconia abdimii

Tockus deckeni
Ardeotis kori
Upupa epops
Circus macrourus
Vidua paradisaea
Ardeotis arabs
Hirundo rustica
Mirafraga cantillans
Cisticola cinereolus
Eupodotis senegalensis
Vanellus coronatus
Lissotis hartlaubii
Coturnix delegorguei

Day Eight, January 12th, 2013

Cloudy with a cool breeze again. It had rained during the night.

Breakfast was followed by a quick trip to the campsite where we had absolutely fantastic views of an **African Scops Owl** sitting low down in a tree. We chased about after a **Nightingale** but gave up after a while. The little so-and-so was well-hidden though Abiy said he caught a glimpse of it. Sometimes life's just too short! On our way through the park we stopped for four **European Turtle Doves** and admired **White-browed Sparrow Weavers**. Our next stop was the lake again. There was even more flooding. New species seen there were **Common Sandpiper**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Ruff**, **Steppe Eagle** and **Saddle-billed Stork**. Magnificent! We carried on then to Nazreth where Abiy got fuel and we went to the coffee shop for buna and cake then a wonderful macchiato each. The total cost of 5 coffees and 2 big slices of cake was 48birr! I wanted to take a photo of the Victory Arch as we approached it but it is apparently not allowed. Shame because it was very impressive and you can't buy post cards. There were loads of water melon stalls between Nazreth and Modjo. All different kinds too. I would have loved to have bought a few. We learnt about the different kinds of buses we had been seeing. Apparently level 3 is most likely to have a puncture, level 2 is less likely to have a puncture and level 1 is least likely to have a puncture. I think we were in a Level 3 vehicle! We saw a huge tree branch fastened onto the back of lorry- it was to stop children jumping onto the back! We passed lots of huge flower tunnels – flowers being grown for export. Big business in Ethiopia. Eventually we pulled up outside the Tommy International Hotel in Debre Zeit/Bishftu where we were to have lunch. First though, Abiy had something very important to sort out, namely getting two brand new tyres onto

our car. He had been very, very angry and embarrassed about the continuing problems with punctures and rubbish tyres and had spent hours on the phone to the chap who had rented him the vehicle trying to persuade him to accept responsibility and do something about it. Finally, his efforts had paid off and a man was waiting for us with the afore-mentioned tyres and from this day onwards we had no further problems. Well done, Abiy for sticking to your guns and getting it sorted. We ordered fruit juice at lunch. I chose avocado and it was pureed avocado! Not really drinkable but good! It was getting warmer – I took a layer off! We were about to leave when we spotted a wedding party – red and white theme and western style clothing. Lovely bride. The afternoon got warmer (another layer off) and we saw lots of agriculture including a strawberry farm, then absolutely massive flower tunnels each one kilometre long, a vineyard and market gardening. We had two brief stops for **Black-winged Lovebirds** and **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**. Stunning birds! Then we turned off for Lake Ziway. The dual carriageway track leading down to the lake was thronged with ponies/donkeys and traps and people enjoying the Sunday afternoon sunshine. We had an enjoyable hour or so watching the relatively tame birds – it was wonderful to get so close to the marabou and pelicans in particular. It was possible to go out on the lake in a boat but we didn't have time for that though we did manage a quick coffee and toilet break at the rather nice local hotel with a nice Christmas tree before setting off again.

We arrived at Lake Langano just before sunset. We were booked into the Savanna Beach Hotel whilst Abiy was staying at Langano Lodge. We had a very nice bungalow with a wonderful shower and a patio which we didn't get the chance to use. The restaurant was very nicely laid out but the food was disappointing. I had pork chops which were tough as old boots and Roland's injera thing was short on fish. We bought a small coffee pot with accessories in the souvenir shop for 40birr – absolute bargain.

Day List

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>African Scops Owl</i> | <i>Otus senegalensis</i> |
| <i>European Turtle Dove</i> | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> |
| <i>White-browed Sparrow-Weaver</i> | <i>Plocepasser mahali</i> |
| <i>Common Sandpiper</i> | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> |
| <i>Yellow Wagtail</i> | <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| <i>Ruff</i> | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> |
| <i>Steppe Eagle</i> | <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> |
| <i>Saddle-bill Stork</i> | <i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i> |
| <i>Black-winged Lovebird</i> | <i>Agapornis taranta</i> |
| <i>Northern Carmine Bee-eater</i> | <i>Merops nubicus</i> |
| <i>Black Heron</i> | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> |
| <i>Yellow-billed Stork</i> | <i>Mycteria ibis</i> |
| <i>Great White Pelican</i> | <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> |
| <i>Hamerkop</i> | <i>Scopus umbretta</i> |
| <i>Pink-backed Pelican</i> | <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i> |
| <i>Pied Kingfisher</i> | <i>Ceryle rudis</i> |
| <i>Malachite Kingfisher</i> | <i>Alcedo cristata</i> |
| <i>Senegal Thick-knee</i> | <i>Burhinus senegalensis</i> |
| <i>Spur-winged Goose</i> | <i>Plectropterus gambensis</i> |
| <i>Little Grebe</i> | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| <i>White-winged Tern</i> | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> |
| <i>African Spoonbill</i> | <i>Platalea alba</i> |
| <i>Marsh Sandpiper</i> | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> |
| <i>Spur-winged Plover</i> | <i>Vanellus spinosus</i> |
| <i>African Fish Eagle</i> | <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i> |
| <i>Black-winged Stilt</i> | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> |
| <i>Great Egret</i> | <i>Egretta alba</i> |

Barn Swallow
Squacco Heron
Northern Shoveler
Pied Avocet
Cattle Egret
Black Crowned Crane
African Pygmy-goose
Sacred Ibis
African Jacana
Black Crake
Glossy Ibis
Common Moorhen
Three-banded Plover
Wood Sandpiper
African Rail
Sedge Warbler
African Darter
Black-headed Gull
Long-tailed Cormorant
African Mourning Dove
Speckled Pigeon
Common Bulbul

Hirundo rustica
Ardeola ralloides
Anas clypeata
Recurvirostra avosetta
Bubulcus ibis
Balearica pavonina
Nettapus auritus
Threskiornis aethiopicus
Actophilornis africanus
Amaurornis flavirostra
Plegadis falcinellus
Gallinula chloropus
Charadrius tricollaris
Tringa glareola
Rallus caerulescens
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Anhinga rufa
Larus ridibundus
Phalacrocorax africanus
Streptopelia decipiens
Columba guinea
Pycnonotus barbatulus

Day Nine, January 13th 2013

Up bright and early for a quick bobble round the beautiful grounds and we were able to view the lake and beach properly. There were all sorts of birds bobbing about in the grounds and especially down by the ornamental stream then a man came and threw seed out for them near the entrance to the restaurant. Lots of starlings, serins and even a hornbill! Fabulous! Breakfast was **brilliant** and the marmalade was the best I have ever had! We had another short walk with Abiy afterwards and picked up two new species: **Chestnut Sparrow** and **Reichenov's Seed-eater**. However, we didn't have time to spare and were soon on our way to Langano Lodge for a quick reccy. It looked a bit rough compared to where we had been staying but I'm sure we could have put up with it for one night. We managed to pick up the following : **Greyish Eagle owl x2, Black-winged Lovebird, Common Rock Thrush, Northern Black Flycatcher, Common Redstart, Beautiful Sunbird, Go-away Bird, Mourning Dove, Ruppell's Starling, Splendid Starling, Slender-tailed Nightjar, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Cormorant, White-winged Black Tern, Fantail Raven**. Abiy also acquired a praying Mantis which hitched a lift on his scope! ☺

Next stop was the Abiata-Shalla National Park where we picked up an unarmed Ranger. We saw a Somali Ostrich and a Red-necked one but they were not wild. We headed off towards Lake Shalla stopping here and there to scan for birds, admire the view and buy a souvenir for 60 birr. A hand-carved traditional Ethiopian House. We added: **Von der Dekker's Hornbill, Crowned Plover, Black-billed Wood-hoopoe, European Hoopoe, Spotted Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Roller, Lesser Whitethroat, Superb Starling, Yellow-billed Eromonela, White-winged Black Tit, Black-headed Batis, Mocking Cliff Chat, Cardinal Woodpecker, Yellow Wagtail, Brubru, Abyssinian Black Wheatear, Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo**, flocks of **Little Grebe, Northern Wheatear, Northern White-crowned Shrike**, and **Sand Martin**. The Hot Springs were very busy with lots of people bathing, doing their washing or just chilling out. Sometimes they cook their lunch (eggs or maize for example) in the actual springs! Some of them are literally boiling hot and some are mud so you have to be careful how you go. No Health and Safety rules there !

When we got to Lake Abiata, Abiy commented on how much it had shrunk and said it was because of a factory extracting soda ash. However, the lake is also under huge pressure from a variety of threats including the establishment of settlements, siltation as a result of deforestation, degradation of watersheds and agricultural activities, overgrazing by livestock, unsustainable fishing, extraction of mineral salts as well as the commercial extraction of sand for construction. Thirty years ago Lake Shalla had a breeding population of up to 12,000 White Pelicans which fed on Lake Abiata but it is now shallower, there is a decreased inflow from Lake Zwai, the fish population has declined and there may be a chemical imbalance because of the soda ash project. Lake Zwei which feeds Lake Abiata is diminishing at an alarming rate because water is being diverted to provide irrigation for small and large scale farming, horticulture and floriculture. Threats to nearby Lake Langanu include sand extraction, overfishing and clearance of woodland. Sad. The landscape was certainly stark and you could actually see how the lake had shrunk. There were a lot of flamingos further out but apparently they too have been affected by the changing fortunes of the lakes. Other new birds for the day were **Common Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Northern Shoveler, Pied Avocet, Cape Teal, Kittlitz's Plover** and **Ruff**. We saw **Black Scimitar Bill, Lilac Roller, Warthogs** and **Grants Gazelle** before leaving the Park and **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill** just before we embarked on the "road" to Bishingari. We had been warned about this 20km stretch which was indeed a little rough in places but I think we have encountered worse in The Gambia! Maybe ☺. When we arrived at the Lodge, we had to leave our car at the entrance and walk to reception then to our hut. After lunch (set meal European style ☺) we had a bit of a break. Roland went for a nod whilst I sat outside catching up on my notes. It was wonderful. Perfect peace except for the birds and the warthogs scuffling about in the undergrowth to my left. Later we went for a walk through the grounds, into the green field at the back (never seen as many wagtails in one place) then round to the lake shore. The water looked very brown and the moon surface-like rock formations (white/grey pumice) were absolutely amazing. In fact the whole area was amazing with its changing aspects and habitat and we loved the Colobus monkeys with their wonderful tails! We were intrigued by the big holes we kept seeing which were Aardvark holes! Unfortunately for us they don't come out until about 11.00pm which is way past our bed-time! The sun-set was lovely and when we returned to our hut, we disturbed a group of baboons who had been sitting on our chairs! Ooops! Never thought to bring the cushions in. They were a bit mucky....

We saw Abyssinian Ground Hornbill down by the lake while we were having lunch then augmented our Bishingari list with

Hotel

Chestnut Sparrow

Reichenow's Seedeater

Splendid Starling

Langano Lodge

Greyish Eagle-Owl

Black-winged Lovebird

Common Rock Thrush

Northern Black Flycatcher

Common Redstart

Beautiful Sunbird

White-bellied Go-away Bird

African Mourning Dove

Rüppell's Starling

Splendid Starling

Slender-tailed Nightjar

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Great Cormorant

White-winged Tern

Passer eminibey

Serinus reichenowi

Lamprotornis splendidus

Bubo cinerascens

Agapornis taranta

Monticola saxatilis

Melaenornis edolioides

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Cinnyris pulchellus

Corythaixoides leucogaster

Streptopelia decipiens

Lamprotornis purpuroptera

Lamprotornis splendidus

Caprimulgus clarus

Larus fuscus

Phalacrocorax carbo

Chlidonias leucopterus

Fan-tailed Raven

Abiata-Shalla National Park

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Crowned Plover

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe

Eurasian Hoopoe

Spotted Flycatcher

Rufous-crowned Roller

Lesser Whitethroat

Superb Starling

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

White-winged Black Tit

Black-headed Batis

Mocking Cliff Chat

Cardinal Woodpecker

Yellow Wagtail

Brubru

Abyssinian Black Wheatear

Greater Flamingo

Lesser Flamingo

Little Grebe

Northern Wheatear

Common Ringed Plover

Little Stint

Northern Shoveler

Pied Avocet

Cape Teal

Kittlitz's Plover

Ruff

Black Scimitarbill

Lilac-breasted Roller

Black-cheeked Waxbill

Red-faced Crombec

Bearded Woodpecker

Black Saw-wing

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Northern White-crowned Shrike

Sand Martin

Bishingari

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Cape Rook

White-rumped Babbler

Grey-backed Fiscal

Blue-spotted Wood Dove

Red-winged Starling

Ethiopian Boubou

Masked Shrike

Grey Heron

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

White Wagtail

Yellow Wagtail

Corvus rhipidurus

Tockus deckeni

Vanellus coronatus

Phoeniculus somaliensis

Upupa epops

Muscicapa striata

Coracias naevius

Sylvia curruca

Lamprotornis superbus

Eremomela icteropygialis

Parus leucomelas

Batis minor

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

Dendropicos fuscescens

Motacilla flava

Nilaus afer

Oenanthe lugubris

Phoenicopterus ruber

Phoeniconaias minor

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Oenanthe oenanthe

Charadrius hiaticula

Calidris minuta

Anas clypeata

Recurvirostra avosetta

Anas capensis

Charadrius pecuarius

Philomachus pugnax

Rhinopomastus aterrimus

Coracias caudatus

Estrilda chamosyna

Sylvietta whytii

Dendropicos namaquus

Psalidoprocne pristoptera

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Eurocephalus rueppelli

Riparia riparia

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Corvus capensis

Turdoides leucopygia

Lanius excubitoroides

Turtur afer

Onychognathus morio

Laniarius aethiopicus

Lanius nubicus

Ardea cinerea

Merops nubicus

Motacilla alba

Motacilla flava

Glossy Ibis
Kittlitz's Plover
Common Ringed Plover
Marsh Sandpiper
Malachite Kingfisher
Black-tailed Godwit
Red-knobbed Coot
Whiskered Tern
Isabelline Wheatear
Wood Sandpiper
Common Snipe
Senegal Thick-knee
Lesser Swamp Warbler
Little Grebe
Black-headed Heron
Grey-headed Bush Shrike

Plegadis falcinellus
Charadrius pecuarius
Charadrius hiaticula
Tringa stagnatilis
Alcedo cristata
Limosa limosa
Fulica cristata
Chlidonias hybrida
Oenanthe isabellina
Tringa glareola
Gallinago gallinago
Burhinus senegalensis
Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Ardea melanocephala
Malaconotus blanchoti

Day Ten, Tuesday January 14th 2013

A noisy awakening but one we loved: monkeys and birds. You can't beat it! According to our clock it was 17.5 degrees but it felt more like 7.5! We had an early short walk followed by breakfast (lots of choice) and then a four-mile walk. We enjoyed every single minute from the kids walking to school, to the donkeys and cattle, the birds, the unusually deciduous woods, the Gambian Squirrels ... It got warm but not too warm and we ended up with a terrific list. We were fascinated by the traditional bee-hives. Bee-keeping is an important economic activity in Ethiopia and there are more colonies there than in any other African country. The traditional hives are crafted by creating a tube shaped structure using branches, straw, cow dung and clay. They are typically 30—40 cms across and one metre long. Sometimes they are carved from a soft log such as from a cactus tree. The hives are hung in trees to catch swarms amongst the branches and have to be lowered to the ground when the honey is harvested at night. Sometimes the hives are placed inside honey houses – small structures on the ground but we didn't see any of those. We heard plenty of bees though!

After lunch we went down to the cove. There was a bit of a breeze getting up and it was very pleasant sitting there watching the lake and the birds. By the time we went out for our walk later on the wind was quite strong and we saw very little.

Day's List

Yellow-fronted Parrot
White-rumped Babbler
Crested Francolin
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill
Montane White-eye
Striated Heron
Klaas's Cuckoo
Green-backed Twinspot
Brown-throated Wattle-eye
Grey-backed Camaroptera
Lemon Dove
Northern Puffback
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
Yellow Wagtail
Common Redstart

Poicephalus flavifrons
Turdoides leucopygia
Dendroperdix sephaena
Bycanistes brevis
Zosterops poliogastrus
Butorides striata
Chrysococcyx klaas
Mandingoa nitidula
Platysteira cyanea
Camaroptera brachyura
Aplopelia larvata
Dryoscopus gambensis
Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii
Motacilla flava
Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Crowned Plover
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike
African Citril
Spectacled Weaver
Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike
Beautiful Sunbird
Blackcap
Northern Black Flycatcher
Double-toothed Barbet
Greater Honeyguide
Black-winged Lovebird
Grey-backed Fiscal
Lesser Honeyguide
Swainson's Sparrow
African Olive Pigeon
Nubian Woodpecker
Yellow-spotted Petronia
Banded Barbet
Red-capped Robin-Chat
African Paradise-flycatcher
African Dusky Flycatcher
White-cheeked Turaco
Black Saw-wing
Abyssinian Oriole
Mountain Thrush
Common Chiffchaff
Red-billed Firefinch
Narina Trogon
Grey Wagtail
Kittlitz's Plover
Little Egret
Hottentot Teal
Common Ringed Plover
Cattle Egret
Pied Avocet
Ruff
Scaly Francolin
Tambourine Dove
Red-headed Weaver
Woodland Kingfisher
Speckled Mousebird
Bare-faced Go-away Bird
African Harrier-Hawk
Rattling Cisticola
Tree Pipit
Abyssinian Ground Thrush
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
Buff-bellied Warbler
Common Greenshank
African Fish Eagle

Vanellus coronatus
Campephaga phoenicea
Serinus citrinelloides
Ploceus ocularis
Telophorus sulfureopectus
Cinnyris pulchellus
Sylvia atricapilla
Melaenornis edoloides
Lybius bidentatus
Indicator indicator
Agapornis taranta
Lanius excubitoroides
Indicator minor
Passer swainsonii
Columba arquatrix
Campethera nubica
Petronia pyrgita
Lybius undatus
Cossypha natalensis
Terpsiphone viridis
Muscicapa adusta
Tauraco leucotis
Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Oriolus monacha
Turdus (olivaceus) abyssinicus
Phylloscopus collybita
Lagonosticta senegala
Apaloderma narina
Motacilla cinerea
Charadrius pecuarius
Egretta garzetta
Anas hottentota
Charadrius hiaticula
Bubulcus ibis
Recurvirostra avosetta
Philomachus pugnax
Pternistis squamatus
Turtur tympanistria
Anaplectes rubriceps
Halcyon senegalensis
Colius striatus
Corythaixoides personatus
Polyboroides typus
Cisticola chiniana
Anthus trivialis
Zoothera piaggiae
Uraeginthus bengalus
Phyllolais pulchella
Tringa nebularia
Haliaeetus vocifer

Day Eleven, January 15th 2013

We had **Scaly Francolin** outside our bungalow this morning. We had a last walk round the grounds and listed: **Scaly Francolin, Blue-headed Coucal, Black-headed Batis, Baglafaecht Weaver, Willow Warbler, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Lesser Whitethroat, Red-faced Crombec, Little Weaver, Lesser Honeyguide, Rüppell's Weaver, Ring-necked Dove, Greater Blue-eared Starling, Eurasian Hoopoe, Red-billed Hornbill, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Violet-backed Starling, Shikra, Gabar Goshawk, Grey Wagtail, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Banded Barbet, Double-toothed Barbet, Black-and-white Mannikin, African Goshawk, Red-billed Oxpecker, Clapperton's Francolin.**

Time to hand in our key and peruse the souvenirs – I was quite taken with the wooden pens at reception until we noticed they were empty!

It was with a heavy heart that I left Bishingari – I absolutely loved this place. Our bungalow was great. I know it wouldn't have suited everyone but it was large and had everything we needed: solar powered lighting and solar-heated water, a flushing toilet, a patio with chairs, hammock/sun loungers and wonderful neighbours! The scenery was stunning and it was just so peaceful and relaxing. Of course, my pleasure was heightened by the lack of human company – we were the only people staying there – it was like paradise to me.

It was unfortunate that the drivers' village was not as good or as well maintained as ours – very basic. Abiy had no electricity and the separate showers didn't have hot water.

So off we set off for Waba Shabelle complete with passenger who wanted to go to the next town. It was a long way and to get back she would have to catch two buses then walk the last 10kms. We saw **Clapperton's Rail** on the way to the main road. It was a long drive to our next hotel but we passed through some lovely countryside and interesting looking towns/villages passing many table football machines and ping-pong tables which were in full use. It was market day and the roads were packed with people going to and fro with their horse/donkey-led flat-beds/traps and standing-up boy drivers. We saw only two lots of oxen pulling carts. We passed through Shashemene again, a Jamaican /Rastafarian village which was built on land donated to them and the Rastafarian movement by Haile Selassie. When he was deposed in 1974 the new Government confiscated all but 11 hectares but there are only a few hundred Jamaicans living there now. The town is built on the main trading route between Addis and Nairobi, in Kenya. There was a lot of Enset being grown in this area along with barley and wheat. Enset has giant leafy fronds and looks a bit like a banana plant. It is often grown in famine-prone areas as an insurance against food shortage. It is usually harvested by women who pulp the central bowl or root into mush which is then wrapped in its own leaves and buried in the ground for upwards of six months during which time the pulp ferments. Enset is high in starch and is used to make bread or porridge. The pulp can last for several years and be called upon as a source of carbohydrate when other food is scarce. On leaving Shashemene the road climbs steeply out of the Rift Valley and the countryside became more rolling with lots of trees and grassland reaching a height of 2,400m at Kofele. We stopped by a stream where we saw **Moorland Chat, Groundscraper Thrush, Plain Martin, Baglafaecht Weaver, Blue-winged Goose, Sacred ibis, Grey Wagtail, Red-throated pipit.** At Dodola we stopped for lunch at the Bale Mountain Hotel. We had fasting food. It wasn't wonderful. When I wanted to use the toilet, they brought me the key to one of the hotel rooms. I'm pretty glad we weren't staying there! We saw **Dusky Turtle Dove, Wahlberg's Eagle** as we ate then **Thick-billed Raven** and **Tawny Eagle** as we continued on our way. The road continued to climb through impressively wooded hills and spectacular scenery their beauty marred by the marching line of pylons and ugly communications towers and at Sebsibe Wessa, we saw an ox cart that had sleds rather than wheels. Never seen that before! Also our first terraced houses – not quite like ours! And Abiy stopped to buy roasted barley before we reached an eventual height of 3,600 metres. Abiy said this was the highest road in Ethiopia. Again, it had been built by the Chinese and it was excellent. On the way down we stopped at a bit of a wild spot to look for Cape Eagle Owl and were immediately surrounded by snotty-nosed boys who turned out to be our guides. We had wonderful views of the owl thanks to them and they were very good at helping

me along. We also saw Rock Hyrax and **Common Waxbill**. Our next stop was at a pool where there were **Yellow-billed Duck, Little Grebe, Green Sandpiper, Sacred ibis, Egyptian Goose, Spot-breasted Plover, Blue-winged Goose, Cape Crow**. Wild animals we saw along our route included Warthog, Mountain Nyala and Bohor Reedbuck then we arrived at Dinsho Village and the National Park Headquarters where the owl man was waiting for us. A steep uphill track led us to the **Abyssinian Long-eared Owl**: mum, dad and baby! Happy, happy. There were Nyalla close by too and we stopped to look at the Giant St.John's Wort, the National Tree and used for stomach upsets. I didn't find them particularly attractive though. We also got to see an **African Wood Owl** but the party viewing it didn't look too happy when our owl man pulled me right to the front and made sure I got a really good look. He was a very nice man!

Next stop, the hotel. The Wabe Shebelle at Goba. It was built by the Russians some years ago and was OK. A bit tired looking. Leaking toilet and free condoms! That was a first! Incidentally the price on the condom packet was 1birrh for 3! There wasn't much choice of food (veal, veal or veal) and it was more Western style but it was ok. The televisions in the lounge and reception areas were really loud but they did turn them down for us.

Bishingari

Scaly Francolin

Blue-headed Coucal

Black-headed Batis

Baglafaecht Weaver

Willow Warbler

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Lesser Whitethroat

Red-faced Crombec

Little Weaver

Lesser Honeyguide

Rüppell's Weaver

Ring-necked Dove

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Eurasian Hoopoe

Red-billed Hornbill

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Violet-backed Starling

Shikra

Gabar Goshawk

Grey Wagtail

Bruce's Green Pigeon

Banded Barbet

Double-toothed Barbet

Black-and-white Mannikin

African Goshawk

Red-billed Oxpecker

Clapperton's Francolin

Bishingari-Wabe Shabelle

Moorland Chat

Groundscraper Thrush

Plain Martin

Baglafaecht Weaver

Grey Wagtail

Red-throated Pipit

Black-winged Plover

Pternistis squamatus

Centropus monachus

Batis minor

Ploceus baglafaecht

Phylloscopus trochilus

Pogoniulus pusillus

Sylvia curruca

Sylvietta whytii

Ploceus luteolus

Indicator minor

Ploceus galbula

Streptopelia capicola

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Upupa epops

Tockus erythrorhynchus

Chalcomitra senegalensis

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

Accipiter badius

Micronisus gabar

Motacilla cinerea

Treron waalia

Lybius undatus

Lybius bidentatus

Spermestes bicolor

Accipiter tachiro

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

Pternistis clappertoni

Cercomela sordida

Psophocichla litsitsirupa

Riparia paludicola

Ploceus baglafaecht

Motacilla cinerea

Anthus cervinus

Vanellus melanopterus

Abyssinian White-eye
Lesser Kestrel
Dusky Turtle Dove
Wahlberg's Eagle
Thick-billed Raven
Tawny Eagle
Common Waxbill
Cape Eagle-Owl
Yellow-billed Duck
Little Grebe
Green Sandpiper
Sacred Ibis
Egyptian Goose
Spot-breasted Plover
Blue-winged Goose
Cape Rook
Mountain Thrush
Mountain Buzzard
Streaky Seedeater
Abyssinian Owl
African Wood Owl

Zosterops abyssinicus
Falco naumanni
Streptopelia lugens
Aquila wahlbergi
Corvus crassirostris
Aquila rapax
Estrilda astrild
Bubo capensis
Anas undulata
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Tringa ochropus
Threskiornis aethiopicus
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Vanellus melanocephalus
Cyanochen cyanoptera
Corvus capensis
Turdus (olivaceus) abyssinicus
Buteo oreophilus
Serinus striolatus
Asio abyssinicus
Strix woodfordii

Day Twelve, January 16th 2013

No electric. Cold.

Good choice for breakfast: I ordered a boiled egg and got three! Beautifully presented. Small but lovely golden yolk and delicious. Bet they weren't from battery hens!

The drive through Goba was very interesting. We were on a dual carriageway but you wouldn't have known it! And it wasn't just the goats going the wrong way! The shops etc looked intriguing and there was a German-built University as well as a Teachers' Training College and a Medical School.

As we drove up the steep hill to the Sanetti Plateau we passed many, many people making their way down, mostly on foot. We drove through eucalyptus and juniper plantations then through open forest into a mosaic of pastures, homes and dense scrub before stopping near a small mosque. It was 8 degrees. Toasty! It was a profitable stop netting **Rouget's Rail, Black-headed Siskins** (flocks of), **Streaky Seedeater, Ethiopian Cisticola, Mountain Thrush, Wattled ibis, Moorland Chat, African Olive Pigeon, Common Chiffchaff, Baglafaecht weaver, Sparrowhawk, and Groundscraper Thrush.** The local children watched us carefully but didn't bother us at all. We carried on uphill noting the changing scenery (open forest, dense scrub, rugged mountains) and soon encountered quite a lot of low cloud which hid the views somewhat. **Common Buzzard, Augur Buzzard and Chestnut-naped Francolin** were ticked off and as the road started to flatten out a little we encountered a group of small lakes/ponds set amidst the alpine moorland. We stopped for a while at the first one. **Blue-winged Goose, Egyptian Goose, Steppe Eagle** were present. There were loads of Ethiopian Meadow Rats bobbing about and we loved the Giant Root Rat! At the next pond there were **Ruddy Shelduck** and we also saw an immature **Golden Eagle** and a **Goshawk** near here whilst the next pond held a **Green Sandpiper** and we logged **Common Kestrel, Theckla Lark, Hooded Vulture** and **Ruppell's Vulture** on the plateau too. We were now at 4,100m on the highest "road" in the country. I use the word "road" loosely! I was surprised by the number of dwellings and grazing cattle above the treeline. Pretty inhospitable countryside. We saw our first Ethiopian Wolf at 13,500feet. Amazing colour! So beautiful and no danger to us or the cattle as they prefer to eat the rats! The Giant Lobelia were pretty strange looking. Nothing like the Lobelia we grow here! As the road dropped over the brink of the plateau it descended through a series of exciting hair-pin bends largely edged

by dense scrub but with wonderful views of a green fertile valley and wooded slopes though the low cloud still masked much of the higher reaches. We passed through an area of bamboo before hitting a belt of Tree Heather then an area of gnarled, contorted, lichen-draped St. John's Wort ! Very, very different from the other side! Once we had got further down into the valley, just past Rira, we stopped for a walk in a field and were pleased to find: **White-cheeked Turacao, Abyssinian Catbird, Yellow-fronted Canary, Tawny-flanked Prinia, African Dusky Flycatcher, Takazze Sunbird, African Grey Flycatcher, White-headed Vulture, White-backed Vulture.** Some small children came to join us but they were no trouble. Very well-behaved. It was quite warm by this time partly because it was later in the day and partly because we were much lower down. Time was moving on so we made our way towards Katcha Darwin Camp (2,400m). We were going to have a picnic by the river but there were too many people there so we found a spot near a clearing where there was a troop of Olive Baboons lazing about and some nice deciduous forest to explore after lunch. There was a huge outcrop of rock which Abiy said had been likened to someone on an elephant. **Thick-billed Raven, Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher, Dark-capped Bulbul, Ruppell's Robin Chat, Pin-tail Whyda** were added to our list then we stopped to listen to the droning of bees – it was like the sound of the motorway from our garden: constant and loud! **Blackcap, Montane White-eye** and **Brown Woodland Warbler** were also seen there. On the way back, we stopped to look at some raptors and were delighted to see: **African Crowned Eagle, Marshall Eagle** and a **Lammergeier!** Further on we stopped for great views of an **Emerald Cuckoo** and from the far side of the plateau we looked for and found another wolf and **Wattled Crane.** The electric was still off when we got back to the hotel but there was an emergency generator for the kitchen so we got fed (might have been veal...) alright. Early to bed again.

Rouget's Rail

Black-headed Siskin

Streaky Seedeater

Ethiopian Cisticola

Mountain Thrush

Wattled Ibis

Moorland Chat

African Olive Pigeon

Groundscraper Thrush

Common Chiffchaff

Baglafaecht Weaver

Chestnut-naped Francolin

Common Buzzard

Augur Buzzard

Blue-winged Goose

Egyptian Goose

Yellow-billed Duck

Steppe Eagle

Ruddy Shelduck

Golden Eagle

Green Sandpiper

White-collared Pigeon

Tawny Eagle

Eastern Imperial Eagle

Common Kestrel

Thekla Lark

Hooded Vulture

Rüppell's Vulture

White-cheeked Turaco

Rougetius rougetii

Serinus nigriceps

Serinus striolatus

Cisticola (galactotes) lugubris

Turdus (olivaceus) abyssinicus

Bostrychia carunculata

Cercomela sordida

Columba arquatrix

Psophocichla litsitsirupa

Phylloscopus collybita

Ploceus baglafaecht

Pternistis castaneicollis

Buteo buteo

Buteo augur

Cyanochen cyanoptera

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Anas undulata

Aquila nipalensis

Tadorna ferruginea

Aquila chrysaetos

Tringa ochropus

Columba albitorques

Aquila rapax

Aquila heliaca

Falco tinnunculus

Galerida theklae

Necrosyrtes monachus

Gyps rueppellii

Tauraco leucotis

Abyssinian Catbird
Yellow-fronted Canary
Tawny-flanked Prinia
African Dusky Flycatcher
Tacazze Sunbird
African Grey Flycatcher
White-headed Vulture
White-backed Vulture
Thick-billed Raven
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher
Dark-capped Bulbul
Rüppell's Robin-Chat
Pin-tailed Whydah
Blackcap
Montane White-eye
Brown Woodland Warbler
African Crowned Eagle
Martial Eagle
Lammergeier
African Emerald Cuckoo
Wattled Crane

Parophasma galinieri
Serinus mozambicus
Prinia subflava
Muscicapa adusta
Nectarinia tacazze
Melaenornis microrhynchus
Trigonoceps occipitalis
Gyps africanus
Corvus crassirostris
Melaenornis chocolatinus
Pycnonotus tricolor spurius
Cossypha semirufa
Vidua macroura
Sylvia atricapilla
Zosterops poliogastrus
Phylloscopus umbrovirens
Stephanoaetus coronatus
Polemaetus bellicosus
Gypaetus barbatus
Chrysococcyx cupreus
Bugeranus carunculatus

Day Thirteen, January 17th 2013

We had an early start today so we could get different birds and go further than yesterday. We were supposed to be going to Sof Omar but Abiy thought we would enjoy this more. It was certainly a lovely day out. We also decided to dispense with the picnic lunch and eat in a local restaurant. Good choice! It was 3 degrees when we arrived at the Angasso Gate and by the time we reached the top it was only 1 degree, there was ice on the ponds and Jack Frost had been out painting everything white. The sky was a brilliant blue, there was no cloud and it was so, so beautiful with the skyline dominated by spectacular volcanic peaks. We had a bit of a walk looking for Moorland Francolin and saw Klipspringer but no Francolin. The endemic Starck's Hare was bobbing about though. Endemic not just to Ethiopia but confined to this plateau. We made a couple of brief stops on the way down the other side to take photos and to look at the Tree Heather and the fascinatingly contorted lichen-strewn St. John's Wort. At the latter we saw **Olive** and **Scaly Pigeon**. In the field we had been to the day before we got the **White-backed Black Tit** and had fabulous views of the **Abyssinian Catbird** quivering as it sang! **Tambourine Dove**, **Red-billed Waxbill**, **Lemon Dove**, **Mountain Buzzard** and a Bushbuk were also seen. We didn't turn off for the camp today but carried on through the Hareenna Forest which is mostly deciduous and impenetrable and the largest single block forest in Ethiopia. A drive through the forest actually takes you from the tree heath at 3,200m down through cloud forest at about 2,400m and eventually into more open canopy at about 1800m. Anyway, it was warming up nicely and there was a lot of coffee growing in the under-storey. This is harvested by the Government not by local coffee growers. By lunchtime the temperature had risen to 24 degrees and the countryside was becoming more open and populated with fields of maize and barley. We stopped for **Abyssinian Crimson Wing** which we spotted flitting about along with crowds of **Black and White Manakin** whilst **Black Sawwings** were flying low. At Dolan we were at 1,400m and the road was very red. A lot of the houses had Aloe hedging and we were soon in very open countryside with small stands of trees. Then the bumper fell off again so we had to stop while Abiy fixed it. At least the tyres were OK! Most of the people driving past were on motor bikes – the preferred mode of transport in this area. We soon set off again, passing a few mango plantations and we stopped at one of Abiy's favourite spots where there was a dried-up pool. We had a good walk round on both

sides of the road finding **Grey Wren-warbler, Dodson's Bulbul, Slate-coloured Booboo, Shining Sunbird, Red-headed Weaver, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Northern Crombec, Grey-headed Bush-shrike, White Stork** (flying), **Yellow-breasted Apalis, Hunter's Sunbird, Pygmy Batis, White-bellied Go-away bird** and **Marico Sunbird**. And some camels! There was a young boy sort of following us. He was crying and holding an empty water bottle and an empty syringe. We couldn't communicate with him and when we got back to the car, there was a group of youngsters hanging about. They didn't know the boy and could only speak the local language which he didn't seem to understand either. In the end we had to leave him behind and hope that his family would come looking for him. It was 31 degrees now and we had to turn round and go back. We made one more stop by a river before lunch. It was well worth it: **Orange-winged Pytilia, Greater Honeyguide, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Swainson's Sparrow, Northern Black Flycatcher, Speckled Mousebird, African Thrush, Spotted Palm Thrush, Black-headed Oriole, African Firefinch, Bronze Manakin, Red-throated Wryneck, Red-billed Pytilia**. Lunch was at the Hotella Gannet, a non-muslim restaurant in Dolan. Fascinating town and hotel. Lovely coffee with cinnamon in it. The hotelier asked us to put our e-mail address and comments in his special book. We did so of course. Time to head home. Today, we had had lovely clear skies and hardly a raptor. Where were they all? Plenty of **Augur Buzzard**, especially on the plateau but little else. We did manage to find a **Thick-billed Raven** near the top and stopped further on to look for wolves. We found three this time, not on the plateau itself, they prefer the meadows and valleys where there is more food and were also delighted with two **Red-billed Chough**. On the plateau itself, we scanned round for the **Moorland Francolin** but without success so we had a bit of a walk in the cold. My hands were frozen but it was a lovely evening with a beautiful sunset. Eventually, a determined Abiy flushed one which we all saw so we could head happily home especially as hares and **Abyssinian Longclaw** had also been seen! Tea was OK – veal on the menu again. Roland had tibs and I had a burger. Abiy introduced us to Girma Wondimu a Faith healer and Exorcist who was staying at the same hotel. You can watch him on You Tube! He was in Goba as he had been invited to speak there. Abiy was really pleased to have met him and bought a CD and a book from him. And so to bed. At least we had power! We watched a bit of what appeared to be the equivalent of X-Factor. We don't watch TV at home so aren't well-up on these things but it looked pretty naff and the reception was awful.

Day List

Common Greenshank

African Olive Pigeon

Speckled Pigeon

White-backed Black Tit

Abyssinian Catbird

Tambourine Dove

Crimson-rumped Waxbill

Yellow-bellied Waxbill

Lemon Dove

Mountain Buzzard

Abyssinian Crimsonwing

Black-and-white Mannikin

Grey Wren-Warbler

Dodson's Bulbul

Slate-coloured Boubou

Shining Sunbird

Red-headed Weaver

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Northern Crombec

Grey-headed Bush Shrike

White Stork

Tringa nebularia

Columba arquatrix

Columba guinea

Parus leuconotus

Parophasma galinieri

Turtur tympanistria

Estrilda rhodopyga

Coccyzygia quartinia

Aplopelia larvata

Buteo oreophilus

Cryptospiza salvadorii

Spermestes bicolor

Calamonastes simplex

Pycnonotus dodsoni

Laniarius funebris

Cinnyris habessinicus

Anaplectes rubriceps

Tockus deckeni

Sylvietta brachyura

Malaconotus blanchoti

Ciconia ciconia

Yellow-breasted Apalis
Hunter's Sunbird
Pygmy Batis
White-bellied Go-away Bird
Marico Sunbird
Orange-winged Pytilia
Greater Honeyguide
Bruce's Green Pigeon
Swainson's Sparrow
Northern Black Flycatcher
Speckled Mousebird
African Thrush
Spotted Palm-Thrush
Black-headed Oriole
African Firefinch
Bronze Mannikin
Red-throated Wryneck
Red-billed Pytilia
Peregrine Falcon
Thick-billed Raven
Red-billed Chough
Moorland Francolin
Abyssinian Longclaw

Apalis flavida
Chalcomitra hunteri
Batis perkeo
Corythaixoides leucogaster
Cinnyris mariquensis
Pytilia afra
Indicator indicator
Treron waalia
Passer swainsonii
Melaenornis edolioides
Colius striatus
Turdus pelios
Cichladusa guttata
Oriolus larvatus
Lagonosticta rubricata
Spermestes cucullata
Jynx ruficollis
Pytilia lineata
Falco peregrinus
Corvus crassirostris
Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax
Pternistis psilolaemus
Macronyx flavicollis

Day Fourteen, January 18th, 2013

It was 5 degrees when we set off this morning though it felt colder than that when we stopped by a field of barley looking for **Red-collared Widowbirds** and **Yellow Bishops**. A bit further on we stopped again for close views of a **Somali Crow**. The fields round here were massive and owned by the Government. Plenty of combine harvesters about. **Slender-billed Starling** sat obligingly on a wire. We saw a few mammals on our way through the National park but nothing new, similarly with the ponds except for **Black Stork**. We saw two **Pied Crows** not long after – the first we had seen for a long time! There were several **Black-shouldered Kites** and **Common Kestrel** about and loads of **White Storks** along with **Sacred ibis** in the fields before Dodola. We stopped to observe a mass of vultures feeding on a dead cow by the roadside: **White-backed, Ruppell's and Hooded**. Not much further along there was another group feasting on a dead donkey. I wonder if it was hit by a vehicle or just dropped dead? Some of them have to carry massive loads. Again, we noticed all the new building at Shashemene including lots of blocks of flats. They had flags out in the streets for Epiphany. As we left the town there were crowds of people heading towards us with massive cartloads of waste maize to use for firewood/animal fodder. People without carts were struggling along with full bags. The man who owns all this land allows the locals to help themselves after the harvest. There were lots of **Carmine Bee-eaters** on the wires. A stunning sight. We stopped off briefly at Lake Awassa – no hippo, no new birds but lots of small fires along the road which Abiy said were related to Epiphany. Our next stop was at the fish market – again there was nothing new. We then arrived at our hotel in time for lunch though Abiy went off to try and find somewhere to stay. Our bungalow here was very nice with a patio outside and the grounds, though not extensive, looked promising. I had the worst chicken ever for lunch and we had ice-cream for pud. The first in Ethiopia! Vanilla and chocolate. Very hard and not the best. We were, however, more interested in watching a **Woodland Kingfisher** killing and eating a cricket. The trees around were full of woodpeckers and sunbirds. We had a brief walk round the grounds: **White-browed Robin Chat, Woodland Kingfisher, Eurasian Wryneck, Red-billed Firefinch, Bronze Manakin, Hunter's Sunbird,**

Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Spotted Tree Creeper, Grey-headed Woodpecker, African Paradise Flycatcher, Banded Barbet. There were **Chiff Chaff** singing all around, **Marabou Storks** flying overhead or sitting in the trees and Colobus Monkeys behind our bungalow. ☺ Later on we went out of the grounds to the lake. Unfortunately the Epiphany Ceremony taking place on the land next door had just ended and the flood gates had opened. People everywhere! We eventually had to abandon the walk because of the hassle. It was alright at first when people just wanted to know what we were doing and have a look through the scopes but the kids got very silly and started grabbing at my bins and just being a general pain. Glad we had Abiy with us! A lot of them wanted money too. We did manage to see a hippo before we left which was great even though they weren't wonderful views. Back in the grounds we got **Red-eyed Dove, Baglafaech Weaver, Blue-headed Coucal, African Thrush** and **African Ground Hornbill**. Abiy went off somewhere else and left us alone for the evening so we went to see what was going on next door. It was very busy. Obviously we couldn't understand anything but people were milling about with their traditional/white clothes on or sitting on the ground whilst there seemed to be a series of preachers/speakers on a stage. Outside there were small stalls selling things. Back at the hotel we had tea inside to get away from the drinkers. Roland had roast lamb and I had steak which was very good. We had ice-cream for pud but this time it was all runny.

Goba-Awassa

Red-collared Widowbird

Yellow Bishop

Dwarf Raven

Slender-billed Starling

Spot-breasted Plover

Black Stork

Pied Crow

Black-shouldered Kite

Common Kestrel

White Stork

Sacred Ibis

White-backed Vulture

Rüppell's Vulture

Hooded Vulture

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

Euplectes ardens

Euplectes capensis

Corvus edithae

Onychognathus tenuirostris

Vanellus melanocephalus

Ciconia nigra

Corvus albus

Elanus caeruleus

Falco tinnunculus

Ciconia ciconia

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Gyps africanus

Gyps rueppellii

Necrosyrtes monachus

Merops nubicus

Hotel grounds and Lake Awassa

White-browed Robin-Chat

Eurasian Wryneck

Red-billed Firefinch

Bronze Mannikin

Woodland Kingfisher

Hunter's Sunbird

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Spotted Creeper

Grey-headed Woodpecker

African Paradise-flycatcher

Banded Barbet

Common Chiffchaff

Marabou Stork

Red-eyed Dove

Baglafaecht Weaver

Blue-headed Coucal

African Thrush

Cossypha heuglini

Jynx torquilla

Lagonosticta senegala

Spermestes cucullata

Halcyon senegalensis

Chalcomitra hunteri

Chalcomitra senegalensis

Salpornis spilonotus

Dendropicospodocephalus

Terpsiphone viridis

Lybius undatus

Phylloscopus collybita

Leptoptilos crumeniferus

Streptopelia semitorquata

Ploceus baglafaecht

Centropus monachus

Turdus pelios

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill
Malachite Kingfisher
Black-winged Lovebird
African Pygmy-goose
Great Cormorant
Common Greenshank
African Jacana
Little Egret
Green Sandpiper
Squacco Heron
White-backed Duck
Little Grebe
Yellow Wagtail
Common Bulbul
Ruff
Black Crake
Village Weaver
Pied Kingfisher
Abyssinian Waxbill
Sedge Warbler
Saddle-bill Stork
Goliath Heron
Black Heron
Black-tailed Godwit
Wood Sandpiper
Long-tailed Cormorant
Little Ringed Plover

Bucorvus abyssinicus
Alcedo cristata
Agapornis taranta
Nettapus auritus
Phalacrocorax carbo
Tringa nebularia
Actophilornis africanus
Egretta garzetta
Tringa ochropus
Ardeola ralloides
Thalassornis leuconotus
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Motacilla flava
Pycnonotus barbatus
Philomachus pugnax
Amaurornis flavirostra
Ploceus cucullatus
Ceryle rudis
Estrilda (paludicola) ochrogaster
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Ardea goliath
Egretta ardesiaca
Limosa limosa
Tringa glareola
Phalacrocorax africanus
Charadrius dubius

Day Fifteen, January 19th, 2013

An early start to get to Wondo Genet. We parked at the hotel and met up with our local guide who was going to walk through the village and up the hillside with us. It was chilly but that was to be expected at such an early hour. We had been told that this area wasn't worth visiting because of the vast amounts of deforestation but we are glad we ignored this. It was a lovely walk with two excellent guides and we saw several new birds though it was sad to see how many trees had been cut down for charcoal burning or to make way for agriculture. As we walked back through the village we saw fields of chat. People chew the leaves in order to get high. Although classed as a drug, it is not illegal to cultivate it. We had breakfast at the hotel after our walk. It was nicely warm by now and very pleasant sitting outside. The restaurant building was a bit weird – it is supposed to resemble a spaceship and is apparently very popular at the weekends. In fact, the whole area can be busy at the weekends with people going there and to the hot springs. The restaurant was a bit outdated and the hotel area didn't look great. We were glad we had opted to spend 2 nights at Awassa instead of moving on there. After breakfast, having cleared the monkeys off the car, we set off for the University woods where we met up with our local guide again. He was taking us to see the **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** which we found very easily as he was being mobbed by **Thick-billed Ravens** rapidly increasing in number and we stood watching for quite a while as they shooed him from place to place and then eventually left except for one or two which sat in a neighbouring tree cawing away. Then it was back to Lake Awassa to visit the fish markets and nearby park where there were lots of monkeys. We stopped to investigate a novel-looking vehicle. At first sight it looked like a

stretch tuk-tuk and I suppose that's what it was really with an inbuilt motor-bike! Fur-lined roof too, Very impressive. Its maker was nearby and he came over to chat with us. We continued on our stroll until sunset. Beautiful views over the lake.

Wondo Genet

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>African Citril</i> | <i>Serinus citrinelloides</i> |
| <i>Mountain Wagtail</i> | <i>Motacilla clara</i> |
| <i>Grey Wagtail</i> | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> |
| <i>Yellow Wagtail</i> | <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| <i>Silvery-cheeked Hornbill</i> | <i>Bycanistes brevis</i> |
| <i>White-winged Cliff Chat</i> | <i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i> |
| <i>Black-winged Lovebird</i> | <i>Agapornis taranta</i> |
| <i>White-rumped Babbler</i> | <i>Turdoides leucopygia</i> |
| <i>Bronze Mannikin</i> | <i>Spermestes cucullata</i> |
| <i>Scarlet-chested Sunbird</i> | <i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i> |
| <i>Tambourine Dove</i> | <i>Turtur tympanistria</i> |
| <i>Blue-spotted Wood Dove</i> | <i>Turtur afer</i> |
| <i>Grey-headed Woodpecker</i> | <i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian Oriole</i> | <i>Oriolus monacha</i> |
| <i>African Paradise-flycatcher</i> | <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> |
| <i>Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu</i> | <i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i> |
| <i>Marico Sunbird</i> | <i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i> |
| <i>Northern Puffback</i> | <i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i> |
| <i>Lemon Dove</i> | <i>Aplopelia larvata</i> |
| <i>Ethiopian Boubou</i> | <i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i> |
| <i>Variable Sunbird</i> | <i>Cinnyris venustus</i> |
| <i>Brown-throated Wattle-eye</i> | <i>Platysteira cyanea</i> |
| <i>African Hill Babbler</i> | <i>Pseudoalcippe abyssinica</i> |
| <i>Senegal Coucal</i> | <i>Centropus senegalensis</i> |
| <i>Spectacled Weaver</i> | <i>Ploceus ocularis</i> |
| <i>Lesser Honeyguide</i> | <i>Indicator minor</i> |
| <i>Streaky Seedeater</i> | <i>Serinus striolatus</i> |
| <i>Banded Barbet</i> | <i>Lybius undatus</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian Ground Thrush</i> | <i>Zoothera piaggiae</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian Woodpecker</i> | <i>Dendropicos abyssinicus</i> |
| <i>Black Saw-wing</i> | <i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i> |
| <i>Grey-backed Camaroptera</i> | <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i> |
| <i>Yellow-fronted Parrot</i> | <i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian White-eye</i> | <i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i> |
| <i>Grosbeak Weaver</i> | <i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i> |
| <i>Red-faced Cisticola</i> | <i>Cisticola erythrops</i> |
| <i>Red-winged Starling</i> | <i>Onychognathus morio</i> |
| <i>Broad-billed Roller</i> | <i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher</i> | <i>Melaenornis chocolatinus</i> |
| <i>Tacazze Sunbird</i> | <i>Nectarinia tacazze</i> |
| <i>Thick-billed Raven</i> | <i>Corvus crassirostris</i> |
| <i>Verreaux's Eagle-Owl</i> | <i>Bubo lacteus</i> |
| <i>Sharpe's Starling</i> | <i>Pholia sharpii</i> |
| <i>Abyssinian Ground Hornbill</i> | <i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i> |

Awassa

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Eastern Olivaceous Warbler</i> | <i>Hippolais pallida</i> |
| <i>White-faced Whistling Duck</i> | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> |

Allen's Gallinule
African Fish Eagle
Woodland Kingfisher
Purple Swamphen
Hottentot Teal
Spur-winged Plover
Red-headed Weaver
Egyptian Goose
Wattled Starling
Yellow Wagtail
Grey Wagtail
Greater Blue-eared Starling
Common Moorhen
Hamerkop
Speckled Pigeon
Little Stint
Lesser Swamp Warbler
Grey-headed Gull
Yellow-billed Egret
Great White Pelican
Violet-backed Starling
Bruce's Green Pigeon

Porphyrio alleni
Haliaeetus vocifer
Halcyon senegalensis
Porphyrio porphyrio
Anas hottentota
Vanellus spinosus
Anaplectes rubriceps
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Creatophora cinerea
Motacilla flava
Motacilla cinerea
Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Gallinula chloropus
Scopus umbretta
Columba guinea
Calidris minuta
Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Larus cirrocephalus
Egretta intermedia
Pelecanus onocrotalus
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Treron waalia

Day Sixteen, January 20th, 2013

Our last day but we had time to visit a busy fish market before setting off on the long drive back to Addis. We walked down to the lake where people were unloading their catch of tilapia, cleaning their small boats out or mending nets. Children were paddling in the lake and gutting/cleaning/selling the fish. You could also buy fish at the market building which had a group of ladies sitting outside selling bread and chilli sauce for you to eat with raw fish, Ethiopian sushi. We politely declined and moved on to the lively café area where you could sit and eat freshly-cooked fish. Roland couldn't resist much to the delight of the locals especially when he had seconds. All this was presided over by the ever ubiquitous Marabou Storks always on the look-out for a tasty morsel! All too soon it was time to leave but not before sneaking a few photos of a family feeding the storks by the car park. The birds got a little over-enthusiastic to the dismay of their young child. I think he thought he was next for the dinner plate!

We stopped once on the way back to Addis at Lake Ziway for a quick look at the lake and coffee. It was much as before except that there were an awful lot more **White-faced Whistling Ducks** and we also picked up **Northern Shoveler, Three-Banded Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, White Wagtail, African Pygmy Goose, Lesser Jacana** (Lily Trotter) and **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**. Lunch was eaten at the Radiet Hotel in Butajira. There were plastic palm trees outside at the front. Yummy food. The rest of the journey was completed fairly quickly there being little traffic on the roads with it being Sunday and Epiphany. Abiy dropped us back at the Ghion in the afternoon having reserved a room there for us so we could have a rest and wash and brush-up before our eleven o'clock flight. However, we couldn't resist the temptation to have a last look at the gardens and birds first. Unfortunately all the birds seemed to have done a disappearing act due to the number of brides having their wedding photos taken there! It was amazing. You couldn't move for bridal parties having their pictures done while they waited for their turn to parade down to the fountain! Surreal. All except two were in western style dresses and the men in suits. Some were accompanied by musicians too. Our evening plans to eat at the Ghion were also changed – Abiy did us the honour of inviting us into his home to meet his family and enjoy some traditional home-cooked food. We had a

wonderful evening there – what a way to finish our stay in Ethiopia. Thank you, Abiy and family for your hospitality.

Awassa

Garganey

Black-winged Stilt

White-backed Duck

Whiskered Tern

White-winged Tern

Glossy Ibis

Lake

Northern Shoveler

Three-banded Plover

White-faced Whistling Duck

Little Ringed Plover

Little Stint

White Wagtail

African Pygmy-goose

Lesser Jacana

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Anas querquedula

Himantopus himantopus

Thalassornis leuconotus

Chlidonias hybrida

Chlidonias leucopterus

Plegadis falcinellus

Anas clypeata

Charadrius tricollaris

Dendrocygna viduata

Charadrius dubius

Calidris minuta

Motacilla alba

Nettapus auritus

Microparra capensis

Plocepasser mahali

ALL BIRDS

Abdim's Stork

Abyssinian Black Wheatear

Abyssinian Catbird

Abyssinian Crimsonwing

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Abyssinian Ground Thrush

Abyssinian Longclaw

Abyssinian Oriole

Abyssinian Owl

Abyssinian Roller

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher

Abyssinian Waxbill

Abyssinian White-eye

Abyssinian Woodpecker

African Citril

African Crowned Eagle

African Darter

African Dusky Flycatcher

African Emerald Cuckoo

African Firefinch

African Fish Eagle

African Goshawk

African Grey Flycatcher

African Grey Hornbill

African Harrier-Hawk

African Hill Babbler

African Jacana

Ciconia abdimii

Oenanthe lugubris

Parophasma galinieri

Cryptospiza salvadorii

Bucorvus abyssinicus

Zoothera piaggiae

Macronyx flavicollis

Oriolus monacha

Asio abyssinicus

Coracias abyssinicus

Rhinopomastus minor

Melaenornis chocolatinus

Estrilda (paludicola) ochrogaster

Zosterops abyssinicus

Dendropicos abyssinicus

Serinus citrinelloides

Stephanoaetus coronatus

Anhinga rufa

Muscicapa adusta

Chrysococcyx cupreus

Lagonosticta rubricata

Haliaeetus vocifer

Accipiter tachiro

Melaenornis microrhynchus

Tockus nasutus

Polyboroides typus

Pseudoalcippe abyssinica

Actophilornis africanus

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| African Mourning Dove | <i>Streptopelia decipiens</i> |
| African Olive Pigeon | <i>Columba arquatrix</i> |
| African Orange-bellied Parrot | <i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i> |
| African Palm Swift | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> |
| African Paradise-flycatcher | <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i> |
| African Pied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla aguimp</i> |
| African Pygmy Kingfisher | <i>Ceyx pictus</i> |
| African Pygmy-goose | <i>Nettapus auritus</i> |
| African Quailfinch | <i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i> |
| African Rail | <i>Rallus caerulescens</i> |
| African Scops Owl | <i>Otus senegalensis</i> |
| African Silverbill | <i>Euodice cantans</i> |
| African Spoonbill | <i>Platalea alba</i> |
| African Stonechat | <i>Saxicola (torquatus) torquatus</i> |
| African Thrush | <i>Turdus pelios</i> |
| African Wood Owl | <i>Strix woodfordii</i> |
| Allen's Gallinule | <i>Porphyrio alleni</i> |
| Ankober Serin | <i>Carduelis ankoberensis</i> |
| Arabian Bustard | <i>Ardeotis arabs</i> |
| Ashy Cisticola | <i>Cisticola cinereolus</i> |
| Augur Buzzard | <i>Buteo augur</i> |
| Baglafecht Weaver | <i>Ploceus baglafecht</i> |
| Banded Barbet | <i>Lybius undatus</i> |
| Bare-faced Go-away Bird | <i>Corythaixoides personatus</i> |
| Barn Owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| Bateleur | <i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i> |
| Bearded Woodpecker | <i>Dendropicops namaquus</i> |
| Beautiful Sunbird | <i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i> |
| Black Crake | <i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i> |
| Black Crowned Crane | <i>Balearica pavonina</i> |
| Black Heron | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i> |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> |
| Black Saw-wing | <i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i> |
| Black Scimitarbill | <i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i> |
| Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> |
| Black-and-white Mannikin | <i>Spermestes bicolor</i> |
| Black-bellied Bustard | <i>Lissotis melanogaster</i> |
| Black-billed Barbet | <i>Lybius guifsobalito</i> |
| Black-billed Wood Hoopoe | <i>Phoeniculus somaliensis</i> |
| Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> |
| Black-cheeked Waxbill | <i>Estrilda chamosyna</i> |
| Black-crowned Tchagra | <i>Tchagra senegalus</i> |
| Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> |
| Black-headed Batis | <i>Batis minor</i> |
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> |
| Black-headed Heron | <i>Ardea melanocephala</i> |
| Black-headed Oriole | <i>Oriolus larvatus</i> |
| Black-headed Plover | <i>Vanellus tectus</i> |
| Black-headed Siskin | <i>Serinus nigriceps</i> |

Black-shouldered Kite
Black-tailed Godwit
Black-winged Lovebird
Black-winged Plover
Black-winged Stilt
Blue Rock Thrush
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
Blue-headed Coucal
Blue-naped Mousebird
Blue-spotted Wood Dove
Blue-winged Goose
Broad-billed Roller
Bronze Mannikin
Brown Parisoma
Brown Snake Eagle
Brown Woodland Warbler
Brown-rumped Seedeater
Brown-throated Wattle-eye
Brubru
Bruce's Green Pigeon
Buff-bellied Warbler
Buff-crested Bustard
Bush Petronia
Cape Eagle-Owl
Cape Rook
Cape Teal
Cardinal Woodpecker
Cattle Egret
Chestnut Sparrow
Chestnut Weaver
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse
Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark
Chestnut-naped Francolin
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting
Clapperton's Francolin
Common Bulbul
Common Buzzard
Common Chiffchaff
Common Crane
Common Fiscal
Common Greenshank
Common Kestrel
Common Moorhen
Common Redstart
Common Ringed Plover
Common Rock Thrush
Common Sandpiper
Common Snipe
Common Waxbill
Crested Francolin

Elanus caeruleus
Limosa limosa
Agapornis taranta
Vanellus melanopterus
Himantopus himantopus
Monticola solitarius
Merops (variegatus) lafresnayii
Centropus monachus
Urocolius macrourus
Turtur afer
Cyanochen cyanoptera
Eurystomus glaucurus
Spermestes cucullata
Parisoma lugens
Circaetus cinereus
Phylloscopus umbrovirens
Serinus tristriatus
Platysteira cyanea
Nilaus afer
Treron waalia
Phyllolais pulchella
Lophotis gindiana
Petronia dentata
Bubo capensis
Corvus capensis
Anas capensis
Dendropicos fuscescens
Bubulcus ibis
Passer eminibey
Ploceus rubiginosus
Eremopterix leucotis
Pterocles exustus
Eremopterix signatus
Pternistis castaneicollis
Emberiza tahapisi
Pternistis clappertoni
Pycnonotus barbatus
Buteo buteo
Phylloscopus collybita
Grus grus
Lanius collaris
Tringa nebularia
Falco tinnunculus
Gallinula chloropus
Phoenicurus phoenicurus
Charadrius hiaticula
Monticola saxatilis
Actitis hypoleucos
Gallinago gallinago
Estrilda astrild
Dendroperdix sephaena

Crimson-rumped Waxbill
Crowned Plover
Cut-throat Finch
Dark Chanting Goshawk
Dark-capped Bulbul
Dodson's Bulbul
Double-toothed Barbet
Dusky Turtle Dove
Dwarf Raven
Eastern Chanting Goshawk
Eastern Grey Plantain-eater
Eastern Imperial Eagle
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler
Eastern Paradise Whydah
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Egyptian Goose
Egyptian Vulture
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove
Erckel's Francolin
Erlanger's Lark
Ethiopian Boubou
Ethiopian Cisticola
Eurasian Hoopoe
Eurasian Wryneck
European Turtle Dove
Fan-tailed Raven
Fork-tailed Drongo
Fox Kestrel
Foxy Cisticola
Foxy Lark
Gabar Goshawk
Garganey
Gillett's Bushlark
Glossy Ibis
Golden Eagle
Goliath Heron
Grassland Pipit
Great Cormorant
Great Crested Grebe
Great Egret
Great White Pelican
Greater Blue-eared Starling
Greater Flamingo
Greater Honeyguide
Greater Kestrel
Green Sandpiper
Green-backed Twinspot
Green-winged Pytilia
Grey Heron
Grey Wagtail
Grey Wren-Warbler

Estrilda rhodopyga
Vanellus coronatus
Amadina fasciata
Melierax metabates
Pycnonotus tricolor spurius
Pycnonotus dodsoni
Lybius bidentatus
Streptopelia lugens
Corvus edithae
Melierax poliopterus
Crinifer zonurus
Aquila heliaca
Hippolais pallida
Vidua paradisaea
Tockus flavirostris
Alopochen aegyptiaca
Neophron percnopterus
Turtur chalcospilos
Pternistis erckelii
Calendrela erlangeri
Laniarius aethiopicus
Cisticola (galactotes) lugubris
Upupa epops
Jynx torquilla
Streptopelia turtur
Corvus rhipidurus
Dicrurus adsimilis
Falco alopex
Cisticola troglodytes
Mirafraga alopex
Micronisus gabar
Anas querquedula
Mirafraga gilletti
Plegadis falcinellus
Aquila chrysaetos
Ardea goliath
Anthus cinnamomeus
Phalacrocorax carbo
Podiceps cristatus
Egretta alba
Pelecanus onocrotalus
Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Phoenicopterus ruber
Indicator indicator
Falco rupicoloides
Tringa ochropus
Mandingoa nitidula
Pytilia melba
Ardea cinerea
Motacilla cinerea
Calamonastes simplex

Grey-backed Camaroptera
Grey-backed Fiscal
Grey-headed Batis
Grey-headed Bush Shrike
Grey-headed Gull
Grey-headed Woodpecker
Greyish Eagle-Owl
Grosbeak Weaver
Groundscraper Thrush
Gull-billed Tern
Hadada Ibis
Half-collared Kingfisher
Hamerkop
Harlequin Quail
Hartlaub's Bustard
Harwood's Francolin
Helmeted Guineafowl
Hemprich's Hornbill
Hooded Vulture
Hottentot Teal
Hunter's Sunbird
Isabelline Shrike
Isabelline Wheatear
Jameson's Firefinch
Kittlitz's Plover
Klaas's Cuckoo
Knob-billed Duck
Kori Bustard
Lammergeier
Lanner Falcon
Lappet-faced Vulture
Laughing Dove
Lemon Dove
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Lesser Flamingo
Lesser Honeyguide
Lesser Jacana
Lesser Kestrel
Lesser Swamp Warbler
Lesser Whitethroat
Lilac-breasted Roller
Little Bee-eater
Little Egret
Little Grebe
Little Ringed Plover
Little Rock Thrush
Little Stint
Little Weaver
Long-legged Buzzard
Long-tailed Cormorant
Malachite Kingfisher

Camaroptera brachyura
Lanius excubitoroides
Batis orientalis
Malaconotus blanchoti
Larus cirrocephalus
Dendropicos spodocephalus
Bubo cinerascens
Amblyospiza albifrons
Psophocichla litsitsirupa
Sterna nilotica
Bostrychia hagedash
Alcedo semitorquata
Scopus umbretta
Coturnix delegorguei
Lissotis hartlaubii
Pternistis harwoodi
Numida meleagris
Tockus hemprichii
Necrosyrtes monachus
Anas hottentota
Chalcomitra hunteri
Lanius isabellinus
Oenanthe isabellina
Lagonosticta rhodopareia
Charadrius pecuarius
Chrysococcyx klaas
Sarkidiornis melanotos
Ardeotis kori
Gypaetus barbatus
Falco biarmicus
Torgos tracheliotus
Streptopelia senegalensis
Aplopelia larvata
Larus fuscus
Phoeniconaias minor
Indicator minor
Microparra capensis
Falco naumanni
Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Sylvia curruca
Coracias caudatus
Merops pusillus
Egretta garzetta
Tachybaptus ruficollis
Charadrius dubius
Monticola rufocinereus
Calidris minuta
Ploceus luteolus
Buteo rufinus
Phalacrocorax africanus
Alcedo cristata

Marabou Stork
Marico Sunbird
Marsh Sandpiper
Martial Eagle
Masked Shrike
Mocking Cliff Chat
Montagu's Harrier
Montane White-eye
Moorland Chat
Moorland Francolin
Mountain Buzzard
Mountain Thrush
Mountain Wagtail
Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit
Namaqua Dove
Narina Trogon
Northern Black Flycatcher
Northern Carmine Bee-eater
Northern Crombec
Northern Pintail
Northern Puffback
Northern Shoveler
Northern Wheatear
Northern White-crowned Shrike
Northern White-faced Owl
Nubian Woodpecker
Nyanza Swift
Orange-winged Pytilia
Pallid Harrier
Peregrine Falcon
Pied Avocet
Pied Crow
Pied Kingfisher
Pied Wheatear
Pink-backed Pelican
Pin-tailed Whydah
Plain Martin
Purple Grenadier
Purple Heron
Purple Swamphen
Pygmy Batis
Rattling Cisticola
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver
Red-billed Chough
Red-billed Duck
Red-billed Firefinch
Red-billed Hornbill
Red-billed Oxpecker
Red-billed Pytilia
Red-billed Quelea
Red-breasted Wheatear

Leptoptilos crumeniferus
Cinnyris mariquensis
Tringa stagnatilis
Polemaetus bellicosus
Lanius nubicus
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Circus pygargus
Zosterops poliogastrus
Cercomela sordida
Pternistis psilolaemus
Buteo oreophilus
Turdus (olivaceus) abyssinicus
Motacilla clara
Anthoscopus musculus
Oena capensis
Apaloderma narina
Melaenornis edolioides
Merops nubicus
Sylvietta brachyura
Anas acuta
Dryoscopus gambensis
Anas clypeata
Oenanthe oenanthe
Eurocephalus rueppelli
Ptilopsis leucotis
Campethera nubica
Apus niansae
Pytilia afra
Circus macrourus
Falco peregrinus
Recurvirostra avosetta
Corvus albus
Ceryle rudis
Oenanthe pleschanka
Pelecanus rufescens
Vidua macroura
Riparia paludicola
Uraeginthus ianthinogaster
Ardea purpurea
Porphyrio porphyrio
Batis perkeo
Cisticola chiniana
Bubalornis niger
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
Anas erythrorhyncha
Lagonosticta senegala
Tockus erythrorhynchus
Buphagus erythrorhynchus
Pytilia lineata
Quelea quelea
Oenanthe bottae

Red-capped Robin-Chat
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu
Red-collared Widowbird
Red-eyed Dove
Red-faced Cisticola
Red-faced Crombec
Red-fronted Barbet
Red-fronted Tinkerbird
Red-headed Weaver
Red-knobbed Coot
Red-rumped Swallow
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike
Red-throated Pipit
Red-throated Wryneck
Red-winged Starling
Reichenow's Seedeater
Ring-necked Dove
Rock Martin
Rosy-patched Bush-shrike
Rouget's Rail
Ruddy Shelduck
Ruff
Rufous Chatterer
Rufous-crowned Roller
Rüppell's Black Chat
Rüppell's Robin-Chat
Rüppell's Starling
Rüppell's Vulture
Rüppell's Weaver
Sacred Ibis
Saddle-bill Stork
Sand Martin
Scaly Francolin
Scarce Swift
Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Sedge Warbler
Senegal Coucal
Senegal Thick-knee
Sharpe's Starling
Shikra
Shining Sunbird
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill
Singing Bushlark
Singing Cisticola
Slate-coloured Boubou
Slender-billed Starling
Slender-tailed Nightjar
Somali Bulbul
Somali Bunting
Somali Fiscal
Somali Ostrich

Cossypha natalensis
Uraeginthus bengalus
Euplectes ardens
Streptopelia semitorquata
Cisticola erythrops
Sylvietta whytii
Tricholaema diademata
Pogoniulus pusillus
Anaplectes rubriceps
Fulica cristata
Cecropis daurica
Campephaga phoenicea
Anthus cervinus
Jynx ruficollis
Onychognathus morio
Serinus reichenowi
Streptopelia capicola
Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Rhodophoneus cruentus
Rougetius rougetii
Tadorna ferruginea
Philomachus pugnax
Turdoides rubiginosa
Coracias naevius
Myrmecocichla melaena
Cossypha semirufa
Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Gyps rueppellii
Ploceus galbula
Threskiornis aethiopicus
Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Riparia riparia
Pternistis squamatus
Schoutedenapus myoptilus
Chalcomitra senegalensis
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Centropus senegalensis
Burhinus senegalensis
Pholia sharpii
Accipiter badius
Cinnyris habessinicus
Bycanistes brevis
Mirafraga cantillans
Cisticola cantans
Laniarius funebris
Onychognathus tenuirostris
Caprimulgus clarus
Pycnonotus barbatus somaliensis
Emberiza poliopleura
Lanius somalicus
Struthio molybdophanes

Sombre Rock Chat
Southern Grey Shrike
Southern Pochard
Speckled Mousebird
Speckled Pigeon
Speckle-fronted Weaver
Spectacled Weaver
Splendid Starling
Spot-breasted Plover
Spotted Creeper
Spotted Flycatcher
Spotted Palm-Thrush
Spur-winged Goose
Spur-winged Plover
Squacco Heron
Steppe Eagle
Straw-tailed Whydah
Streaky Seedeater
Striated Heron
Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike
Superb Starling
Swainson's Sparrow
Tacazze Sunbird
Tambourine Dove
Tawny Eagle
Tawny-flanked Prinia
Thekla Lark
Thick-billed Raven
Three-banded Plover
Tree Pipit
Tufted Duck
Variable Sunbird
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl
Village Indigobird
Village Weaver
Violet-backed Starling
Von der Decken's Hornbill
Wahlberg's Eagle
Wattled Crane
Wattled Ibis
Wattled Starling
Western Marsh Harrier
Whiskered Tern
White Stork
White Wagtail
White-backed Black Tit
White-backed Duck
White-backed Vulture
White-bellied Bustard
White-bellied Canary
White-bellied Go-away Bird

Cercomela dubia
Lanius meridionalis
Netta erythrophthalma
Colius striatus
Columba guinea
Sporopipes frontalis
Ploceus ocularis
Lamprotornis splendidus
Vanellus melanocephalus
Salpornis spilonotus
Muscicapa striata
Cichladusa guttata
Plectropterus gambensis
Vanellus spinosus
Ardeola ralloides
Aquila nipalensis
Vidua fischeri
Serinus striolatus
Butorides striata
Telophorus sulfureopectus
Lamprotornis superbus
Passer swainsonii
Nectarinia tacazze
Turtur tympanistria
Aquila rapax
Prinia subflava
Galerida theklae
Corvus crassirostris
Charadrius tricollaris
Anthus trivialis
Aythya fuligula
Cinnyris venustus
Bubo lacteus
Vidua chalybeata
Ploceus cucullatus
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Tockus deckeni
Aquila wahlbergi
Bugeranus carunculatus
Bostrychia carunculata
Creatophora cinerea
Circus aeruginosus
Chlidonias hybrida
Ciconia ciconia
Motacilla alba
Parus leuconotus
Thalassornis leuconotus
Gyps africanus
Eupodotis senegalensis
Serinus dorsostriatus
Corythaixoides leucogaster

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| White-billed Starling | <i>Onychognathus albirostris</i> |
| White-browed Coucal | <i>Centropus superciliosus</i> |
| White-browed Robin-Chat | <i>Cossypha heuglini</i> |
| White-browed Sparrow-Weaver | <i>Plocepasser mahali</i> |
| White-cheeked Turaco | <i>Tauraco leucotis</i> |
| White-collared Pigeon | <i>Columba albitorques</i> |
| White-crested Helmetshrike | <i>Prionops plumatus</i> |
| White-faced Whistling Duck | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i> |
| White-headed Buffalo-Weaver | <i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i> |
| White-headed Vulture | <i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i> |
| White-rumped Babbler | <i>Turdoides leucopygia</i> |
| White-throated Robin | <i>Irania gutturalis</i> |
| White-throated Seedeater | <i>Serinus xanthopygius</i> |
| White-winged Black Tit | <i>Parus leucomelas</i> |
| White-winged Cliff Chat | <i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i> |
| White-winged Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> |
| Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> |
| Wire-tailed Swallow | <i>Hirundo smithii</i> |
| Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> |
| Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> |
| Woodland Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon senegalensis</i> |
| Yellow Bishop | <i>Euplectes capensis</i> |
| Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| Yellow-bellied Eremomela | <i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i> |
| Yellow-bellied Waxbill | <i>Coccygia quartinia</i> |
| Yellow-billed Duck | <i>Anas undulata</i> |
| Yellow-billed Egret | <i>Egretta intermedia</i> |
| Yellow-billed Kite | <i>Milvus (migrans) aegyptius</i> |
| Yellow-billed Stork | <i>Mycteria ibis</i> |
| Yellow-breasted Apalis | <i>Apalis flavida</i> |
| Yellow-breasted Barbet | <i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i> |
| Yellow-fronted Canary | <i>Serinus mozambicus</i> |
| Yellow-fronted Parrot | <i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i> |
| Yellow-necked Spurfowl | <i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i> |
| Yellow-spotted Petronia | <i>Petronia pyrgita</i> |
| Yellow-throated Seedeater | <i>Serinus flavigula</i> |