

COMPLETE ABYSSINIA BIRDING TOUR MARCH/APRIL 2017

By Vincent Ward



Greyish Eagle Owl, Lake Langano



Ethiopia is a legendary African birding destination, with a unique diversity of habitats in addition to its wealth of bird and mammal species. Of the 28 target endemics we saw 26, including the sought-after **Ruspoli's Turaco**, **Stresemann's Bushcrow**, and **White-winged Collared Dove**. The smaller and harder-to-find endemic canaries (my personal favorites) were seen, the highlights being **White-rumped**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Yellow-throated** and **Salvadori's Seedeaters**. Despite the drier than usual conditions we managed a respectable 463 species in three weeks.

Day 1, 20 March 2017. Addis Ababa

The first stop on our three-week birding itinerary was the gardens of the Ghion Hotel. The standout highlights included **Tacazze Sunbird**, **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**, **Yellow-crowned Canary**, **Eastern Grey Woodpecker**, **Brown Parisoma**, and **Black Sparrowhawk**. Also seen were the lovely, endemic **Black-winged Lovebird** and **Brown-rumped Seedeater**.

Next, we headed to the grasslands near Addis Ababa Bole International Airport. This unassuming patch of grassland is home to several highland endemics: Rouget's Rail, Thickbilled Raven, White-collared Pigeon, and Wattled Ibis. Other specials seen included Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Lanner Falcon, Red-throated Pipit, Stout Cisticola, and Greybacked Fiscal.



Wattled Ibis

Gerfersa Reservoir was visited in the drizzly afternoon. The waterbody itself held waterfowl like **African Black** and **Yellow-billed Ducks**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Northern Shoveler**. The grassy fringes attracted **Black-winged Lapwing**, **Augur Buzzard**, **White-collared**

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Pigeon, Red-breasted Wheatear, Groundscraper Thrush, Ethiopian Siskin, and Bluewinged Goose.

Day 2, 21 March 2017. Sululta plain and Debre Libanos

We left the sprawl of Addis Ababa behind us as we headed to the Sululta plain. The plain was particularly dry, but we located the target endemic species of **Erlanger's Lark**, **Blue-winged Goose**, **Rouget's Rail**, **Abyssinian Longclaw**, and **Ethiopian Cisticola**. The plain also held **Thekla Lark** and four species of **Wheatear: Red-breasted**, **Pied**, **Northern**, and **Isabelline**.

The highland streams on the drive to Debre Libanos were home to a variety of migrant waders and waterfowl, such as **Spotted Redshank**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, and **Northern Shoveler**.

The grounds of our overnight stop, the Ethio-German Park Hotel, had a troop of several dozen **Gelada Baboons**. The hotel looked out over the spectacular Blue Nile valley, and we watched as several **Vultures**, including **Rüppell's**, **Griffon**, and **Bearded**, soared at eye level.

In the afternoon we birded the grounds of the local monastery. The slopes above the church held a long list of sought-after specials: Rüppell's Black Chat, Banded Barbet, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Ethiopian Oriole, White-rumped Babbler, White-cheeked Turaco, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, White-backed Black Tit, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, and Abyssinian Ground Thrush.

Day 3, 22 March 2017. Jemma Valley

We arrived at the rim of the monumental Jemma Valley at dawn and met up with the local "francolin" spotters. They took us to a clearing below some vegetated scree slopes, and we waited for the prized flocks of **Harwood's** and **Erckel's Francolins** to appear. After a short wait we were rewarded with stunning views of these usually secretive birds. The cliff tops above us were good roosting sites for **White-billed Starlings**.

Further towards the valley floor we had great views of **Bush Petronia**, **Fox Kestrel**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, and **Abyssinian Wheatear**.

We had lunch at the river on the valley bottom. A wide variety of seedeaters came to drink in the midday heat. **Malachite**, **Pied**, and **Giant Kingfishers** and **Senegal Thick-knee** were also seen along the river's course.

Day 4, 23 March 2017. Ankober Escarpment

Early morning birding in the Ethio-German Park Hotel and around the Portuguese Bridge gave us great views of **Abyssinian Woodpecker**, a species we had dipped at Debre Libanos.

The long drive to Debre Birhan took us along the rim of the Jemma Valley, past endless teff fields and isolated highland streams. The landscape delivered a variety of wheatears and the highland specials we had come to know in the past days. A few patches of eucalyptus trees delivered views of migrant warblers and **Brown Parisoma**.

In the afternoon we drove to the fabled Ankober Escarpment. Despite the help of the knowledgeable local guides and because of the very poor weather we failed to locate the eponymous serin. The cliffs did, however, have its characteristic large troops of **Geladas**.



Day 5, 24 March 2017. Melka Ghebdu

We descended the Ankober plateau down into the Melka Ghebdu area. The drop in elevation had an associated noticeable change in temperature and vegetation.

Once down in the shade of the riverside acacias we watched a wide variety of birds coming to drink or feed in the riparian scrub. The top species included **Nubian Woodpecker** and **Black-billed** and **Yellow-breasted Barbets**. The star, however, was the highly range-restricted, endemic **Yellow-throated Seedeater**, several of which came to drink in the heat of the day.

After a day of hot, dusty birding we ascended the plateau again to overnight at the Ankober Palace Lodge, built on the site of the former palace of Emperor Menelik II. The grounds held three species of "red-winged" **Starlings: Red-winged**, **Slender-billed**, and **White-billed**.

Day 6, 25 March 2017. Awash and Ali Dege Plains

The morning started with a distant calling **Cape Eagle-Owl** and a spectacular sunrise over the Rift Valley. Early morning birding around the lodge delivered several **Abyssinian Catbirds**, among other species.

We navigated the maze of roads associated with the new highway (currently under construction) and onto the hot Danakil Desert.

The savanna of Ali Dege Wildlife Reserve delivered the star bird of the day, Arabian Bustard, along with Singing Bush Lark, Somali Ostrich, Black-chested Snake Eagle, and Dark Chanting Goshawk. The mammals were equally exciting, and we saw, among others, Beisa Oryx, Soemmerring's Gazelle, Gerenuk, Side-striped Jackal, and Grevy's Zebra.



Arabian Bustard



The volcanic hot springs at Doho Lodge (our stop for the night) attracted a variety of waterbirds as well as an abundance of aerial species (swallows and swifts) drinking on the wing.

Day 7, 26 March 2017. Awash National Park

We started our day with breakfast overlooking the hot springs before driving out to Awash National Park.

The only stop was to chase the beautiful **Nile Valley Sunbird**. A patch of acacias just outside of the hot springs lodge held several confiding, singing males, chasing their prospective mates.

The drive into the park delivered such specials as **Scissor-tailed Kite**, **Arabian Bustard** and **Grey-headed Bush-shrike** and **Buff-crested Bustard**. We slowly birded our way through the acacia thickets and grassland to the Awash Falls Lodge with its stunning view of the Awash River and its three waterfalls.

The lodge grounds held such specials as **Beautiful** and **Nile Valley Sunbird** and **Northern Crombec**.

Day 8, 27 March 2017. Awash National Park

In the early morning we headed into the acacia woodlands of the Awash National Park. The cool weather made for some great birding and "mammaling". The following raptors were seen: Gabar Goshawk, Dark Chanting Goshawk, and Pygmy Falcon. Other species included Somali and Northern Fiscals, Nile Valley Sunbird, Arabian and Kori Bustards, Nubian Woodpecker, Gillett's Lark, Ashy Cisticola, and Somali Bunting.

The mammals for the day included Lesser Kudu, Salt's Dik-dik, Soemmerring's Gazelle, Olive and Hamadryas Baboons, Beisa Oryx, Crested Porcupine, Bat-eared Fox, and Golden Jackal.

We ended a very busy day of birding with drinks overlooking the Awash Falls.

Day 9, 28 March 2017. Great Rift Valley

After some early birding at Awash Falls Lodge we drove to Lake Basaka. After a lot of searching we found **Sombre Rock Chat**, and its lookalike, **Blackstart**.

After a quick lunch we birded the shoreline of Lake Zway, which held a wide variety of waders, ducks, gulls, and terns.

The next stop was the western edge of Lake Langano. The grounds of the Wabe Shebelle Langano Resort Hotel had **Greyish Eagle-Owl** and **Slender-tailed Nightjar**.

The road to the eastern shoreline delivered Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, breeding Banded Barbet, Black-billed Wood Hoopoe, Nubian Woodpecker, Black-headed Oriole, Yellow-fronted Parrot, and Black-winged Lovebird. Our lodge grounds were equally rich in birds and also held a good variety of mammals: Common Duiker, Guereza, Ethiopian Genet, and Hippopotamus.



Day 10, 29 March 2017. Lake Langano and Bishangary forest

Before light we enjoyed a chorus of **Slender-tailed Nightjars**. The day started with breakfast on the shores of Lake Langano. We watched a huge variety of waterbirds feeding around local fishermen working in the shallows of the lake.

Then we headed to Bishangary forest, which delivered a long litany of some amazing birds: four species of barbets, **Black-winged Lovebird**, **Black-headed** and **Abyssinian Orioles**, **Black** and **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrikes**, **Black-billed Wood Hoopoe**, **Abyssinian Scimitarbill**, **Levaillant's Cuckoo**, **Narina Trogon**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Abyssinian Ground Hornbill**, and **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill**. Mammal species we saw while birding included **Gambian Sun Squirrel**, **Common Duiker**, and **Olive Baboon**.

In the afternoon we did some birding around the resort. Violet-backed Starling, Isabelline Wheatear, and Emerald-spotted and Blue-spotted Wood Doves were the highlights.

We ended the day with dinner at the lakeside, watching the local herd of **Hippopotamus** and a pair of swimming **Nile Monitors**.



Narina Trogon

Day 11, 30 March 2017. Lake Langano to Wondo Genet

We had breakfast at the lakeside, with African Fish Eagles giving their iconic calls.

The drive to neighboring Lake Abiata gave views of **Von der Decken's Hornbill** and **Thomson's Gazelles**. At the lake itself there were thousands of **Pied Avocets**, **Black-necked Grebes**, **Little Stints**, and **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos**.

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We arrived in Wondo Genet at lunchtime. There was a pair of African Wood Owls in the hotel grounds, while the surrounding forest held specials such as Half-collared Kingfisher, Green-backed and Lesser Honeyguides, Black Sparrowhawk, Brown-throated Wattle-eye, Black-headed Oriole, and Black-winged Lovebird.

Day 12, 31 March 2017. Wondo Genet to Goba

Our morning walk in the forest netted views of **Yellow-fronted Parrot**, **Brown Parisoma**, **African Wood Owl**, and **White-headed Vulture**.

We made several stops along the way to Goba to search for Red-chested Swallow, but only one possible individual was very briefly seen. One of these stops yielded **Slender-billed Starling** breeding under a road culvert.

The major stop along the way was for the Mackinder's subspecies of **Cape Eagle-Owl** (sometimes treated as separate species). The largest of the recognized subspecies, it is an impressive bird.

Up in the Bale Mountains we had views of species not seen since leaving the Western Highlands: Rouget's Rail, Wattled Ibis, Blue-winged Goose, and Spot-breasted Lapwing.

At our accommodation in Goba we had our first **Dark-capped Bulbul** of the trip.

Day 13, 1 April 2017. Sof Omar Caves

The day started with the long drive to the Sof Omar Caves. The trees around the site held **Bristle-crowned Starling** as well as **White-browed Coucal** and **Slate-colored Boubou**. Further down the valley we found **Brown-tailed Rock Chat**, **Northern White-crowned Shrike**, **Great Reed Warbler**, and **Pygmy Batis**. After a long wait we finally had a brief view of our target for the day, **Salvadori's Seedeater**. These birds flew off and joined a much larger group. We enjoyed fantastic views as a few birds came to sit above us. After lunch we started the drive back to Goba.

Day 14, 2 April 2017. Sanetti Plateau

The day started at the headquarters of the Bale Mountains National Park. The local ranger took us into the juniper forest and put us onto a magnificent **Abyssinian Owl**. On the walk back we were able to spot some of the local endemic mammal species, **Menelik's Bushbuck**, **Bohor Reedbuck**, and **Mountain Nyala**.

Then we headed onto the high altitude Sanetti Plateau, where we had sightings of four **Ethiopian Wolves**. A female wolf approached our vehicle before pursuing and catching an endemic **Ethiopian Narrow-headed Rat**. The plateau's lakes held members of the regionally isolated population of **Ruddy Shelduck** in addition to **African Snipe**, **Blue-winged Goose**, and **Spot-breasted Lapwing**. The plateau also held **Red-billed Chough** and **Moorland Francolin**.





The endemic and Endangered (IUCN) Ethiopian Wolf

Day 15, 3 April 2017. Genale Valley

Today was the day we were targeting the very highly prized **Ruspoli's Turaco**.

We left the hotel early and headed over the Sanetti Plateau, seeing another five Ethiopian wolves along the way. A few stops in the lower mature forest yielded **Yellow-bellied Waxbills**, **Whinchat**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, and **Sharpe's Starling**. **Scaly Francolin** was seen along the road.

Once in the Genale Valley, we stopped at the first of several known sites of the turaco. It was frustratingly quiet with no fruiting trees to keep the birds around. The same scenario played out at the next few spots. It was all down to one last site on the far edge of the known range. And here the local guide got us onto a gorgeous pair of **Ruspoli's Turaco** instantly! We were able to follow the birds as they fed through the canopy for an amazing 20 minutes. The species did not come without a price, though, namely a flat tire, but we finished the day with a huge sense of accomplishment.







Ruspoli's Turaco (photo Oz Horine)

Day 16, 4 April 2017. Liben Plain

Today we set out to the Liben Plain, getting **Somali Crow** and **White-crowned Starling** along the way. The road-sided waterbodies held waterbirds, including **Red-billed Teal** and **African Openbill**. **Ethiopian Swallows** were seen roasting on the roadside telephone wires. The open areas had a number of **Kori Bustards** and **Abdim's Stork**.

The plain itself held a large number of **Somali Short-toed Larks** and **Plain-backed Pipits**. After an hour of hard searching we also located a confiding pair of **Archer's Larks** that allowed us within five meters of them.

In the afternoon we birded in transformed acacia woodlands/farmland with acacias. The list in this habitat included **Straw-tailed Whydah**, **Temminck's Courser**, **Buff-crested Bustard**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Somali Crombec**, **Shelley's Starling**, **Foxy Lark**, **Yellowspotted Petronia**, and **Yellow-necked Spurfowl**.

Day 17, 5 April 2017. Negele to Yabello

We had our first species for the day, **Bristle-crowned Starling**, at our breakfast stop in Negele. The day's route took us from the flat Liben Plain up an escarpment of granite inselbergs with their associated woodlands, then down into savanna. There was an abundance of raptors along the way, from a large **Martial Eagle** being mobbed by an **African Hawk-Eagle** to the diminutive **Pygmy Falcon**. A brief stop along the muddy red Dawa River gave us the hard-to-find **White-winged Dove** and **Juba Weaver**. Further highlights along the drive included **Vulturine Guineafowl**, **Golden-breasted Starling**, **Black-capped Social**



Weaver, and Purple Grenadier. The reptiles we saw included a massive cobra and a Nile Monitor, and the mammals, Günther's Dik-dik.

At sunset we headed out to look for night birds, getting within a meter of a **Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar**. But an approaching thunderstorm ended our nocturnal outing.

Day 18, 6 April 2017. Yabello

Our first species for the day was **Speke's Weaver** breeding in a tree at a police checkpoint. We were soon joined by police officers, who were intrigued by what we were looking at!

The Yabello Wildlife Sanctuary held an abundance of interesting species. Our specials for the day included **Dodson's Bulbul**, **Short-tailed Lark**, **Somali Courser**, **Taita Fiscal**, **Spotted Palm Thrush**, **White-bellied** and **Northern Grosbeak Canaries**, **Red-naped Bushshrike**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, and our final barbet species, **Black-throated Barbet**. Raptors included **Bateleur**, **Shikra**, and **Eurasian Hobby**. Undoubtedly, our two highlights were the very sought-after, endemic **Stresemann's Bushcrow** and **White-tailed Swallow**. We finished the morning with a group of five **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills**.



Stresemann's Bushcrow

In the afternoon we birded closer to Yabello. The local woodland held a variety of sunbirds and bushshrikes. The standout species were: **Bare-eyed Thrush**, **Steel-blue Whydah**, and **Grey-headed Batis**. At sunset we moved to a site that had **Pearl-spotted Owlet**.



Day 19, 7 April 2017. Awassa

We did very little birding today, as we had to slowly navigate the under-construction main highway north to Awassa. After a full day's drive there was little time left to bird the United Africa Hotel grounds before sunset.

Day 20, 8 April 2017. Awassa to Welkite

The hotel grounds offered several specials, but few compared to the African Spotted Creepers actively feeding in the taller trees, which also held hundreds of Marabou Storks. Blue-headed Coucals hid in the lakeside vegetation, along with numerous migrant warblers. The lake held an abundance of waterbirds, such as African Pygmy Goose, Allen's Gallinule, and Black Crake.

The legendary Awassa fish market was a hive of activity as hundreds of gulls, terns, and marabous competed for fish scraps. **Ayres's Hawk Eagle** was seen soaring high above the throng of activity.

We then set out for Welkite, which involved an ascent out of the Rift Valley and up onto the Western Highlands.



White-winged Terns feeding at the Awassa fish market



Day 21, 9 April 2017. Gibe Gorge

We made an early start to drive to the Gibe Gorge. The morning started with birding along the northern side of the Omo River. The riverside vegetation held **Black-and-White Mannikin** and **Abyssinian Waxbills** feeding with other small seedeaters. Some of the larger trees held sunbathing **Senegal Coucals**. We then crossed over the road bridge and walked to the opposite bank. The walk delivered the regionally-endemic **Yellow-rumped Seedeater** and **Northern Grey-headed Sparrow**. While waiting for our target species we had sightings of **Saker Falcon** and several species of kingfisher. As it got warmer, seedeaters came down to drink in the cool pools along the shoreline. The most notable ones included **Bar-breasted Firefinch**, **White-rumped Seedeater**, and **Exclamatory Paradise Whydah**.

On the drive back to Addis Ababa we were treated to a large group of feeding vultures. There were six species in the flock: **Griffon**, **Rüppell's**, **White-backed**, **Lappet-faced**, **Hooded**, and **White-headed Vultures**. Once back in Addis Ababa we had our final views of some of the highland species, such as **Thick-billed Raven** and **White-collared Pigeon**.



White-necked Raven (photo Oz Horine)



Bird List – Following IOC (7.1)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Region endemics are bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches	<u>Struthionidae</u>
Somali Ostrich (V)	Struthio molybdophanes
Ducks, Geese and Swans	Anatidae
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
Blue-winged Goose (V)	Cyanochen cyanoptera
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea
African Pygmy Goose	Nettapus auritus
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata
Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta
Hottentot Teal	Anas hottentota
Guineafowl	<u>Numididae</u>
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Vulturine Guineafowl	Acryllium vulturinum
Pheasants and allies	<u>Phasianidae</u>
Moorland Francolin	Scleroptila psilolaema
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena
Scaly Francolin	Pternistis squamatus
Harwood's Francolin (V)	Pternistis harwoodi
Chestnut-naped Francolin	Pternistis castaneicollis
Erckel's Francolin	Pternistis erckelii
Yellow-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis leucoscepus
Grebes	<u>Podicipedidae</u>
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis
Flamingos	Phoenicopteridae
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus
Lesser Flamingo (NT)	Phoeniconaias minor



Storks	Ciconiidae
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus
Abdim's Stork	Ciconia abdimii
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer
Ibises, Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash
Wattled Ibis	Bostrychia carunculata
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba
<u>Herons, Bitterns</u>	Ardeidae
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia
Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
<u>Hamerkop</u>	<u>Scopidae</u>
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta
Pelicans	<u>Pelecanidae</u>
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus
Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens
Cormorants, Shags	Phalacrocoracidae
Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus
Anhingas, Darters	<u>Anhingidae</u>
African Darter	Anhinga rufa
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	<u>Accipitridae</u>
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
Scissor-tailed Kite	Chelictinia riocourii
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus
Bearded Vulture (NT)	Gypaetus barbatus
Egyptian Vulture (E)	Neophron percnopterus



Hooded Vulture (CR)	Necrosyrtes monachus
White-backed Vulture (CR)	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Rüppell's Vulture	Gyps rueppelli
Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus
White-headed Vulture (CR)	Trigonoceps occipitalis
Lappet-faced Vulture (E)	Torgos tracheliotos
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinereus
Bateleur (NT)	Terathopius ecaudatus
Bat Hawk	Macheiramphus alcinus
Crowned Eagle (NT)	Stephanoaetus coronatus
Martial Eagle (V)	Polemaetus bellicosus
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle	Hieraaetus ayresii
Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax
Steppe Eagle (E)	Aquila nipalensis
African Hawk-Eagle	Aquila spilogaster
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar
Dark Chanting Goshawk	Melierax metabates
Eastern Chanting Goshawk	Melierax poliopterus
Shikra	Accipiter badius
Little Sparrowhawk	Accipiter minullus
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris
Black Sparrowhawk	Accipiter melanoleucus
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
Pallid Harrier (NT)	Circus macrourus
Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius
African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo
Mountain Buzzard (NT)	Buteo oreophilus
Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur
<u>Bustards</u>	Otididae
Arabian Bustard (NT)	Ardeotis arabs
Kori Bustard (NT)	Ardeotis kori
Buff-crested Bustard	Lophotis gindiana
Rails, Crakes and Coots	<u>Rallidae</u>
Rouget's Rail (regional)(NT)	Rougetius rougetii
Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostra
Allen's Gallinule	Porphyrio alleni



Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees	Burhinidae
Senegal Thick-knee	Burhinus senegalensis
Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis
Stilts, Avocets	Recurvirostridae
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta
Plovers	<u>Charadriidae</u>
Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus
Black-headed Lapwing	Vanellus tectus
Black-winged Lapwing	Vanellus melanopterus
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus
Spot-breasted Lapwing	Vanellus melanocephalus
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris
Jacanas	<u>Jacanidae</u>
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus
Sandpipers, Snipes	<u>Scolopacidae</u>
African Snipe	Gallinago nigripennis
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago
Black-tailed Godwit (NT)	Limosa limosa
Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Little Stint	Calidris minuta
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax
Coursers, Pratincoles	Glareolidae
Somali Courser	Cursorius somalensis
Temminck's Courser	Cursorius temminckii
Three-banded Courser	Rhinoptilus cinctus
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	<u>Laridae</u>
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus
<u>Sandgrouse</u>	<u>Pteroclidae</u>
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles exustus



Pigeons, Doves	Columbidae
Rock Dove (I)	Columba livia
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
White-collared Pigeon	Columba albitorques
Lemon Dove	Columba larvata
Dusky Turtle Dove	Streptopelia lugens
African Collared Dove	Streptopelia roseogrisea
White-winged Collared Dove (NT)	Streptopelia reichenowi
Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur afer
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis
Bruce's Green Pigeon	Treron waalia
Turacos	Musophagidae
White-cheeked Turaco (regional)	Tauraco leucotis
Ruspoli's Turaco (V)	Tauraco ruspolii
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides personatus
White-bellied Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides leucogaster
Cuckoos	Cuculidae
Senegal Coucal	Centropus senegalensis
Blue-headed Coucal	Centropus monachus
White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus
Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius
Barn Owls	Tytonidae
Western Barn Owl	Tyto alba
Owls	<u>Strigidae</u>
African Scops Owl	Otus senegalensis
Cape Eagle-Owl	Bubo capensis
Greyish Eagle-Owl	Bubo cinerascens
African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum
Abyssinian Owl	Asio abyssinicus
<u>Nightjars</u>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>
Donaldson Smith's Nightjar	Caprimulgus donaldsoni



Slender-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus clarus
<u>Swifts</u>	Apodidae
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba
Mottled Swift	Tachymarptis aequatorialis
Common Swift	Apus apus
Nyanza Swift	Apus niansae
Little Swift	Apus affinis
Horus Swift	Apus horus
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer
Mousebirds	Coliidae
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus
Blue-naped Mousebird	Urocolius macrourus
Trogons	<u>Trogonidae</u>
Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina
Rollers	<u>Coraciidae</u>
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
Abyssinian Roller	Coracias abyssinicus
European Roller	Coracias garrulus
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus
<u>Kingfishers</u>	<u>Alcedinidae</u>
Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus
Half-collared Kingfisher	Alcedo semitorquata
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Bee-eaters	<u>Meropidae</u>
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
Blue-breasted Bee-eater	Merops variegatus
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops nubicus
Hoopoes	<u>Upupidae</u>
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops
Wood Hoopoes	Phoeniculidae
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus
Black-billed Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus somaliensis
Black Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus aterrimus



Abyssinian Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus minor
Ground Hornbills	Bucorvidae
Abyssinian Ground Hornbill	Bucorvus abyssinicus
Hornbills	Bucerotidae
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus
Von der Decken's Hornbill	Tockus deckeni
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus flavirostris
Hemprich's Hornbill	Lophoceros hemprichii
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	Bycanistes brevis
African Barbets	Lybiidae
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus pusillus
Red-fronted Barbet	Tricholaema diademata
Black-throated Barbet	Tricholaema melanocephala
Banded Barbet	Lybius undatus
Black-billed Barbet	Lybius guifsobalito
Double-toothed Barbet	Lybius bidentatus
Red-and-yellow Barbet	Trachyphonus erythrocephalus
Yellow-breasted Barbet	Trachyphonus margaritatus
D'Arnaud's Barbet	Trachyphonus darnaudii
Honeyguides	Indicatoridae
Green-backed Honeybird	Prodotiscus zambesiae
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator
Woodpeckers	<u>Picidae</u>
Nubian Woodpecker	Campethera nubica
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus
Abyssinian Woodpecker	Dendropicos abyssinicus
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Eastern Grey Woodpecker	Dendropicos spodocephalus
<u>Caracaras, Falcons</u>	Falconidae
Pygmy Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus
Fox Kestrel	Falco alopex
Grey Kestrel	Falco ardosiaceus
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
Saker Falcon (E)	Falco cherrug
African & New World Parrots	<u>Psittacidae</u>
Yellow-fronted Parrot	Poicephalus flavifrons



Red-bellied Parrot	Poicephalus rufiventris
Old World Parrots	Psittaculidae
Black-winged Lovebird	Agapornis taranta
Wattle-eyes, Batises	<u>Platysteiridae</u>
Grey-headed Batis	Batis orientalis
Western Black-headed Batis	Batis erlangeri
Pygmy Batis	Batis perkeo
Brown-throated Wattle-eye	Platysteira cyanea
<u>Helmetshrikes</u>	Prionopidae
White-crested Helmetshrike	Prionops plumatus
Bushshrikes	Malaconotidae
Grey-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus
Rosy-patched Bushshrike	Telophorus cruentus
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus
Northern Puffback	Dryoscopus gambensis
Slate-colored Boubou	Laniarius funebris
Red-naped Bushshrike	Laniarius ruficeps
Ethiopian Boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus
Brubru	Nilaus afer
Cuckooshrikes	Campephagidae
Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava
Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	Campephaga phoenicea
Shrikes	Laniidae
Northern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus ruppelli
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio
Isabelline Shrike	Lanius isabellinus
Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor
Grey-backed Fiscal	Lanius excubitoroides
Taita Fiscal	Lanius dorsalis
Somali Fiscal	Lanius somalicus
Northern Fiscal	Lanius humeralis
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator
Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus
Figbirds, Orioles	Oriolidae
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus
Ethiopian Oriole (regional)	Oriolus monacha
Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus
Drongos	<u>Dicruridae</u>
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
Monarchs	<u>Monarchidae</u>



African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis
Crows, Jays	Corvidae
Stresemann's Bushcrow (E)	Zavattariornis stresemanni
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
Cape Crow	Corvus capensis
Pied Crow	Corvus albus
Somali Crow	Corvus edithae
Fan-tailed Raven	Corvus rhipidurus
Thick-billed Raven (regional)	Corvus crassirostris
Tits, Chickadees	Paridae
White-backed Black Tit	Melaniparus leuconotus
Acacia Tit	Melaniparus thruppi
Penduline Tits	<u>Remizidae</u>
Mouse-colored Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus musculus
<u>Larks</u>	Alaudidae
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucotis
Foxy Lark	Calendulauda alopex
Archer's Lark	Heteromirafra archeri
Somali Short-toed Lark	Calandrella somalica
Singing Bush Lark	Mirafra cantillans
Gillett's Lark	Mirafra gilletti
Short-tailed Lark	Spizocorys fremantlii
Thekla Lark	Galerida theklae
Erlanger's Lark	Calandrella erlangeri
Bulbuls	Pycnonotidae
Common Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus
Dodson's Bulbul	Pycnonotus dodsoni
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor
Northern Brownbul	Phyllastrephus strepitans
Swallows, Martins	<u>Hirundinidae</u>
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola
Banded Martin	Riparia cincta
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Ethiopian Swallow	Hirundo aethiopica
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii
White-tailed Swallow (V)	Hirundo megaensis
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Pale Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne obsoleta
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula



Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica
<u>Crombecs, African Warblers</u>	Macrosphenidae
Northern Crombec	Sylvietta brachyura
Red-faced Crombec	Sylvietta whytii
Somali Crombec	Sylvietta isabellina
Leaf Warblers and allies	Phylloscopidae
Brown Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus umbrovirens
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita
Reed Warblers and allies	Acrocephalidae
Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus
Marsh Warbler	Acrocephalus palustris
Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina
Grassbirds and allies	Locustellidae
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler	Bradypterus cinnamomeus
Cisticolas and allies	<u>Cisticolidae</u>
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana
Boran Cisticola	Cisticola bodessa
Ashy Cisticola	Cisticola cinereolus
Ethiopian Cisticola	Cisticola lugubris
Stout Cisticola	Cisticola robustus
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava
Buff-bellied Warbler	Phyllolais pulchella
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida
Red-fronted Warbler	Urorhipis rufifrons
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata
Grey Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes simplex
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis
Laughingthrushes	Leiothrichidae
Rufous Chatterer	Turdoides rubiginosa
White-rumped Babbler	Turdoides leucopygia
<u>Sylviid Babblers</u>	<u>Sylviidae</u>
Abyssinian Catbird	Parophasma galinieri
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla
Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis
Brown Parisoma	Sylvia lugens
Banded Parisoma	Sylvia boehmi
White-eyes	Zosteropidae
Abyssinian White-eye	Zosterops abyssinicus



Montane White-eye	Zosterops poliogastrus
Treecreepers	Certhiidae
African Spotted Creeper	Salpornis salvadori
Starlings, Rhabdornis	<u>Sturnidae</u>
Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chloropterus
Rüppell's Starling	Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Golden-breasted Starling	Lamprotornis regius
Superb Starling	Lamprotornis superbus
Shelley's Starling	Lamprotornis shelleyi
White-crowned Starling	Lamprotornis albicapillus
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio
Slender-billed Starling	Onychognathus tenuirostris
Bristle-crowned Starling	Onychognathus salvadorii
White-billed Starling	Onychognathus albirostris
Sharpe's Starling	Poeoptera sharpii
<u>Oxpeckers</u>	Buphagidae
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus
Thrushes	Turdidae
Abyssinian Ground Thrush	Geokichla piaggiae
Groundscraper Thrush	Turdus litsitsirupa
African Thrush	Turdus pelios
Bare-eyed Thrush	Turdus tephronotus
Abyssinian Thrush	Turdus abyssinicus
Chats, Old World Flycatchers	<u>Muscicapidae</u>
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher	Melaenornis chocolatinus
Northern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis edolioides
Pale Flycatcher	Melaenornis pallidus
African Grey Flycatcher	Melaenornis microrhynchus
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta
Rüppell's Robin-Chat	Cossypha semirufa
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini
Spotted Palm Thrush	Cichladusa guttata
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus
White-winged Cliff Chat	Monticola semirufus
Common Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis
Little Rock Thrush	Monticola rufocinereus



Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus
Moorland Chat	Pinarochroa sordida
Mocking Cliff Chat	Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Rüppell's Black Chat	Myrmecocichla melaena
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe
Red-breasted Wheatear	Oenanthe bottae
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina
Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka
Blackstart	Oenanthe melanura
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris
Brown-tailed Rock Chat	Oenanthe scotocerca
Sombre Rock Chat	Oenanthe dubia
Abyssinian Wheatear	Oenanthe lugubris
Sunbirds	Nectariniidae
Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird	Anthreptes orientalis
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris
Nile Valley Sunbird	Hedydipna metallica
Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis
Tacazze Sunbird	Nectarinia tacazze
Beautiful Sunbird	Cinnyris pulchellus
Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis
Shining Sunbird	Cinnyris habessinicus
Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris venustus
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches	Passeridae
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali
Grey-capped Social Weaver	Pseudonigrita arnaudi
Black-capped Social Weaver	Pseudonigrita cabanisi
Shelley's Sparrow	Passer shelleyi
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer griseus
Swainson's Sparrow	Passer swainsonii
Chestnut Sparrow	Passer eminibey
Bush Petronia	Gymnoris dentata
Yellow-spotted Petronia	Gymnoris pyrgita
Weavers, Widowbirds	<u>Ploceidae</u>
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	Bubalornis niger
White-headed Buffalo Weaver	Dinemellia dinemelli
Speckle-fronted Weaver	Sporopipes frontalis
Baglafecht Weaver	Ploceus baglafecht
Little Weaver	Ploceus luteolus



Spectroled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis
Spectacled Weaver	
Rüppell's Weaver	Ploceus galbula
Lesser Masked Weaver	Ploceus intermedius
Speke's Weaver	Ploceus spekei
Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus
Juba Weaver	Ploceus dichrocephalus
Chestnut Weaver	Ploceus rubiginosus
Red-headed Weaver	Anaplectes rubriceps
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea
Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis
Fan-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes axillaris
Red-collared Widowbird	Euplectes ardens
Waxbills, Munias and allies	Estrildidae
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba
Cut-throat Finch	Amadina fasciata
Bar-breasted Firefinch	Lagonosticta rufopicta
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	Uraeginthus bengalus
Purple Grenadier	Uraeginthus ianthinogaster
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	Coccopygia quartinia
Abyssinian Waxbill	Estrilda ochrogaster
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	Estrilda rhodopyga
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild
African Silverbill	Euodice cantans
Grey-headed Silverbill	Odontospiza caniceps
Bronze Mannikin	Lonchura cucullata
Black-and-white Mannikin	Lonchura bicolor
Indigobirds, Whydahs	Viduidae
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura
Steel-blue Whydah	Vidua hypocherina
Straw-tailed Whydah	Vidua fischeri
Exclamatory Paradise Whydah	Vidua interjecta
Wagtails, Pipits	Motacillidae
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava
Mountain Wagtail	Motacilla clara
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp
Abyssinian Longclaw (NT)	Macronyx flavicollis
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus
Long-billed Pipit	Anthus similis
Plain-backed Pipit	Anthus leucophrys
Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus



Finches	Fringillidae
African Citril	Crithagra citrinelloides
White-rumped Seedeater	Crithagra leucopygia
Yellow-rumped Seedeater (regional)	Crithagra xanthopygia
Reichenow's Seedeater	Crithagra reichenowi
Yellow-throated Seedeater (E)	Crithagra flavigula
Salvadori's Seedeater (V)	Crithagra xantholaema
White-bellied Canary	Crithagra dorsostriata
Northern Grosbeak-Canary	Crithagra donaldsoni
Reichard's Seedeater	Crithagra reichardi
Brown-rumped Seedeater	Crithagra tristriata
Streaky Seedeater	Crithagra striolata
Yellow-crowned Canary	Serinus flavivertex
Ethiopian Siskin	Serinus nigriceps
Buntings, New World Sparrows	Emberizidae
Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana
Striolated Bunting	Emberiza striolata
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi
Somali Bunting	Emberiza poliopleura
Total	463

Mammal List

Common name (IUCN)	Scientific name (IUCN)	
Cercopithecidae		
Gelada Baboon	Theropithecus gelada	
Olive Baboon	Papio anubis	
Hamadryas Baboon	Papio hamadryas	
Grivet	Chlorocebus aethiops	
Guereza	Colobus guereza	
Galagidae		
Somali Lesser Galago	Galago gallarum	
Equidae		
Grevy's Zebra	Equus grevyi	
Hippopotamidae		
Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius	
Suidae		
Desert Warthog	Phacochoerus aethiopicus	
Bovidae		
Mountain Nyala	Tragelaphus buxtoni	



Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus	
Menelik's Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki	
Bohor Reedbuck	Redunca redunca	
Lesser Kudu	Tragelaphus imberbis	
Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia	
Beisa Oryx	Oryx beisa	
Gerenuk	Litocranius walleri	
Soemmerring's Gazelle	Nanger soemmerringii	
Thomson's Gazelle	Eudorcas thomsonii	
Salt's Dik-dik	Madoqua saltiana	
Günther's Dik-dik	Madoqua guentheri	
Canidae		
Ethiopian Wolf	Canis simensis	
Golden Jackal	Canis aureus	
Side-striped Jackal	Canis adustus	
Bat-eared Fox	Otocyon megalotis	
Herpestidae		
Slender Mongoose	Galerella sanguinea	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	Helogale parvula	
Viverridae		
Ethiopian Genet	Genetta abyssinica	
Procaviidae		
Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis	
Leporidae		
Ethiopian Hare	Lepus fagani	
Sciuridae		
Gambian Sun Squirrel	Heliosciurus gambianus	
Muridae		
Ethiopian Narrow-headed Rat	Stenocephalemys albocaudata	
Hystricidae		
Crested Porcupine	Hystrix cristata	
Total	33	

