

# The Ethiopian Highlands

*and the Great Rift Valley*

A Greentours Tour Report

14<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Led by Phil Benstead & Rondi Salter

Daily report by Phil Benstead & Rondi Salter

**Day 1**      **14<sup>th</sup> November**      **flight**

We all gathered at Heathrow for the flight but most of us actually failed to meet up with each other at the gate and before we knew it we were asleep on the plane crossing Africa.

**Day 2**      **15<sup>th</sup> November**      **Addis Ababa and Geferessa**

Bleary-eyed we emerged from the plane in the early morning and finally all met up at the baggage carousel. Outside we changed some money and then found Zelé and the Ethiopian driver team in the car park waiting patiently. Soon we were packed into three 4WDs and heading for downtown Addis and our hotel. Checking in so early in the morning was problematic though but we all had rooms eventually and breakfast was most welcome. This left a little free time to get ourselves organised before we headed out to the hills around Addis to get some fresh air.

Lunch dispatched we took to the cars and drove out of a bustling, dusty town to get to some wildlife around the reservoir at Geferessa. Access was limited to the road but we managed to assemble the start of our bird list and start photographing some of the butterflies and dragonflies available. Birds here included some fine African snipe and a few more prosaic waders species. Out on the lake our first Egyptian geese jostled with some nice yellow-billed duck and a few Palearctic migrants like shoveler and pintail. Behind us in the ubiquitous eucalyptus a few birds were apparent too with blue-breasted bee-eater a firm favourite and some nice looks at our first Swainson's sparrow and brown-rumped seedeater.

We moved on quickly to a quiet, marshy end of the reservoir and found our first highland endemic birds. Wattled ibis rubbed shoulders with their sacred cousins. A lone blue-winged goose was nice and a flock of white-collared pigeons descended on us. Spending a little time here paid dividends for raptors; we were buzzed by hunting lanners, 'scoped African fish eagles, spotted our first augur buzzards and sifted through the vultures and kites. The marsh provided a few red-throated pipits and out on the reservoir from here we found little grebes and even a lone maccoa duck. The edge

held spur-winged plovers and a solo yellow-billed stork. Tired from all the travel but glad to have stretched our legs we headed back to Addis and dinner.

### Day 3      16<sup>th</sup> November      to Debre Libanos

A 0730 start saw us heading out of town and into country. Zelé had some stops along the way, the first at the Sululta Plain. Here we got stuck into some birds and chased a few butterflies. Wattled ibis landed close by for more views of this ugly endemic. We worked the fields and eventually got good views of Ethiopian cisticola, grassland pipit and Erlanger's lark. A whinchat here was a nice reminder of home and was the only one we were to see. More augur buzzards soared here. The flowering shrub *Guizotia abyssinica* here held a number of butterflies including a clear-winged acraea and the first of many small coppers seen during the tour.

Failing to find the longclaw we drove on a little more and Zelé showed us a very birdy spot. Here we found the longclaw even before we got out of the vehicles and we went on to see a nice selection of, often very tame, birds. A hamerkop was feeding down in the streambed, together with some graceful mountain wagtails. A cinereous bunting gave us a runaround and was a staff-only affair in the end. Not so the feisty cinnamon-breasted bunting that sang to us at close range and the juvenile red-rumped swallow just metres away on the fence. Ethiopia offers very tame birds – a paradise for photographers. The weedy field here was crammed with Ethiopian siskins and a superb African stonechat (endemic sub-species). Groundscraper thrushes bounced around on the short turf.

Driving on towards Debre Libanos and an increasingly overdue lunch we had to make multiple roadside stops for our first black-winged lapwings, white-winged mocking-chats and white storks. Our hotel at lunchtime was slightly chaotic but we enjoyed birding in the garden whilst we waited for lunch to come and feasted our eyes on the incredible view over the rift. White-rumped babbler was nice here and flowering plants attracted both variable and Tacazze sunbirds. Overhead raptors were obvious and included a few booted eagles and our first Ruppell's vultures. After lunch we sipped tea and watched scavengers arrive at a pile of bones we had brought with us for the occasion. We were hoping for a lammergier on the deck but he passed by just before our bones were in position and did not come back sadly. Nevertheless we enjoyed great views of tawny eagle, Ruppell's vulture and best-of-all two lappet-faced vultures during our vigil as they squabbled over the scraps of meat stuck to the bones.

Phil had spotted some distant gelada during lunch so we marched off along a track along the scarp edge to try and get closer. We watched as small boys chased them away with dogs (geladas are a bit of a pest to agriculturalists!). Stephanie saved the day by finding three relatively close individuals that had slipped through the cordon of boys. Along this track we also found apricot coloured *Kalancoe lanceolata* and the surprising shrub dock *Rumex abyssinicus*. Wanting more of the Geladas we headed off in the vehicles and almost straight away bumped into a nice roadside group. Cameras were employed and then we moved on to look for birds. Very quickly though one carload decided to head back to the geladas and spent some quality time watching them closely, eventually becoming embedded inside the troupe! Great fun to watch these animals at close quarters. The birders

meanwhile moved on down to the monastery for some end-of-day streamside action that included views of Abyssinian woodpecker and mountain (olive) thrush. The gelada team re-joined them for a short time before dusk came and ended our day

Driving back to the hotel we had time for a shower before being whisked to a nearby restaurant for a proper Ethiopian dinner. A good day.

## **Day 4            17<sup>th</sup> November                    to Ankober**

A gentle start saw us out the door at 0630 and heading for the nearby restaurant, this time for breakfast. Driving on we headed for the Jemma Valley and our search for francolins began. En route we were staggered once again by the incredible canyon scenery. The Jemma Valley experience was a bit of a blur, being in three vehicles we all stopped and saw slightly different things. Common cranes fed in roadside fields. The first two cars succeeded in seeing Erckel's francolin as they drove along, car 3 had to settle for hearing them...

Reaching the lip of the scarp we headed down into the valley and enlisted the help of the local farmers in finally finding a Harwood's francolin (a poor flight view for us sadly). Birds here included more white-rumped babblers and a red-collared widowbird. A nearby cave set into the cliff produced some great birding with white-billed starling, Nyanza swift and yellow-bellied waxbill to name but a few. Running out of time we headed back towards the main road. A group of gelada perched on the cliff was just a fleeting glimpse as we barrelled along and out towards the main road. Our first Abyssinian ground hornbills were watched wading through a field of teff (the native grain – *Eragrostis tef* – and the key ingredient of injera). We stopped for our first pallid harrier and got great looks again at blue-winged goose and wattled ibis. Roadside posts and wires delivered great looks at augur buzzard, kestrels and our first Egyptian vulture.

We reached Debre Birhan for another slightly late lunch at a tasty hotel buffet. Afterwards we drove the last 40 km to our hill-top former-palace hotel. This took the rest of the afternoon! Numerous stops were enjoyed and some with flowers! These included the red hot poker *Kniphophia foliosa* and white everlasting flower *Helichrysum citrispinum*. We searched the top of the scarp for Ankober serin but only succeeded in finding Ethiopian rock hyrax. Eventually it was time to head for the hotel in earnest and we arrived at dusk for the walk up the many steps to this decidedly montane establishment. There was enough light however to enjoy a few more flowers including *Pelargonium multibracteatum* (white geranium amongst the rocks) and *Cephalaria columbaria* (pink scabious) along with delicate ferns and beard lichens. After dinner we finally found the time to get stuck into the checklists for the first time...

## **Day 5            18<sup>th</sup> November                    Melka Ghebdu and on to Awash**

The sun shone down as we clambered up the steps to the restaurant (2870m asl) for breakfast. The garden was heaving with birds, the songs of Rueppell's robin-chat and tropical boubou echoed across the staggering views. Breakfast was good and then we had to negotiate the path down to the

cars. Many diverting via Phil's telescope for nice views of a calling Erckel's francolin and close views of the boubou and a few other small birds that were new for us. In Ankober we stopped just after getting underway for our first banded barbet and little weaver.

Driving the rough track into the Melka Ghebdu got us prepared for what was to be a rough, rocky but occasionally unbelievably dusty ride across country to Awash. Here the landscape is dominated by dry woodland/scrub with flat-topped acacia *Acacia abyssinica*, Senegal acacia *Senegalia senegal*, *Terminalia schimperiana* and the occasional Frankincense tree *Boswellia sacra*. On the way to Melka Ghebdu we stopped to look at our first little rock thrush. Our time at Melka Ghebdu allowed us to walk a bit before we took to the vehicles for the day and we wandered along the road parallel to the small river and mostly watched birds. Black storks were flushed from the river which also produced our first malachite kingfisher and another hamerkop. Roadside fields held our first Abyssinian rollers and hoopoes appeared too for the first time. More ground-hornbills here were welcome. Moving on we found two brown snake-eagles perched up and below them our first big herd of helmeted guineafowl fed noisily. Grivet monkeys scampered about on the low rocky cliffs.

Driving on we made numerous stops; firstly for some fine yellow-breasted barbets, next for black-billed barbet, then little sparrowhawk. The transect from the highland escarpment down into the plains was fascinating and by lunchtime we were in the land of the Afar and surrounded by camels. The Afar are famously belligerent and our guide and drivers were effortlessly polite to all their many queries. Over lunch we were also visited by a number of new birds including bearded woodpecker and yellow-spotted petronia.

After lunch the heat of the day really built up and things quietened down dramatically as we ploughed steadily on. Despite the heat though the shade was still worth searching and car 3 did well with the first buff-crested bustard, a small flock of chestnut-bellied sandgrouse and a brief encounter with our first Salt's dikdik. We were staggered by the scale of the invasion of *Prosopis juliflora* in some areas along the track. Just as we started to tire of the novelty of all this rough track driving the town appeared on the horizon!

As we neared Awash marabou storks and Egyptian vultures started to appear in the air and we made it to the tarmac and the hotel.

## **Day 6            19<sup>th</sup> November            Awash NP**

A long day in the park beckoned for us this morning. After a tasty breakfast and lashings of good Ethiopian coffee (a trip highlight for some and part of Ethiopia you can take home with you) we walked for a while in the cool of the morning. The riverine forest here produced some great stuff. Along the river we found our first hadada ibis, as well as lurking Nile crocodile and a skittish Nile monitor. The campsite had a group of three Guereza colobus monkeys that hid away from view fairly unsuccessfully. A small flock of white helmetshrikes materialised in nearby trees. Lesser kudu and our first three-banded courser skulked in the thorn scrub. Von der Decken's hornbills appeared and grivet monkeys fed all around us at various stages of the walk. Dragonflies here included the photogenic libellulid *Trithemis annulata*. An adult tawny eagle sat atop its nest on a transmitter.

As the heat was building we returned to the vehicles for a morning safari. Awash is not exactly a typical African National Park and we were surprised by the number of domestic livestock we saw during the day. But wildlife is present too and we were soon watching our first Arabian bustard (one of three seen during the day). Mammals followed with fairly numerous beisa oryx being encountered but only one Soemmering's gazelle. We scratched our heads over warthog identification but eventually concluded that those we saw in the park were common warthog not the more desirable desert warthog...

Lunch was taken at the nearby Lodge and we rested up during the heat of the afternoon. Some of us braved the heat down in the riverbed and picked up some nice invertebrate species for our trouble, including the endemic libellulid *Trithemis dejouxi* or stonewash dropwing. The afternoon drive was notable for the large leopard tortoise that Sheila found. What a monster! We also enjoyed views of rosy-patched bush-shrikes, found more Arabian and kori bustards and a variety of smaller birds including purple grenadier, Somali bunting and Gillett's lark. As dusk approached black-backed jackals started to appear. A good day in the field.

## Day 7          20<sup>th</sup> November          Ali Dege Plain

Today saw us driving north along the highway to Djibouti towards the Ali Dege Plain, en route we rooted out our first gerenuks, a fascinating little antelope and got great looks at hamadryas baboons. As we tracked the gerenuk, we bumped into our only black-eared wheatear of the trip – a female. Driving on we stopped for our entry permits and picked up two guides/security men and started looking around the plain. Searches by the guides along the road for roosting nightjars were unsuccessful but did produce great views of a couple of gangs of Lichtenstein's sandgrouse. Across the road on the plain proper our first ostrich sailed through the growing heat haze. Abandoning our search for nightjars, but not until after we had watched our first Nile Valley sunbird, we headed down onto the plain.

It was parched and dusty down on the plain but well worth visiting and evidently much better protected than Awash NP. We got much better looks at the Soemmering's gazelle here – finding nearly ten in the end. Gerenuk appeared again but distantly as we searched in vain for Grevy's zebra. Ostriches became commonplace and we saw one group of six very well (the Somali race *molybdephanes*). Jackals were surprisingly easy to find here in the day too and like yesterday were all black-backed. New birds were available. Pleasingly we connected with both crowned and black-headed lapwings. White-bellied bustards popped up in pairs close to the track.

Leaving the plain we took our picnic lunch under a clump of acacias at the start of the Bilen Lodge track. Afterwards we went for a short walk but the heat of the day soon sent us all scuttling back to the shade. In the very short walk though we did get nice views of another Nile Valley sunbird, some blue-naped mousebirds and, best-of-all, a noisy gang of black-billed wood-hoopoes. Driving to Bilen Lodge for a beer seemed like a good idea, so we bumped along the track and found a large herd of camels watering at a pool in the desert. A moorhen here was new for us. The lodge garden was full of wire-tailed swallows and a few barn and Ethiopian swallows too.

On the way back out from the Lodge we stopped again to look yet again for roosting nightjars and the low cliff produced African palm and little swifts and our first sand martins. Shaded spots produced yet more Salt's dikdik and we found our sixth and final Arabian bustard of the day here. Our last new bird of the session was a long overdue Rueppell's starling by the side of the road.

Driving back to Awash we were staggered by the amount of lorries coming from Djibouti (Friday night?) and when we got to the Customs area we were amazed by the chaos. Our drivers knew what they were doing though and we were soon on our way again and back at the hotel.

## **Day 8            21<sup>st</sup> November                            to Bale Mountain Lodge (2380m asl)**

We had a rather too-leisurely start today leaving at 0730 for the long drive (with stops) to Bale Mountain Lodge... Our first stop was at nearby Lake Biseka for great looks at a variety of waterbirds. Then we searched the nearby lava fields for sombre chat. Only Zelé saw the latter but we did get views of a 'lava-black' form of the rock hyrax and our first carmine bee-eaters. Blue-cheeked bee-eaters appeared briefly too. Later roadside stops produced a great herd of Abdim's storks sweeping across the plains and other birds including pygmy falcon and white-bellied canary. We took a rather lengthy lunch at Nazaret and then began the long drive through the incredible agricultural landscape on the edge of the Rift. At dusk we were still well short of the hotel and crossed the Sanetti Plateau in the dark. Despite the general frustrations with timing; the chill in the air, the stars, the silhouettes of the mountains and giant lobelias and a fleeting dik dik and Starck's hare, fueled the excitement for what was to be a wonderful few days in the Bale Mountains. When we finally arrived the hotel staff were waiting patiently for us and quickly served us a tasty dinner, good wine and got us into our much anticipated and delightful rooms.

## **Day 9            22<sup>nd</sup> November                            Hareenna Forest**

We awoke to stunning views of mountain pinacles cloaked in montane forest dominated by *Hagenia abyssinica* and *Schefflera volkensii* trees. The garden before breakfast was great for birds and between us we did quite well with our first Abyssinian catbird and Abyssinian ground thrush. A late start and a morning walk in the grounds produced some great birds – dark-headed oriole, our first silvery-cheeked hornbill and good looks at Rueppell's robin-chat. Then we took to the vehicles for lift uphill to search for Bale Mountain monkey which we eventually find. A difficult species to find and a relief to see so easily. Notable plants included the forest lobelia *Lobelia giberroa* and large sprays of the purple *Plectranthus garckeianus*.

After lunch we take to the cars again for more wildlife-watching going downhill this time and picking up white-cheeked turaco, an amazing pair of African black duck on the stream at the bottom and a variety of birds including African olive pigeon, tawny-flanked prinia and brown woodland warbler.

After dinner a small team went spotlighting in one of the vehicles with Phil wedged into one of the

spare tyres on the roof! This proved to be a trip highlight for those present with views of; Menelik's bush buck (2), bush duiker (2), sleeping colobus (2), slender mongoose (1 – distant), spotted hyaena (1), yellow spotted bush hyrax (1) and best-of-all a giant forest hog trundling along in front of the vehicle.

## **Day 10      23<sup>rd</sup> November                      Sanetti plateau (c. 4000m asl)**

Out up and onto the plateau today on the wolf hunt, perhaps the most eagerly anticipated day of the tour. It did not disappoint! The sun shone down as we drove up out of the forest into the crazy heathland habitat on the slopes and finally out onto the plateau which is dominated by the silvery-white low shrubby *Helichrysum citrispinum* which forms part of this Afroalpine Erica-Alchemilla-Helichrysum heathland. This heath is studded with the spectacular Giant lobelia *Lobelia rhyncopetalum* which dominate the landscape.

Whilst we waited for the wolves to stop sunbathing and get out hunting we filled our time taking in the scenic views on offer, checking through the flora and looking at birds. Brown parus popped up. The lead vehicles did well for both francolins and we finally got good looks at an adult African stonechat. Trundling over the plateau we eventually bumped into our first wolf, asleep in the sun near the road and we did not have to wait long before he woke and trotted off out of sight. The first wolf under the belt we drove on and bumped into another two individuals by the road before lunch. We watched both these animals digging out *Arvicanthis* grass-rats (*blicki* being the common consensus) and guzzling them down.

After lunch, which was interrupted by another wolf and our first (female) mountain nyala, we get back to the hunt. More wolves followed including an unbelievably close encounter with one individual that was more interested in a scent on the road than us. Lammergier flew low overhead as we watched spot-breasted lapwings, and the incredible density of rodents (grass-rats and root-rats) attracted a variety of avian predators such as eagles, buzzards and cooperatively-hunting pairs of lanners. Great fun to watch unless you are a rodent. Sally found vehicle 3 it's first Rougets rail. Driving back towards the Lodge the weather comes to find us and we drop down through cloud to home picking up a migrant *calidus* peregrine below Rira.

A spotlighting walk after dinner was quieter than the drive last night (the moon was blazing down on us) with poor views of bushbuck but excellent close views of spotted hyaena approached down to close-range in the clearing. He just lay there with his head on his paws until he decided we had got close enough and beat a dignified retreat. Great day.

## **Day 11      24<sup>th</sup> November                      Bale Mountain Lodge and Harena**

Having elected to take it easy today we had a leisurely breakfast before heading out to explore the environs of the lodge. Zele took us down the track to the hyaena clearing and then we ducked under the canopy to check out a huge tree (*Schefflera volkensii*). Birds appeared with more looks at white-cheeked turaco and Abyssinian woodpecker. By a small stream people started peeling off the walk to

enjoy the birding in the clearing or to chase butterflies and dragonflies around the water. A smart longhorn beetle was found but may take some time to identify... Several highland endemic odonates were photographed. Some of us drifted back to the lodge for a quick drink before working the meadow below the restaurant. The wet flush here was busy with odonates and butterflies and some of us had an enjoyable hour here before lunch.

After a short break in the afternoon where we pursued our own interests most of us met up for a late afternoon walk. We drove uphill to the base of the scarp near the village of Rira and took a short walk through enchanting mossy bamboo forest full of flowers including pink *Hypoestes* sp., blue *Parochetus* sp. and *Lobelia schimperii*, purple *Viola abyssinica* and *Geranium arabicum*. Birds appeared and we found another Rouget's rail and our first yellow-crowned canaries. Dropping down the trail into the bamboo zone, many of us made it to a pretty set of small waterfalls which were fringed with *Impatiens* sp. It was getting late and there were few birds active down in the gully but it was a pretty spot. Walking back out we met up with the cars and dropped back downhill and straight into an encounter with a large troupe of Bale mountain monkeys. A great end to the session.

After dinner some of us went herping in the meadow below the lodge for 40 minutes. The idea was to find some of the chameleons endemic to the mountain and we did. Searching the striking St. John's wort *Hypericum revolutum* trees we quickly found the first of three small Bale two-horned chameleons roosting high in a tree and then Rondi found a nice larger one lower down! Moving on to the nearby wet flush Rondi went in and soon tracked down the calling frog – a kermit-like *Leptopelis ragazzi*. A great short session.

## **Day 12      25<sup>th</sup> November                      Sanetti, Dinsho, Gaysay and Langano**

Another big transfer saw us saying goodbye to the marvelous Bale Mountain Lodge at 0600. We took breakfast on the plateau by the ruddy shelduck wetland but it was too early for any wolf or raptor activity as the rodents were all still underground. Lots of francolins though en route with great views of chestnut-naped and moorland. Our first real stop though was at Dinsho where our local guide Abdullah showed us the mountain nyala, abyssinian owl and african wood owl in a super-efficient short circuit. Also here only our second (and final) brown woodland warbler.

Nearby the Gaysay grasslands had many more mountain nyala and a nice bonus herd of ten bohor reedbuck. We searched for serval nearby but very quickly we had to move on. After that we drove breaking to take lunch at Shashamene and then tackling the final short 1.5 hour drive to Bishangari Lodge through heavily populated but surprisingly birdy shoreline habitat. The Lodge looked great and we settled in for an enjoyable stay.

A night walk after dinner produced close views of a male bohor reedbuck and a nice perched slender-tailed nightjar. A tree-frog climbing a tree was probably a Vannutelli's tree frog. Nice short session.



**Day 13      26<sup>th</sup> November                      Bishangari Lodge (1585 m asl)**

Today we spent the whole day on foot or relaxing and very nice it was. Pre-dawn the full moon shone out over the lake in a fetching fashion. We did a pre-breakfast bird walk in the glorious remnant of fig-dominated forest near the lodge that produced a number of new birds plus a new squirrel (Gambian sun). After breakfast we broke out into the dry acacia forest near the lake and got more great looks at birds and glimpsed a possible scrub hare. The walk round the back and through the gate into the forest was good with many butterflies and some nice odonates on the spring wetland behind the lodge. A highlight here was the first confirmed record of black-splashed elf (*Tetrathemis polleni*) for the country. Back at base for drinks we found the rest of the team enjoying some leisurely birding from the restaurant. Birds coming to bathe and drink here included greater honeyguide, northern puffback, scarlet-chested sunbird and little weaver.

After lunch we checked out the forest again and bumped into our first vervet monkeys of the tour. The fruiting figs were busy with birds and we found more red-shouldered cuckooshrikes and our first orange-breasted bush-shrike. Out on the grassland carmine bee-eaters were scattered about but thunder and a strengthening wind sent us scuttling back to the lodge and a couple of games of boules. Derek and Liz taking the honours. The rain never came in the end but we had fun!

After dinner we went for another walk in the woods, with knowledge of where the fruiting figs were it did not take too long to find a 'perched' Egyptian rousette complete with a 'take-away' fig. Things were quiet in the wood so some of us headed out into the big clearing. Here we found more slender-tailed nightjar and we had a great close encounter with a spotted thick-knee. Sheila found us a nice white-tailed mongoose at the end of the walk.

**Day 14      27<sup>th</sup> November                      to Addis (2355m asl) via Ziway**

A dawn walk saw us striding out across the clearing behind the lodge heading for the sacred woodland on the other side. As we walked over the clearing we bumped into two greater honeyguides flying back towards the lodge. The woodland produced some good looks at birds that included our only lesser honeyguide and a superb Verreaux's eagle-owl. Back for breakfast and packing we said our goodbyes to the staff at the Lodge. A great spot.

The drive back to Addis allowed a few stops. The first was for lunch at Ziway. The hotel grounds here were great for wildlife, a garden backing onto a large Rift Valley Lake helps! Red-headed agama and striped skink adorned some of the buildings. After ordering some food we spent a happy hour wandering down a small channel to the lakeshore. Birds predominated. Our first African jacana was the best of a decent selection of waders that included a lone ringed plover. Out in the reeds we heard sedge warbler. A lone Hottentot teal and some village weavers were new as were a few more prosaic black-headed gulls. A malachite kingfisher perched up to be photographed.

As we lunched on deep-fried tilapia Abyssinian white-eyes appeared in the bushes to say hello and goodbye. Driving on we had to stop at the amazing roadside Koka wetland. Here we added four new species to the trip-list in as many minutes with views of black-crowned crane, white-headed

vulture, lesser flamingo and the amazing saddle-billed stork. Driving on we made it to Modjo for a comfort stop that had added roosting *Epomophorus* fruit-bats and then we tackled the final Friday night rush-hour traffic into Addis and our hotel. We said our thanks to the Ethiopian team that had got us safely back to town.

After a scrub-up and one final Ethiopian meal we assembled for the short shuttle run to the airport...

**Day 15      28<sup>th</sup> November                      flight home**

The flight passed uneventfully and we were back in the windy, grey UK before we knew it.

## Systematic List 1 – Birds

<b>Somali ostrich</b>	<i>Struthio molybdophanes</i>	Perhaps 15 in total on the Ali Dege Plains near Awash NP. One male along the edge of Lake Langano. This former race is now considered a valid species.
<b>Little grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Geferessa and en route to Ankober.
<b>Great white pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Small numbers at Lake Langano and Ziway.
<b>Pink-backed pelican</b>	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	Small numbers at Lake Biseka.
<b>Great cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Small numbers on larger waterbodies. Some authorities split the African sub-species.
<b>Long-tailed cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	Small numbers on larger waterbodies and rivers.
<b>Darter</b>	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Singles at Lake Biseka and Ziway. Some authorities split the African sub-species.
<b>Grey heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Widespread (6 dates).
<b>Purple heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	One at Lake Biseka.
<b>Great egret</b>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa, in Rift Valley and Lake Biseka (Awash). Three dates.
<b>Little egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Widespread (five dates).
<b>Squacco heron</b>	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Singles at Awash, Lake Langano and Ziway.
<b>Cattle egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Widespread (five dates).
<b>Striated heron</b>	<i>Butorides striata</i>	Single at Lake Biseka.
<b>Hamerkop</b>	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	Widespread (seven dates).
<b>Yellow-billed stork</b>	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa and Ziway.
<b>Abdim's stork</b>	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	Small flock south of Awash and some on the last day in transit.
<b>Black stork</b>	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	One at Debre Libanos. Small number st a Melka Ghebdu.
<b>White stork</b>	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Small numbers en route to Debre Libanos and in Rift Valley (three dates).
<b>Saddle-billed stork</b>	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	Two at Koka (Rift Valley) on the last day.
<b>Marabou stork</b>	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>	Frequently encountered at Awash and in Rift Valley.
<b>Sacred ibis</b>	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	Noted on six dates.
<b>Hadada ibis</b>	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	Awash, thereafter noted on just two dates.
<b>Wattled ibis</b>	<i>Bostrychia carunculata</i>	Endemic – frequently encountered in upland areas (Bale Mountains, Ankober and Addis Ababa area).
<b>Lesser flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	Small numbers in Rift Valley (Koka).
<b>Blue-winged goose</b>	<i>Cyanochen cyanopterus</i>	Endemic – frequently encountered in upland areas (Geferessa, Bale Mountains and Ankober area).
<b>Egyptian goose</b>	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Widespread (seven dates).
<b>Ruddy shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Sanetti Plateau (Bale Mountains) – two pairs only.
<b>African black duck</b>	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	Two confiding birds on river in the Hareenna Forest (Bale).
<b>Eurasian teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Geferessa.
<b>Yellow-billed duck</b>	<i>Anas undulata</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa, and thereafter on three dates.
<b>Northern pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa and the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Hottentot teal</b>	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	One at Ziway (Rift Valley).

<b>Northern shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa, the Sanetti Plateau and in Rift Valley.
<b>Maccoa duck</b>	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	Single at Geferessa.
<b>Black-shouldered kite</b>	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Noted on three dates only. Seen very well at Ziway.
<b>Black kite</b>	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	The inter-African migrant <i>parasitius</i> , often considered a separate species, was recorded every day. Palearctic <i>migrans</i> occasionally noted in small numbers.
<b>African fish-eagle</b>	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	Two at Geferessa. Recorded thereafter on five dates.
<b>Hooded vulture</b>	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Widespread (nine dates).
<b>Lammergeier</b>	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Singles at Debre Libanos, Ankober and Sanetti Plateau
<b>Egyptian vulture</b>	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Widespread in small numbers (six dates).
<b>White-backed vulture</b>	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	Widespread (four dates).
Ruppell's griffon	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>	Widespread (six dates).
<b>Lappet-faced vulture</b>	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	At least two birds on the deck feeding on our bone scraps at Debre Libanos.
<b>White-headed vulture</b>	<i>Trionocephs occipitalis</i>	One at Koka (Rift Valley) on the last day.
<b>Black-breasted snake-eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	One at Awash and another south of there on the day we left.
<b>Brown snake-eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	Pair at Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Bateleur</b>	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Singles on two dates.
<b>Western marsh-harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Recorded in small numbers at Geferessa and in the Rift Valley.
<b>Pallid harrier</b>	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	Widespread (three dates).
<b>Montagu's harrier</b>	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Recorded on at least three dates.
<b>African harrier-hawk</b>	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	Singles noted on two dates. A good sighting at Rira near Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Dark chanting-goshawk</b>	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	Small numbers south of Awash and on the last day as we approached Addis.
<b>African goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter tachirus</i>	One immature hunting at Bishangari Lodge at lunchtime. Another adult the next day there.
<b>Little sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	Single in Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Eurasian buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Just one in the hills before Dinsho en route to Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Mountain buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>	One at Bale Mountain Lodge for Phil only.
<b>Augur buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo augur</i>	Widespread, both morphs and intermediates noted.
<b>Tawny eagle</b>	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Widespread (five dates).
<b>Steppe eagle</b>	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Small numbers in the highlands (four dates).
<b>Wahlberg's eagle</b>	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	Single at Debre Libanos.
<b>African hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	Pair at Jemma Valley.
<b>Ayre's hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Aquila ayresii</i>	One in the Harenna Forest.
<b>Booted eagle</b>	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	A few at Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley.
<b>Long-crested eagle</b>	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	One in the Harenna Forest.
<b>Crowned hawk-eagle</b>	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	Single male displaying high above the Harenna Forest.
<b>Pygmy falcon</b>	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	One female at Awash and another male south of Awash the day we left.
<b>Lesser kestrel</b>	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Male identified on day 3 only.

<b>Eurasian kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Recorded on five dates but many kestrels ignored, so undoubtedly overlooked.
<b>Lanner falcon</b>	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Widespread in small numbers (five dates).
<b>Peregrine</b>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Single below Rira, Haremma Forest ( <i>calidus</i> ).
<b>Crested francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>	Widespread (three dates). Seen well at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Moorland francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus psilolaemus</i>	A few on the Sanetti Plateau. The nominate race is endemic.
<b>[Scaly francolin]</b>	<i>Francolinus squamatus</i>	Heard only at Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Harwood's francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus harwoodi</i>	Endemic – just one seen poorly at Jemma Valley. Others heard.
<b>Chestnut-naped francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus castaneicollis</i>	A few encountered in the Bale Mountains.
<b>Erckel's francolin</b>	<i>Francolinus erckelii</i>	Near-endemic – one bird watched from escarpment below Ankober Lodge. A few at Jemma Valley.
<b>Helmeted guineafowl</b>	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	Occasionally encountered in large groups.
<b>Black crowned-crane</b>	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	Pair at Lake Koka (Rift Valley).
<b>Common crane</b>	<i>Grus grus</i>	Small numbers in Rift Valley and around Ankober.
<b>Rouget's rail</b>	<i>Rougetius rougetii</i>	Near-endemic – a few around Dinsho, on the Sanetti Plateau and Rira (Haremma Forest).
<b>Common moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Noted on two dates.
<b>Red-knobbed coot</b>	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Small numbers on roadside pool near Gaysay grassland.
<b>Arabian bustard</b>	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>	Three in Awash NP. At least five birds and maybe six on the Ali Dege Plains day.
<b>Kori bustard</b>	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	Two or three at Awash NP. One next day on the Ali Dege.
<b>White-bellied bustard</b>	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>	Pair at Awash. Four on the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Buff-crested bustard</b>	<i>Eupodotis gindiana</i>	Awash area (2).
<b>African jacana</b>	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	One at Ziway (Rift Valley).
<b>Black-winged stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	A few at Geferessa, Ziway, Koka (Rift Valley) and Lake Biseka.
<b>Senegal thick-knee</b>	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>	Nigel found some at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano) on the last morning.
<b>Spotted thick-knee</b>	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	One at night at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Three-banded courser</b>	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>	Two birds at Awash. One on the Ali Dege plains the next day.
<b>Spur-winged plover</b>	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Widespread (five dates).
<b>Black-headed lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus tectus</i>	Ali Dege Plains and south of Awash.
<b>Black-winged lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>	Noted on two dates in highlands.
<b>Crowned lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	Ali Dege Plains and Lake Langano.
<b>Spot-breasted lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus melanocephalus</i>	Endemic – good numbers locally on the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Common ringed plover</b>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	One at Ziway.
<b>Three-banded plover</b>	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	Small numbers at Geferessa and Jemma Valley.
<b>African snipe</b>	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>	Small flock at Geferessa.
<b>Marsh sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	One at Geferessa, thereafter on four dates.
<b>Common greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Noted on three dates
<b>Green sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Small numbers noted throughout.
<b>Wood sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Small numbers noted throughout.

<b>Common sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Small numbers noted throughout.
<b>Little stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Lake Biseka and Ziway.
<b>Temminck's stint</b>	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	One at Geferessa, also at Lake Biseka and Ziway.
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Recorded at Geferessa. Small numbers at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano) and Ziway.
<b>Grey-headed gull</b>	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	Small numbers on Lake Langano.
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A few at Ziway on the last day.
<b>Gull-billed tern</b>	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Only recorded at Lake Biseka.
<b>White-winged tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Small numbers at Lake Langano and Ziway.
<b>Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	Noted en route to Awash and on the road to Bilen Lodge (Awash).
<b>Lichtenstein's sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>	Very small numbers on the periphery of the Ali Dege Plains (Awash).
<b>Feral pigeon</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	A few in towns we transited.
<b>Speckled pigeon</b>	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Widespread (ten dates).
<b>White-collared pigeon</b>	<i>Columba albitorques</i>	Near-endemic – frequently encountered in the highlands.
<b>African olive pigeon</b>	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	Recorded in small numbers daily in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>Lemon dove</b>	<i>Columba larvata</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Dusky turtle dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>	Widespread and common in the highlands.
<b>African mourning dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	Recorded at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). Doubtless under-recorded.
<b>Red-eyed dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	Widespread (eight dates).
<b>Ring-necked dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	A few.
<b>Laughing dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Widespread (six dates).
<b>Blue-spotted wood-dove</b>	<i>Turtur afer</i>	Lake Langano.
<b>Namaqua dove</b>	<i>Oena capensis</i>	Widespread and common in suitable habitat.
<b>Bruce's green pigeon</b>	<i>Treron waalia</i>	Lake Langano.
<b>Black-winged lovebird</b>	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>	Endemic – Hareenna Forest and Lake Langano.
<b>Red-bellied parrot</b>	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>	One seen poorly en route to Awash.
<b>Yellow-fronted parrot</b>	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>	Endemic – seen well at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>White-cheeked turaco</b>	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>	Near-endemic – Hareenna Forest and Lake Langano.
<b>Bare-faced go-away-bird</b>	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>	Small numbers around Lake Langano. The race <i>personatus</i> is endemic to the Rift Valley of Ethiopia. A few at Melka Ghebdu and en route to Awash.
<b>White-bellied go-away-bird</b>	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>	
<b>[Klaas's cuckoo]</b>	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	Heard in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>African emerald cuckoo</b>	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	Small numbers at Hareenna Forest and Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>[Cape eagle-owl]</b>	<i>Bubo capensis</i>	Heard at Debre Libanos.
<b>Verreaux's eagle-owl</b>	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	One during the day at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>African wood-owl</b>	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>	Heard at Hareenna Forest and two seen at roost at Dinsho.
<b>African long-eared owl</b>	<i>Asio abyssinicus</i>	Spectacular views of a roosting bird at Dinsho.
<b>Slender-tailed nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>	Birds at night at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>African palm-swift</b>	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Only recorded on the road to Bilen Lodge (Awash).

Nyanza swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>	Jemma Valley and Melka Ghebdu.
Little swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	One on the road to Bilen Lodge (Awash).
Speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	Widespread (six dates).
Blue-naped mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	Recorded at Awash and Ali Dege area.
Malachite kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	Singles at Melka Ghebdu, Lake Langanano and Ziway.
African pygmy-kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
Woodland kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	Singles daily at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Noted along many rivers and wetlands throughout.
Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	Recorded at Melka Ghebdu and Awash.
Blue-breasted bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>	Widespread (five dates). A possible split in the future.
Blue-cheeked bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	A few at Lake Biseka.
Madagascar bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	A surprise few at Awash NP.
Northern carmine bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	Lake Biseka, south of Awash and Ziway.
Abyssinian roller	<i>Coracias abyssinica</i>	Widespread and common north of Addis.
Broad-billed roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	Single near Rira (Bale Mountains).
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Widespread in small numbers – all recorded were of the Palearctic migrant race.
Black-billed woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus somaliensis</i>	Near-endemic – four on the road to Bilen Lodge (Awash).
Black scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>	A few at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
Red-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	Recorded in Awash area. The red-billed hornbill complex is a taxonomic minefield.
Eastern yellow-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>	Recorded in small numbers in dry country (three dates).
Von der Decken's hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>	Awash and Ali Dege Plains.
Hemprich's hornbill	<i>Tockus hemprichii</i>	Only seen well at Debre Libanos and Jemma Valley (three dates). Also at Lake Langanano on the last morning.
African grey hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	Noted at just three sites.
Silvery-cheeked hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>	Recorded at Harenna Forest and Lake Langanano.
Abyssinian ground-hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>	Small groups encountered occasionally throughout.
[Yellow-fronted tinkerbird]	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	Heard at Harenna.
Red-fronted tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>	Lake Langanano (one seen).
[Black-throated barbet]	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>	Heard at Melka Ghebdu.
Banded barbet	<i>Lybius undatus</i>	Near-endemic – this incredibly variable species was seen well at Ankober and Lake Langanano.
Black-billed barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>	Recorded at the Melka Ghebdu (1) and Awash (3).
Double-toothed barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
Yellow-breasted barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>	Small numbers at Melka Ghebdu and Ali Dege Plains.

<b>Greater honeyguide</b>	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	Nigel photographed one coming to water on the 'lawn' at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). Two more on the last morning.
<b>Lesser honeyguide</b>	<i>Indicator minor</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Abyssinian woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendropicos abyssinicus</i>	Endemic – singles and pairs at Debre Libanos and in the Hareenna forest.
<b>Cardinal woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	Awash (1).
<b>Bearded woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>	A male at lunch on the way to Awash.
<b>Eastern grey woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i>	Frequent at Lake Langano. Probably a poor split, the nominate race is endemic to Ethiopia.
<b>Gillett's lark</b>	<i>Mirafra gilletti</i>	Awash (2).
<b>Erlanger's lark</b>	<i>Calandrella erlangeri</i>	Near-endemic – only seen en route to Debre Libanos at the Sululta Plains and around Ankober.
<b>Thekla lark</b>	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	Widespread in upland areas.
<b>Sand martin</b>	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	On the track to Bilen Lodge (Awash) and on two dates thereafter.
<b>Plain martin</b>	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	Present in the Rift Valley at Ziway.
<b>Eurasian crag-martin</b>	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Recorded near Addis on the first day.
<b>Rock martin</b>	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	Widespread.
<b>Barn swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread.
<b>Ethiopian swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>	Widespread, best views at Bilen Lodge where they breed.
<b>Wire-tailed swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	Only recorded at Melka Ghebdu and Awash.
<b>Red-rumped swallow</b>	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Only recorded north of Addis on the second day. The resident <i>melanocrissus</i> race would, if split, become an endemic.
<b>Black sawwing</b>	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	Recorded at the Hareenna Forest and Lake Langano. All birds showed clear white underwing coverts and were mostly considered to be <i>antinorii</i> . Occasional birds in flocks more closely resembled <i>pristoptera</i> however. Confusing and not well illustrated in the field guides.
<b>White wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	One near Addis on the first day, another at Ziway on the last.
<b>Yellow wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Widespread, <i>beema</i> (common), <i>lutea</i> and <i>feldegg</i> identified.
<b>Grey wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Occasional on upland streams.
<b>Mountain wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	Recorded en route to and at Debre Libanos and in the Jemma Valley.
<b>Abyssinian longclaw</b>	<i>Macronyx flavicollis</i>	Endemic – classy little bird. A pair en route to Debre Libanos on day 2.
<b>Grassland pipit</b>	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	Sululta Plains.
<b>Tree pipit</b>	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A few.
<b>Red-throated pipit</b>	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Widespread and common around upland wetlands.
<b>Red-shouldered cuckooshrike</b>	<i>Campephaga pheonicea</i>	Hareenna Forest and Lake Langano.
<b>Common bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	Confusing complex and likely to yield 'arm-chair' ticks in the future. We saw <i>somaliensis</i> at Awash and <i>schoanus</i> in the Rift Valley and highlands.
<b>Little rock-thrush</b>	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>	One at Melka Ghebdu.



<b>Abyssinian ground-thrush</b>	<i>Zoothera piaggiae</i>	Hareenna Forest at dawn, often in the garden at the Bale Mountain Lodge .
<b>Groundscraper thrush</b>	<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>	Widespread in open upland areas. An endemic race that is sure to be elevated to full species status in the future.
<b>Mountain thrush</b>	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	Widespread in upland areas. A confusing complex likely to be split apart in future.
<b>Singing cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	Hareenna Forest.
<b>Rattling cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	Recorded at Lake Langano.
<b>Winding cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	Recorded at Geferassa and en route to Debre Libanos. Split by many as Ethiopian cisticola <i>C. lugubris</i> but not recognised by Clements.
<b>Stout cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola robustus</i>	Three along escarpment at the Jemma Valley.
<b>Tawny-flanked prinia</b>	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	Hareenna Forest.
<b>Pale prinia</b>	<i>Prinia somalica</i>	Ziway.
<b>Green-backed camaroptera</b>	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	Awash and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano) – the grey-backed form we saw is sometimes split out.
<b>Cinnamon bracken-warbler</b>	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>	A few in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>[Sedge warbler]</b>	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Heard at Ziway.
<b>Eastern olivaceous warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Awash.
<b>Buff-bellied warbler</b>	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>	Only recorded at Lake Langano.
<b>Yellow-bellied eremomela</b>	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	Ankober, Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Northern crombec</b>	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>	One at Lake Biseka.
<b>Red-faced crombec</b>	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>	One at Lake Langano.
<b>Brown woodland-warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>	Singles at Hareenna Forest and Dinsho.
<b>Willow warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Recorded in very small numbers in dry acacia habitats.
<b>Common chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Widespread and common in highlands.
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread, small numbers on five dates.
<b>Greater whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Debre Libanos and Hareenna Forest.
<b>Lesser whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Small numbers at Awash and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano)..
<b>Brown parisoma</b>	<i>Parisoma lugens</i>	We saw a single 'Bale parisoma' – a potential split – in the heath forest above Rira.
<b>African grey flycatcher</b>	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>	Melka Ghebdu – the race <i>pumilus</i> found in central Ethiopia is another potential split.
<b>Abyssinian slaty-flycatcher</b>	<i>Melaenornis chocolatinus</i>	A few in upland woodland.
<b>Northern black-flycatcher</b>	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>	Lake Langano.
<b>African dusky flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	Two at Geferessa, thereafter on four dates. Great views on the balcony at Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Rueppell's robin-chat</b>	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>	First recorded at Debre Libanos, scattered records thereafter.
<b>Common redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Occasional birds around Lake Langano.

<b>Whinchat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Single at Sululta Plain.
<b>African stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	The splendid <i>albofasciata</i> race was observed on a number of occasions in the highlands and is a possible split.
<b>Mourning wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe lugens</i>	The <i>lugubris</i> race of this species (considered by some to be a full species) was recorded in the Jemma Valley and around Ankober.
<b>Pied wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Widespread and very common.
<b>Black-eared wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	One female on the edge of the Ali Dege.
<b>Isabelline wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Widespread and common.
<b>Red-breasted wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe bottae</i>	Widespread in the highlands. Clements has yet to recognise the Heuglin's/Botta split.
<b>Blackstart</b>	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>	One at Awash. Several on the lava flow at Lake Biseka (Awash).
<b>Moorland chat</b>	<i>Cercomela sordida</i>	Near-endemic – widespread and common in highlands.
<b>Rueppell's chat</b>	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>	Near-endemic – fairly common along the escarpments north of Addis.
<b>White-winged cliff-chat</b>	<i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i>	Pair en route to Debre Libanos.
<b>Brown-throated wattle-eye</b>	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>	Recorded in small numbers at Lake Langanu.
<b>Grey-headed batis</b>	<i>Batis orientalis</i>	Common flock constituent at Awash.
<b>Black-headed batis</b>	<i>Batis minor</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanu).
<b>African paradise-flycatcher</b>	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	Recorded on two dates.
<b>African hill babbler</b>	<i>Illadopsis abyssinica</i>	Seen well at the Harenna Forest.
<b>White-rumped babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides leucopygius</i>	Near-endemic – Debre Libanos and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanu)..
<b>Abyssinian catbird</b>	<i>Parophasma galinieri</i>	Endemic – Harenna Forest and Dinsho.
<b>White-winged black-tit</b>	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>	Recorded at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanu).
<b>White-backed black-tit</b>	<i>Melaniparus leuconotus</i>	Endemic – recorded in small numbers around Debre Libanos.
<b>Mouse-colored penduline-tit</b>	<i>Anthoscopus musculus</i>	Small flock recorded en route to Awash.
<b>Nile Valley sunbird</b>	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>	Only recorded along the track to Bilen Lodge (Awash) and nearby on the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Olive sunbird</b>	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	Harenna Forest ( <i>ragazzi</i> ).
<b>Scarlet-chested sunbird</b>	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	Melka Ghebdu and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanu).
<b>Tacazze sunbird</b>	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>	Widespread upland species.
<b>Beautiful sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>	A few at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanu).
<b>Mariqua sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	Recorded at Melka Ghebdu and Lake Langanu. Some authorities split out this form, Clements does not.
<b>Shining sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>	Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Variable sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	Yellow-bellied form ( <i>fazolensis</i> ) noted at Debre Libanos, Ankober, Harenna Forest and Jemma Valley.
<b>Montane white-eye</b>	<i>Zosterops polioastrus</i>	Widespread in small numbers in the highlands.

<b>Abyssinian white-eye</b>	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>	Only recorded in the hotel garden at Ziway on the last day.
<b>Eurasian golden oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Single immature at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Dark-headed oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>	Near-endemic – common at Harenna Forest.
<b>Rufous-tailed shrike</b>	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Just two recorded. All ours appeared to be <i>phoenicuroides</i> .
<b>Southern grey shrike</b>	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Only one recorded on the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Grey-backed fiscal</b>	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>	Recorded at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Somali fiscal</b>	<i>Lanius somalicus</i>	A few at Awash and the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Common fiscal</b>	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
<b>White-rumped shrike</b>	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>	Small numbers in dry acacia woodland and savanna.
<b>Northern puffback</b>	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>	Recorded at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Black-crowned tchagra</b>	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	Two at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano), heard elsewhere.
<b>Tropical boubou</b>	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>	Widespread, more often heard than seen as usual. Split by some authorities.
<b>Slate-colored boubou</b>	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>	Just one seen at Awash.
<b>Rosy-patched bushshrike</b>	<i>Rhodophoneus cruentus</i>	This amazing bird was seen at Awash and the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Orange-breasted bushshrike</b>	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>	1-2 at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>White helmetsrike</b>	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	Awash (5). Could be split three ways in future – we saw <i>cristatus</i> .
<b>Fork-tailed drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Widespread in dry areas.
<b>Red-billed chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Just two on the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Cape crow</b>	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	Widespread in upland areas.
<b>Pied crow</b>	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Widespread in upland areas.
<b>Fan-tailed raven</b>	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>	Recorded first at Debre Libanos, thereafter small numbers at sites north of Addis.
<b>Thick-billed raven</b>	<i>Corvus crassirostris</i>	Near-endemic – a pair in the garden at Bale Mountain Lodge (Harenna Forest).
<b>Wattled starling</b>	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	Small flock in Awash near hotel.
<b>Greater blue-eared glossy-starling</b>	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	Widespread.
<b>Rueppell's glossy-starling</b>	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>	One recorded along the track to Bilen Lodge (Awash). Common around Lake Langano.
<b>Superb starling</b>	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	Widespread (four dates).
<b>Red-winged starling</b>	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	Small numbers en route to the Jemma Valley.
<b>White-billed starling</b>	<i>Onychognathus albirostris</i>	Near-endemic – only recorded in the Jemma Valley.
<b>Red-billed oxpecker</b>	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	Noted on five days.
<b>Swainson's sparrow</b>	<i>Passer swainsonii</i>	Near-endemic – a widespread species.
<b>Yellow-spotted petronia</b>	<i>Petronia pyrgita</i>	Two dates, seen well at Melka Ghebdu.
<b>White-headed buffalo-weaver</b>	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>	Melka Ghebdu, Awash and Lake Langano.
<b>White-browed sparrow-weaver</b>	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	Recorded at Melka Ghebdu, south of Awash and in the Rift Valley.

<b>Baglafaecht weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	Widespread, more than one race involved, some of which may be split in future.
<b>Little weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	Recorded in Ankober and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Rueppell's weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>	Near-endemic – only recorded at Lake Langano.
<b>Village weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	Only recorded on the last day in the Rift at Ziway.
<b>Chestnut weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	Lake Langano.
<b>Red-headed weaver</b>	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	Awash (1) and Lake Langano (a few).
<b>Red-billed quelea</b>	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	Recorded in the Jemma Valley, Awash and Lake Langano.
<b>Northern red bishop</b>	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	Small flock outside Awash.
<b>Red-collared widowbird</b>	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	One in the Jemma Valley.
<b>Green-winged pytilia</b>	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	Awash (1).
<b>Abyssinian crimson-wing</b>	<i>Cryptospiza salvadorii</i>	Small numbers daily in the Haremma Forest (but difficult to see well).
<b>Red-billed firefinch</b>	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	Widespread – amazingly the only firefinch recorded.
<b>Red-cheeked cordonbleu</b>	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	Widespread in dry habitats.
<b>Purple grenadier</b>	<i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i>	Small numbers at Awash NP.
<b>Yellow-bellied waxbill</b>	<i>Estrilda quartinia</i>	One seen well in the Jemma Valley. Common in the garden at Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Black-and-white mannikin</b>	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	Frequently in the garden at Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Cut-throat</b>	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Village indigobird</b>	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	Frequent at dry sites north of Addis. Confusing complex – likely to yield more species – we saw <i>ultramarina</i> .
<b>Pin-tailed whydah</b>	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	A few en route to Debre Libanos. Common around Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Eastern paradise-whydah</b>	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	Birds recorded at Melka Ghebdu were tentatively assigned to this species. It seems likely that an undescribed taxon is present in Ethiopia.
<b>Yellow-crowned canary</b>	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>	Only recorded in the Haremma Forest, around Rira.
<b>Abyssinian siskin</b>	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>	Endemic – quite common on the upland plateaux and surrounding areas.
<b>African citril</b>	<i>Serinus citrinelloides</i>	Near-endemic – recorded at Addis Ababa, Geferessa and Bale Mountains.
<b>Reichenow's seedeater</b>	<i>Serinus reichenowi</i>	Near-endemic – two at Melka Ghebdu.
<b>White-bellied canary</b>	<i>Serinus dorsostriatus</i>	One south of Awash.
<b>Brown-rumped seedeater</b>	<i>Serinus tristriatus</i>	Near-endemic – frequently recorded in highland areas.
<b>Streaky seedeater</b>	<i>Serinus striolatus</i>	Frequently recorded in highland areas.
<b>Cinereous bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cineracea</i>	One near Addis on the second day.
<b>Cinnamon-breasted bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	Recorded en route to Debre Libanos and the Jemma Valley.
<b>Somali bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>	A few at Awash NP.

## Systematic List 2 – Mammals

<b>Guereza colobus</b>	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	Three at Awash. Common in the Hareenna Forest and at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Sacred baboon</b>	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	Recorded in the Awash/Ali Dege area.
<b>Olive baboon</b>	<i>Papio anubis</i>	Widespread.
<b>Gelada</b>	<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Debre Libanos. Easily mammal of the trip?
<b>Grivet monkey</b>	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Vervet monkey</b>	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>	Good numbers at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Bale monkey</b>	<i>Cercopithecus djamdjamensis</i>	Two encounters with large troupes below Rira (Bale Mountains).
<b>Egyptian fruit bat</b>	<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>	Feeding in the fig trees at night at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Epauletted fruit bat sp.</b>	<i>Epomophorus sp.</i>	Nice little roost in the palms by the hotel at Modjo on the last day. Three species occur in Ethiopia, the one we saw is probably <i>labiatus</i> .
<b>Cape hare</b>	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Awash (sub-species <i>habessinicus</i> which is sometimes considered a full species, eg by IUCN).
<b>Starck's hare</b>	<i>Lepus starcki</i>	Very few on the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Unstriped ground-squirrel</b>	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>	Ali Dege Plains and nearby track to Bilen Lodge.
<b>Gambian sun-squirrel</b>	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	The animals at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano) more closely resemble the available photos on the internet than the picture in the fieldguide!
<b>[Naked mole-rat]</b>	<i>Heterocephalus glaber</i>	Nigel found an active colony whilst out wandering on the Ali Dege Plains day.
<b>[Crested porcupine]</b>	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	Dropped quills found in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>Giant root-rat</b>	<i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>	Common on the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Blicki grass-rat</b>	<i>Arvicanthis blicki</i>	The small rodent on Sanetti was probably this species.
<b>Dega rat</b>	<i>Desmomys harringtonii</i>	One on the scarp at Ankober.
<b>Spotted hyena</b>	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	One in the Hareenna Forest on two nights. Heard nightly, often at close range, at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Black-backed jackal</b>	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Frequently encountered in Awash and on the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Ethiopian wolf</b>	<i>Canis simensis</i>	Seven sightings (at least four individuals) of this splendid animal on the Sanetti Plateau.
<b>Slender mongoose</b>	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>	One at night in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>White-tailed mongoose</b>	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	One at night at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Ethiopian rock hyrax</b>	<i>Procavia habessinica</i>	Two at Ankober.
<b>Yellow-spotted hyrax</b>	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>	One at night in the Hareenna Forest.
<b>Common warthog</b>	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Awash, Hareenna Forest and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). We failed to convincingly identify <i>aethiops</i> during the tour!
<b>Bushbuck</b>	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Hareenna Forest.
<b>Lesser kudu</b>	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>	Awash.

<b>Mountain nyala</b>	<i>Tragelaphus buxtoni</i>	Sanetti Plateau (single female). Many more at Gaysay and Dinsho, including some impressive males.
<b>Bush duiker</b>	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Harenna Forest.
<b>Salt's dikdik</b>	<i>Madoqua saltiana</i>	Only recorded at Awash.
<b>Bohor reedbuck</b>	<i>Reduncus reduncus</i>	Ten at Gaysay and singles daily at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Soemmerring's gazelle</b>	<i>Gazella soemmerringi</i>	Only recorded at Awash (1) and the nearby Ali Dege Plains (10).
<b>Gerenuk</b>	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>	Excellent animal. Only recorded around the Ali Dege Plains.
<b>Beisa oryx</b>	<i>Oryx beisa</i>	Only recorded at Awash.

## Systematic List 3 – Odonata

<b>Common citril</b>	<i>Ceriagrion glabrum</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Tropical bluetail</b>	<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	Lake Biseka and Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Fork-tailed bluet</b>	<i>Proischnura subfurcata</i>	Hareenna Forest.
<b>Ethiopian sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (A) guichardi</i>	Along the stream at Bale Mountain Lodge – this orange-faced sprite is an endemic.
<b>Nile sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (B) niloticum</i>	Probably this species at Awash on the river.
<b>Blue-tailed sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (B) nubicum</i>	Ziway.
<b>Cherry-eyed sprite</b>	<i>Pseudagrion (B) sublacteum</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Common hooktail</b>	<i>Paragomphus genei</i>	A few at Lake Langano.
<b>Emperor dragonfly</b>	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Widespread.
<b>Eastern blacktail</b>	<i>Nesciothemis farinosa</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Northern banded groundling</b>	<i>Brachythemis impartita</i>	Awash, Lake Biseka and Lake Langano.
<b>Little skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum abboti</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Ethiopian skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum kristenseni</i>	Hareenna Forest (Ethiopian highland endemic).
<b>Green skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum sabina</i>	Awash and Lake Biseka.
<b>Portia widow</b>	<i>Palpopleura portia</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Globe skimmer</b>	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Melka Ghebdu.
<b>Black-splashed elf</b>	<i>Tetrathemis pollenii</i>	Two males on the shady spring behind Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). An expected first record for Ethiopia!
<b>Violet dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>	Awash.
<b>Stonewash dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis dejouxi</i>	Endemic – a few along the river at Awash NP.
<b>Kirby's dropwing</b>	<i>Trithemis kirbyii</i>	Awash NP.
<b>Ringed cascader</b>	<i>Zygonyx torridus</i>	Awash NP (no photo).

## Systematic List 4 – Amphibians

<b>Ragazzi's tree frog</b>	<i>Leptopelis ragazzi</i>	One at Bale Mountain Lodge at night.
<b>Vannutelli's tree frog</b>	<i>Leptopelis vannutellii</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Lanagano) at night was assigned to this species based on habitat and altitude... Slightly out of known range?
<b>a rocket frog</b>	<i>Ptychadena sp.</i>	Nigel had on in the Harenna Forest
<b>Mascarene rocket frog</b>	<i>Ptychadena mascariensis</i>	One at Bishangari at night.

## Systematic List 5 – Reptiles

<b>Red-headed agama</b>	<i>Agama agama</i>	Individuals at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano) and Ziway were assigned to this species.
<b>Bale two-horned chamaeleon</b>	<i>Chamaeleo baleicornutus</i>	Three sleeping along the edge of the stream below Bale Mountain Lodge (Harenna Forest). [Big screen resolution lead to the re-identification of the putative Harenna Forest chameleons that night sadly].
	<i>Mabuya sp.</i>	One in the Jemma Valley was too brief for identification.
<b>Striped skink</b>	<i>Mabuya striata</i>	One at Ziway on a building by the car park.
<b>Nile monitor</b>	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	One at Awash and another at Lake Biseka.
<b>Leopard tortoise</b>	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	A huge individual in Awash NP – a trip highlight for sure.
<b>Nile crocodile</b>	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Awash and Lake Biseka.



## Systematic List 6 – Butterflies

<b>Mocker swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio dardanus</i>	Widespread but only a few seen.
<b>Citrus swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio demodocus</i>	Only a few seen in the Highlands.
<b>a green banded swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio microps</i>	Hareenna forest (1). Local species confined to Somalia and Ethiopia.
<b>African migrant</b>	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>	Widespread.
<b>African clouded yellow</b>	<i>Colias electo</i>	Widespread, perhaps commonest butterfly seen. The white form <i>aurivillius</i> being occasional.
<b>Grass yellows</b>	<i>Eurema sp.</i> <i>?Colotis amatus</i>	Widespread but not specifically identified. Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Desert orangetip</b>	<i>Colotis liagore</i>	Single at Ankober.
<b>Black-marked orangetip</b>	<i>Colotis diara stygia</i>	Awash NP.
<b>Large orangetip</b>	<i>Colotis antevippe</i>	Awash area around bushes.
<b>Yellow splendour</b>	<i>Colotis protomedia</i>	Awash area around bushes.
<b>Cambridge vagrant</b>	<i>Nepheronia thalassina</i>	Large “bluish” white seen mainly in Rift Valley (low numbers).
<b>Endemic</b>	<i>Pieris brassocoides</i>	Large white with black veins and two black spots on top forewing - Dinsho nectaring.
<b>African wood white</b>	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>  <i>Dixeia sp.</i>	Very common in forest at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). Common white butterfly at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>African veined white</b>	<i>Belenosis gidica</i>	Bisgangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Caper white</b>	<i>Belenosis aurota</i> <i>Anthene sp. 1</i> <i>Anthene sp. 2</i>	A caper white seen in Highlands and Rift Valley. Bishangari Lodge – mud-puddling. Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Small copper</b>	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Common in Highlands.
<b>Antinori’s branded blue</b>	<i>Uranothemus antinorii</i>	Beautiful blue seen at Bale Mountain Lodge – mud-puddling.
<b>Water bronze</b>	<i>Cacyreus tespis</i>	The Ethiopian highlands endemic sub-species <i>ghimirra</i> was found in upland areas especially at Bale Mountain Lodge.
<b>Pointed pierrot</b>	<i>Tarucus theophrastus</i>	One at Awash.
<b>Mediterranean pierrot</b>	<i>Tarucus rosacea</i>	Probably this species at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Clover blue</b>	<i>Actizera stellata</i>	small “white spotted” blue common in the Highlands.
<b>African babul blue</b>	<i>Azanus jesous</i>	Mud-puddling at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano).
<b>Plain tiger</b>	<i>Lepidochrysops sp.</i> <i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langano). Jemma Valley (white hind wing form) and Awash. Surprisingly few seen.
<b>Friar</b>	<i>Amauris niavius</i>	Probably this species rather than the Angolan lady seen flying by the stream at Bale Mountain Lodge
<b>Abyssinian red admiral</b>	<i>Vanessa abyssinica</i>	Another common butterfly seen most days.
<b>Painted lady</b>	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Common in the Highlands.
<b>Mother-of-pearl</b>	<i>Protogoniomorpha parhassus</i>	Single at Bale Mountain Lodge.

<b>Blue pansy</b>	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Dinsho.
<b>Yellow pansy</b>	<i>Junonia hierta</i>	Highlands.
<b>Blue spot pansy</b>	<i>Junonia westermanni</i>	Debre Libanos and a few other places.
<b>Marsh commodore</b>	<i>Precis ceryne</i>	Single at Bale Mountain Lodge stream.
<b>African joker</b>	<i>Byblia anvata</i>	Single at Awash car park.
<b>Golden piper</b>	<i>Eurytela dryope</i>	One at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
<b>Guineafowl</b>	<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i>	Awash.
<b>Small spotted sailer</b>	<i>Neptis saklava</i>	Mud-puddling at Bishangari Lodge (Lake Langanano).
<b>Dancing acraea</b>	<i>Acraea necoda</i>	Clear-winged acraea - endemic to the Ethiopian Highlands.
<b>Orange acraea</b>	<i>Acraea eponina</i>	Bishangari Lodge, mud-puddling.
<b>Common leopard</b>	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	Geferessa and Dinsho.

# Systematic List 7 – Flora

Making use of the following texts:

Demissew, S., Nordal, I. Aloes and Lilies of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Puff, C., Nemomissa, S. Plants of the Simen. National Botanic Garden (Belgium).

Tadesse, K. Trees of Ethiopia. Washera Publishers.

Burger, W.C. Families of Flowering Plants in Ethiopia. Oklahoma State University – ASAIID Contract Publication.

## Lycopodiophyta

Selaginellaceae

*Selaginella* sp.

Spike moss. Waterfall near Village of Rira, Bale Mountains, Ethiopia.

## Pteridophytes

Dennstaedtiaceae

*Pteridium* sp.

Bracken. Bale Mountains.

## Gymnosperms

Casurinaceae

*Casurina equisetifolia*

Casurina, whistling pine. See along roadside; Lake Langano.

Cupressaceae

*Cupressus lusitanica*

*Juniperus procera*

Mexican Cypress; Widespread.

African Juniper/Pencil Cedar. Debre Libanos, Dinsho, Widespread.

Pinaceae

*Pinus patula*

Mexican weeping pine. Commonly planted.

Podocarpaceae

*Afrocarpus falcatus*

Sacred forest around Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.

## Angiosperms Pteridophytes

### Monocotyledons

Anthericaceae

*Anthericum* spp.

Several species seen but not in flower.

Asparagaceae (including Scilloideae)

*Asparagus* sp.

*Dracaena ellenbeckiana*

*Ledebouria urceolata*

Around Bale Mountains lodge

Dragon tree; seen on lower slopes of Bale Mountains.

Flowers in spikes (like a hyacinth); growing in rocks by waterfall nr Rira village, Bale Mts.

Asphodelaceae

*Aloe* spp.

*Kniphofia foliosa*.

Common in dry rocky ground.

a red hot poker; Highland Plateau nr Ankobar.

Aizoaceae

*Delosperma abyssinica*

Dry and rocky habitat. Similar to Mesembryanthemum.

Burseraceae  
*Commiphora sp.* Lake Langano.  
*Boswellia sacra* Resin used to make frankincence, seen on road from Ankober to Awash

Cactaceae  
*Opuntia sp.* Prickly pear.

Cannabaceae  
*Celtis Africana* Tree; Awash NP and Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.

Commelinaceae  
*Cyanotis sp.* Common on short grassland around bale Mountains Lodge.

Cyperaceae  
*Cyperus rigidifolius* Common on damp grassland around bale Mountains Lodge.  
*Cyperus alternifolius.* Widespread

Cucurbitaceae  
*Momordica foetida*

Gramineae  
Aveneae *Andropogon lima.* Upland grassland  
Avenae *Anthoxanthum aethiopicum* Upland grassland; Geferessa Resevior.  
Aveneae *Helictotrichon elongatum* Bale Mts.  
Eragrostideae *Eragrostis racemosa.* Upland grassland; Geferessa Resevior.  
Eragrostideae *Eragrostis tef* Widely planted for making Injera.

Poaceae *Dactyloctenium giganteum* Giant Crowfoot. Roadside.

Iridaceae  
*Romulea* are often acaulescent, with actinomorphic flowers.  
*Romulea fisheri*

Orchidaceae  
Wrong time of the year!!

## Dicotyledons

Acanthaceae  
*Asystasia sp.* Widespread, several species.  
*Hypoestes sp.* Small pink flowers; Harenna forest and forest edge near Rira village, Bale Mountains.  
*Justicia spp.*

Amaranthaceae  
*Achyranthes aspera* Devil's horsewhip; common on disturbed ground.

Anacardiaceae  
*Sclerocarya birrea* Marula Tree.

Apiaceae  
*Heteromorpha trifoliolata*  
*Pimpinella sp.* Grassland along roadside to Debre Libanos  
*Sanicula sp.* Sanicle. Waterfall on forest edge – Bale Mts.

Apocynaceae (includes Asclepiadaceae)	
<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Desert rose. Seen in several gardens.
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Giant Milkweed. Common along the roadside.
<i>Caralluma russeliana</i>	A cactus-like plant with distinctive maroon coloured flowers forming a tennis-ball sized terminal globe.
<i>Carissa spinarum</i>	Shrub with white star-shaped flowers. Debre Libanos.
Araliaceae	
<i>Schefflera volkensii</i>	Large tree with compound leaves and long racemes of flowers; common around Bale Mounatin Lodge. Rondi's tree House built around this species.
Asteraceae	
<i>Artemisia afra</i>	Gaysay Grasslands
<i>Aspilia mossambicensis</i>	Isimila
<i>Bidens microptera</i>	Endemic to Ethiopia; Forest edge, Bale Mountains.
<i>Bidens schimperi</i>	Road to Debre Libanos
<i>Carduus macracanthus</i>	Dirty white thistle growing low to the ground; Widespread in Upland grassland.
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Thistle of disturbed ground; widespread.
<i>Echinops</i> sp.	
<i>Guizotia abyssinica</i>	Nug – used for cooking oil; on roadside to Debre Libanos
<i>Haplocarpha</i> sp.	
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Everlasting; Yellow flower; Bale Mountains.
<i>Helichrysum citrispinum</i>	Everlasting; White fower; Bale Mountains.
<i>Helichrysum formosissimum</i>	Striking pink everlasting flower on slopes leading up to Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mounatins.
<i>Helichrysum gofense</i>	White cushiony everlasting flower (looking like snow form a distance) on Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mounatins.
<i>Helichrysum splendidum</i>	Silvery shrub. Sanetti Plateau
<i>Inula</i> sp.	Sanetti Plateau
<i>Scenecio</i> spp.	Sanetti Plateau
<i>Senecio purpureus</i>	
<i>Tagetes minuta</i>	Southern cone marigold introdcued form South America. Used as a herb and a weed of farmland,; road to Debre Libanos
<i>Tridax</i> sp.	Another perennial weed introduced from south America; road to Debre Libanos
<i>Vernonia</i> sp.	Purple composite flower. Widespread on disturbed ground.
Balsaminaceae	
<i>Impatiens tinctoria subsp. abyssinica</i>	A few in flower (pale pink) around Bale Mountains Lodge.
<i>Impatiens</i> sp.	Robust red/orange; around waterfall nr Rira village, Bale Mountains.
<i>Impatiens c.f. ethiopica</i>	Pink; around waterfall nr Rira village, Bale Mountains.
<i>Impatiens hochstetteri</i>	Pale pink; seen around Rondi's Tree House at Bale Mountan Lodge.
Begoniaceae	
<i>Begonia</i> sp.	Bale Mounatins.
Bignoniaceae	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Addis ababa
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African Tulip Tree, Widespead.
Boraginaceae	
<i>Cynoglossum</i> sp.	
Campanulaceae	
<i>Lobelia schimperi</i>	Blue, Afromontane grasslands

<i>Lobelia giberroa</i>	Forest lobelia
<i>Lobelia rhyncopetalum</i>	Giant lobelia growing to 10m on Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains.
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Cerastium c.f octandrum</i>	Chickweed. Common on moist and disturbed sites. Often seen on roadside and in distrured clearings in upland areas e. Bale Mounatins.
Combretaceae	
<i>Combretum molle</i>	Tree; Awash National Park and surrounding woodland
<i>Terminalia schimperiana.</i>	Tree; Awash National Park and surrounding woodland
Convolvulaceae	
<i>Ipomoea spp.</i>	Many types seen.
Crassulaceae	
<i>Hypagophytum abyssinicum</i>	Small white flowers with succulent leaves; on shaded rock face in Jemma valley.
<i>Kalanchoe lanceolata</i>	Apricot flowers, likes rocky woodland; Debre Libanos
<i>Umbilicus botryoides</i>	Succulent herb with leaves resembling pennywort and a spike of red flowers. Sanetti Plateau among rocks.
Dipsacaceae	
<i>Cephalaria columbaria</i>	Pink flower; on path up to Ankober Palace Lodge
<i>Dipsacus pinnatifidus</i>	White flower; on path up to Ankober Palace Lodge
Ericaceae	
<i>Erica arborea.</i>	A tree; a distintive band of trees on slopes below the Sanetti Plateau
<i>Erica trimera.</i>	Shrub; cream flower; Slopes around Sanetti Plateau
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Euphorbia abyssinica</i>	Desert Candle. Planted as a living fence throughout Ethiopia. Some so large they look like fortifications!
<i>Euphorbia tirucali</i>	Finger Euphorbia; Debre Libanos and Awash NP.
<i>Euphorbia dumalis</i>	Shrub; Hareenna Forest, Bale Mts.
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant. Widespread.
Fabaceae	
<i>Acacia abyssinica</i>	Flat-topped acacia. Common species in dry woodland.
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle. Roadsides,
<i>Albizia sp.</i>	
<i>Astragalus atropilosulus</i>	A straggly woody pea; along roadside nr Bale Mountain Lodge.
<i>Desmodium repens</i>	Delicate orange flower. Along river south of Bale Mountain Lodge
<i>Brachystegia sp</i>	
<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	( <i>Syn. Cassia mimosoides</i> ) Shrub; yellow. Widespread.
<i>Crotalaria spp.</i>	Several unidentified
<i>Erythrina brucei</i>	Coral tree. On forest edge; Bale Mountains Lodge.
<i>Parochetus sp.</i>	Blue. Leaves resemble sorrel.
<i>Senna didymobotra</i>	Naturalised.
<i>Terminalia schimperianum</i>	Common in woodlands around Awash NP.
<i>Trifolium rueppellianum</i>	<i>Geferessa resevoir nr. Addis Ababa and Bale Mountains</i>
<i>Tylosoma fassoglensis</i>	Previously known as <i>Bauhinia fassoglensis</i> (sprawling Bauhinia) Creeping over bushes in Awash NP
Gentianaceae	
<i>Swertia lugardae</i>	Small white/blue flower growing in clumps; Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mts.
<i>Swertia sp.</i>	Large white/blue flower growing in clumps; Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mts.

Geraniaceae	
<i>Geranium sp.</i>	Stork's bill; along road to Debre Libanos.
<i>Geranium arabicum</i>	Pink-lilac with dark veins. Common in upland grassland.
<i>Pelargonium multibracteatum</i>	White flower; on rocky slopes along path leading to Ankober Palace Lodge
Hypericaceae	
<i>Hypericum revolutum</i>	Tree; Bale Mts. Many along stream by Lodge. Favoured by Endemic chameleons
Lamiaceae	
<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lion's tail. Orange flower. Widespread.
<i>Osostegia tomentosa</i>	White flower. Debre Libanos.
<i>Plectranthus sp.</i>	Purple flower; on path by Ankober Palace Lodge
<i>Plectranthus garckeianus.</i>	Very tall species; on forest edges around Bale Mountain Lodge.
<i>Ocimum sp.</i>	
<i>Thymus schimperi</i>	Thyme. Upland grassland nr. Ankober. Bale Mountains
Linderniaceae	
<i>Craterostigma sp.</i>	Plant with adpressed leaves and cream/purple flowers. Upland grassland nr. Ankober.
Loranthaceae	
<i>Aegalanthus sp</i>	Mistletoe. Bisamgari Lodge, Lake Langano.
Malvaceae	
<i>Dombeya torrida</i>	Tree widespread above 1600m, most notably around Bale Mountain Lodge where it seems to be an important source of nectar for honey, i.e Breakfast honey smelt like the flower!
<i>Hibiscus sp.</i>	
Menispermaceae	
<i>Stephania abyssinica</i>	Resembles nasturtium. Bale Mountains.
Menyanthaceae	
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed Water-lily, Yellow Floating-heart, Water Fringe. Lake Langago
Moraceae	
<i>Ficus vasta.</i>	Lake Langano
<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>	Lake Langano
Musaceae	
<i>Musa sp</i>	Banana
<i>Ensete ventricosum</i>	Wild/Ethiopian banana
Myrtaceae	
<i>Eucalyptus globulus.</i>	Tasmanian Blue Gum. Commonly planted for timber. Large plantations surrounding Addis Ababa were planted under Emperor Menilek as the city was formed to supply firewood for the inhabitants.
Nyctaginaceae	
<i>Bougainvillea glabra.</i>	Naturalised. Widespread.
Oleaceae	
<i>Olea europa ssp cuspidata</i>	Olive Tree; Debre Libanos.

Orobanchaceae <i>Cistanche tubulosa</i>	Broomrape. In disturbed grassland on roadside to Debre Libanos
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis procumbens subsp. procumbens</i>	Yellow flower. Common in heavily grazed upland grasslands.
Papaveraceae <i>Argemone mexicana</i>	Spikey invasive plant with yellow flower; widespread on roadside.
Piperaceae <i>Peperomia abyssinica</i>	Epiphytic succulent on mossy tree trunks; Hareenna Forest, Bale Mountains. Damp forest edge; Bale Mountains.
Poaceae <i>Sorghum sp</i>	Widespread, Eaten by livestock.
Polygonaceae <i>Polygonum aquaticum</i> <i>Rumex abyssinicus</i> <i>Rumex nervosus</i>	On edge of Geferessa reservoir. Pink flowers. Tall shrub-like sorrel, a widespread upland species; Debre Libanos. Rocky hillsides on road to Debre Libanos.
Proteaceae <i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky/Silver oak. Exotic form Australia; Debre Libanos
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis simensis</i>  <i>Delphinium</i> <i>Ranunculus sp.</i> <i>Thalictrum rhynchocarpum.</i>	Delicate small white flower. Observed scrambling through trees/bushes in Debre Libanos and other highland areas.  Buttercup, damp forest edge; Bale Mountains. Meadowrue, Damp forest edge; Bale Mountains.
Rosaceae <i>Alchemilla cryptantha</i> <i>Alchemilla abyssinica</i> <i>Alchemilla sp.</i> <i>Hagenia abyssinica</i> <i>Prunus africana</i> <i>Rosa abyssinica</i> <i>Rubus steudneri</i>	Herb; Harrena forest, Bale Mountains Herb; Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains. Shrub, dark green leaves with lilver edge; Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains Tree; Harrena forest, Bale Mountains, Dinsho Tree; Widespread, important for honeymaking. Climbing rose; Along roadisde to Debre Libanos, Jemma valley Bramble; Harrena forest, Bale Mountains
Rubiaceae <i>Galium sp.</i> <i>Oldenlandia monanthos</i>	Along roadside nr Bale Mounatin Lodge. Mat forming herb; pink flower. Upland grassland near Ankober.
Scrophulariaceae <i>Cycnium adonense.</i> <i>Hebenstretia</i> have sessile flowers in dense spikes, white usually with orange fleck at the base of petals. <i>Hebenstretia angolensis</i> <i>Verbascum stelurum</i> <i>Veronica abyssinica</i>	Ink flower; grazed grassland by Bishangari Lodge, Lake Langano.  Burnt ground on Afromontane grassland; Bale Mountains. Widespread on rocky hillsides, Endemic to Ethiopia. Common on disturbed gound around Bale Mountain Lodge.
Solanaceae <i>Solanum incanum.</i> <i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	Widespread Potato



Sterculiaceae

*Sterculia sp.*

African star-chestnut. Enroute from Ankober to Awash.

Strychnaceae

*Strychnos sp.*

Urticaceae

*Girardinia bullosa*

*Urera hypselodendron*

Large leaved nettle. Around Bale Mountain lodge.

Woody climber with small orange/red flowers. Seen hanging from trees in Bale Mountains.

Violaceae

*Viola abyssinica*

A scrambling violet, found on forest margins around Bale Mountain's Lodge.