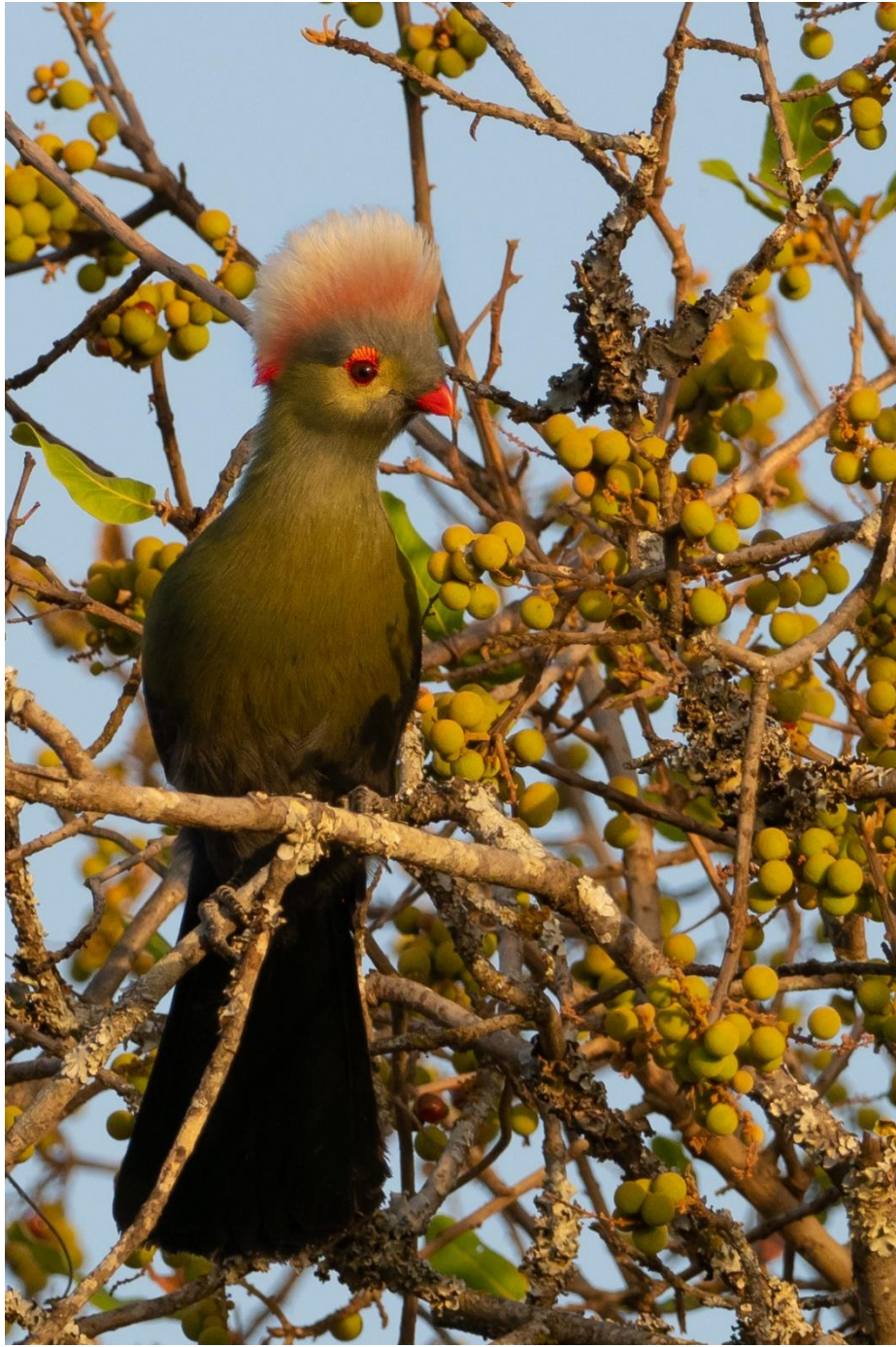


Ethiopia: Birding with Wolves Custom Tour



Prince Ruspoli's Turaco is one of many endemics that are not only attractive but exceedingly confiding

January 14-31 2019

Tour Leader: Phil Chaon

All photos in this report were taken by Phil Chaon/Tropical Birding.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Introduction:

To put it simply, Ethiopia is a country that needs to be seen to be understood. Every first visit is a world-changing reconceptualization of the kingdom of Abyssinia. Any preconceived notions of what Ethiopia is as a country fall woefully short of the shocking variety found here. Ethiopia is a country of towering mountains where Gelada graze, lush montane forests where sunlight never reaches the dozing Abyssinian Owls and golden savannahs where families of Stresemann's Bushcrow move among the terra cotta towers of termites. It is a country where pink-crowned birds the size of pheasants can disappear for a hundred years, where wolves still roam lunar plateaus and dusty plains hold the secrets of where humanity began.

In only seventeen days we manage to see an impressive swath of what Ethiopia has to offer, though the possibility for new discovery makes each trip unique and exciting. On this tour we managed to see 500 species of birds including all but one of Ethiopia's endemics. However, birding Ethiopia isn't just about numbers and lists – few places on earth offer intimate and extended encounters with rare endemics the way this country does. If you want to not only see the birds but really enjoy them – this is a location that can't be missed.

Day One: Gerefesa Reservoir and Addis

With everyone having arrived the previous day we found ourselves eager to leave the busy city street of Addis Ababa and have our first encounters with the birds of Abyssinia. Winding our way, seemingly directionless, through the throngs of people, small blue and white taxis and hordes of **Black Kites**, things slowly and reassuringly gave way to a more pastoral environment. Within an hour we had reached the nearby Gerefesa Reservoir and our first taste of the scenery so characteristic of the Ethiopian Highlands.

Currently fallow, the nearby grain fields were crisscrossed by flocks of sheep and herds of cattle being led by seemingly unconcerned boys of varying ages. Just over the small rise however, a body of water lay teeming with birds. It was here we had our first encounters with some of Ethiopia's fantastically common endemic bird. **Wattled Ibis** strutted slowly through the field, a pair of **Blue-winged Geese** lay near a wet patch in the field and **Brown-rumped Seed eaters** fed calmly along the side of the road. Down in the taller grass, more secretive but equally confiding specialties waited for us. A flock of **Abyssinian Siskins** flew up and landed on a fence, bright saffron and dapper black caps glowing in the bright sun. Dozens of **Red-throated Pipits** were weaving through the grass and among them a few of the oddly meadowlark-like **Abyssinian Longclaws** crept, pausing to stand erect and check for any hidden danger.



Abyssinian Longclaw is a handsome member of the pipit family.

The fields became wetter as we moved to the lake edge and a variety wintering waders including **Green and Wood Sandpipers**, **Pied Avocet**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Ruff** crisscrossed the muddy patches. Out on the open water we sorted through the large flocks of **Egyptian Geese** looking for less ubiquitous waterfowl. **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, **Yellow-billed Duck** and **Northern Shovelers**

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

floated among the large and noisy geese. A pair of **Tufted Duck** were a nice surprise and a long hoped for lifer for one of our group.

With the day heating up, **Hooded** and **White-backed Vultures** drifted slowly overhead as we ourselves drifted slowly back to Addis to rest for a few hours, satisfied with so many good endemics already under our belts.

With a long trip ahead we took things easy, reserving a few hours in the late afternoon to stroll through the famous gardens of the Ghion Hotel. **White-collared Pigeons** and **Streaky Seed eaters** hopped cautiously between the feet of park goers and wedding parties, and **Tacazze Sunbirds** graced the innumerable flowers planted on the grounds. An idyllic and serene sunset was graced by a roosting **Booted Eagle**, the chaos of Addis held at bay by the tall garden walls.



*Even endemic birds like **Wattled Ibis** find a home in Addis Ababa – a shockingly birdy metropolis.*

Day Two: Sululta Plain and Debre Libanos

Rising out of the deep valley that is home to Addis Ababa and several million residents, we reached a wide-open shortgrass plateau known as the Sululta Plain. The temperature is comfortable and the birding is easy and for many participants with later arrivals, this serves as the introduction to Ethiopian highland birding. Having seen so much yesterday, we were able to take a leisurely walk across the plain in search of anything new. Search is perhaps an exaggeration as all the birds here are full exposed in half inch tall grass during this time of year and fantastically easy to see. Setting out, we quickly encountered **Groundscraper Thrushes**, bounding in pairs, miniscule **Pectoral-patch Cisticolas** giving their dawn song before falling to earth, and hordes of **Long-billed**, **African** and **Red-throated Pipits** walking in a slow, low crouch. In stark contrast to my visit last July, in January wheatears are a dominant part of the avifauna and we were able to get good comparative looks between **Northern** and **Isabelline** and enjoy the

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

bolder, more easily identified **Pied** and **Red-breasted Wheatears**. We spent some time watching a long territorial battle between two pairs of **Blue-winged Geese**, and a further scanning revealed **Common Cranes**, **White Storks** and a large flock of **Ortolan Buntings**.



*A pair of **Blue-winged Geese** defend their turf against a rival couple.*

As is so often the case, things were so birdy that we quickly found the morning slipping away from us. Driving towards Debre Libanos and the edge of the rift valley, we stopped to investigate a promising looking field that held numerous **Greater Short-toed Larks**, **Thekla Larks** and a few of the brightly colored, endemic **Erlanger's Larks**.

Slightly farther down the road we could see a cloud of large birds in the distance. As we drew closer, they materialized as flock of vultures feeding on a cow carcass on the side of the road. We took some time to watch as **Ruppell's Griffon**, **White-backed**, and **Hooded Vultures** waited while a single massive **Lappet-faced Vulture** ate its fill.

Arriving at the Debre Libanos monastery at midday we decided it was a perfect opportunity to have some lunch at a nearby restaurant. Apart from the delicious local food, the restaurant also featured staggering views of the cavernous Rift Valley. As we had our first shiro and injera of the trip, **Bearded Vultures** drifted by at eye-level. Truly the most spectacular way to see this awe-inspiring bird. Finishing our meals, we by passed the dozens of church-goers at the monastery's entrance and wandered into the towering forests behind. Enjoying the cool, shady reprieve provided by ancient junipers bird activity was still high. In a short walk we managed to rack up an impressive list of birds including **Banded Barbet**, **Mountain Wagtail**, **Abyssinian Woodpecker**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **Mottled Swift** and **Black-winged Lovebird**. The highlight of the afternoon though was a large group of 7 **White-cheeked Turacos**, which allowed incredibly close views as they alternately squabbled and preened each other, occasionally taking flight on spectacular crimson wings.



White-cheeked Turaco are too gaudy to be allowed in the monastery and must wait in the forest outside

Day Three: Jemma Valley

The previous day we had spent our afternoon staring into the distant depths of the valley, today we would spend the majority of the day exploring the mighty canyon traversed by the Jemma River. After a long drive in the dark, we arrived at the rim of the valley at first light to look for a secretive pair of gamebirds. Erckel's Francolin is a NE African endemic and Harwood's Francolin is one of the most range restricted endemics in Ethiopia. Thankfully, with some help from a few local boys we quickly found a group of 9 **Harwood's Francolins** and a few **Erckel's**, enjoying long scope views of both. The scrubby field edge there also held a number of good birds including **Abyssinian Wheatear**, **Ruppell's Chat**,

Yellow-rumped Seedeater, all performing well.



After enjoying a good field breakfast and a few cups of coffee overlooking the valley below we continued birding our way down to the river. A small patch of water was very birdy with brilliant **Red-cheeked Cordonbleu**, a pair of flashy **Cut-throat**, a **Greater Whitethroat** and dozens of other birds stopping by for a drink or a bath. A swirling mass of birds along the roadside was a nice mixed group of

swifts and swallows centered around

Abyssinian Wheatear help tend to the crops by removing pests.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

a breeding colony of **Rock Martins** but also joined by **Eurasian Crag Martin**, **Mottled Swift** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. While enjoying this spectacle, a **Verreaux's Eagle** made a few low circles overhead, providing exceptionally good views for this boldly patterned and impressive raptor.

We continued to slowly work our way down to the river, picking up numerous good birds along the way – a small colony of **Speckle-fronted Weavers** and **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver** were entertaining to watch, seemingly unconcerned with tiny, parasitic **Village Indigobird** lurking in their midst. A **Black Scimitar-bill** moved through, casting a striking profile in an equally striking suit of black and white.

Reaching the river near noon, large flocks of swallows criss-crossed the valley. Among the dozens of elegant **Wire-tailed Swallows**, several **Ethiopian Swallows** made an appearance, swooping low over a resting **Senegal Thick-knee**. A small nearby drainage remained birdy during the midday heat with flocks of estrildid finches including **African** and **Red-billed Firefinches**, **African Silverbill** and **Crimson-rumped Waxbill** stopping in for a drink. A **Foxy Cisticola** sang nearby but refused to reveal itself.

With the afternoon growing late we needed to set out for our hotel. We made a quick stop enroute to check for Cape Eagle Owl. While the owl was nowhere to be seen, we did enjoy eye-level views of a gorgeous **Egyptian Vulture**. An excellent end to an exciting day that featured well over one hundred species of birds.

Day Four: Ankober Escarpment and Melka Ghebdu



*The famous **Gelada** are a serious contender for best hair in Ethiopia.*

This morning we had a short drive and a relaxed visit to the Ankober Escarpment, a particularly impressive massif on the edge of the Rift Valley. Aside from one of the best views in Ethiopia, this location is also home to the **Ankober Serin**, a bird not described until 1973 and

only known from a few small

sites in the area. Thankfully, the serin are quite reliable and we easily found several working along the rocky edge of the escarpment. With our main target out of the way we took some time to enjoy the view, a nice breeze and the smell of wild oregano. A **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** barreled through, scattering the **White-collared Pigeons** and **White-billed Starlings** that roosted on the cliffs. Above all of this, a troop of **Gelada** baboons went about their morning, unaware or uninterested in the affairs of birds or interloping lesser primates. These placid, grazing residents of Ethiopia's high mountains spent the morning enjoying the warm sunshine, grooming each other and occasionally chasing off an offending interloper.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Satisfied with our morning, we made an early start for the Ankober Lodge, our hotel for the night. Built on the historic palace grounds of Ethiopia's revered Emperor Menelik, this location is a contender for the most unique and scenic lodging on the tour. After lunch and a nap, we took part in the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Beans were freshly roasted and ground as we lounged nearby, enjoying the scents of frankincense smoldering on the hot coals. I would gladly challenge anyone to find a fresher or more relaxing cup of coffee, it doesn't get much better than this.

Re-energized and ready to go, we set out to the nearby Melka Ghebdu river drainage - a birdy oasis surrounded by arid scrub. Within the first twenty minutes we found our main target – the subtle and highly localized **Yellow-throated Seedeater**. While Melka Ghebdu is the main site for the seedeater it also offers a plethora of great birds, including our first taste of dry acacia woodland species. Strolling down the watercourse from the seedeaters we kept pace with a large herd of camels but were left in the dust by an electric blue **Half-collared Kingfisher** zipping over the trickle of water that meandered down slope. The tall riparian trees held jade-colored **Bruce's Green Pigeons**, **Black-billed Barbets** decked out in playing card jet and crimson, some unearthly **Shining Sunbirds** and hundreds of **Red-billed Quelea**.

Arriving back at the lodge after dark, we were greeted by the plaintive tremolo of an **Abyssinian Nightjar**, breaking the silence of an otherwise pristinely quiet evening.

Day Five: Afar Plain and Awash National Park

In the past, the majority of this day would have been spent crossing the remote and dusty expanse of the Afar Plain on a track that barely qualified as a road. In the past several years though, the road has vastly improved and the area can be crossed in a leisurely morning of birding.

Our first stop was to enjoy a colony of bold **White-headed Buffalo-weavers** (below) along the roadside. While widespread and often ignored, the lively displays and duets of these social birds are a delight to watch and were highly entertaining.



Further out on the plain, a short stop for a group of **Wattled Starlings** became an astounding stream of new and spectacular birds. As soon as we stepped out of the car, odd croaking calls turned our attention skyward. Over the next ten minutes, hundreds upon hundreds of **Chestnut-bellied**

Sandgrouse passed overhead, off to their morning drinking site. Nearby, an outlandishly adorned **Eastern Paradise Whydah** fed on the ground amongst the **African Silverbills**. A **Booted Eagle** soared overhead, a pair of **Nubian Woodpeckers** displayed loudly from a tree while a decidedly less conspicuous **Brubru** peered down at us. Nearby a pair of **Red-bellied Parrots** were incredibly confiding, allowing prolonged looks as they fed on acacia seed pods.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019



*Getting to observe birds like **Red-bellied Parrots** at length is one of the joys of birding in Ethiopia.*

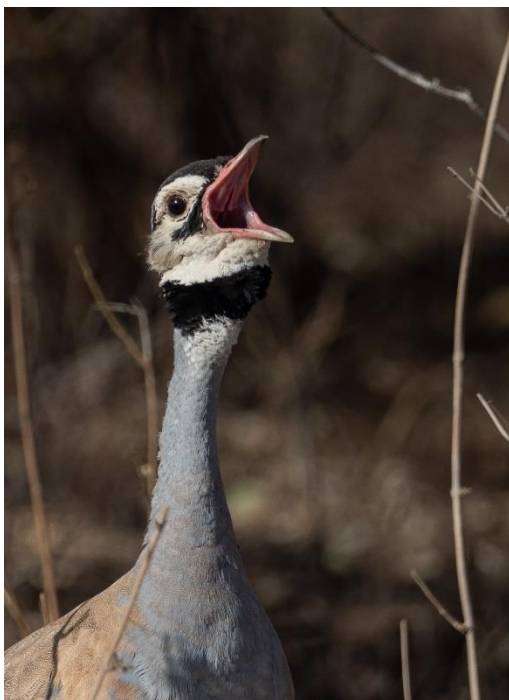
With the morning slipping away, we made for Awash NP, only stopping en route to admire an **Arabian Bustard** – towering and alien sentinel of the plains.

Arriving in the heat of the day gave us a chance to observe just how well these arid scrub species are. Despite the punishing sun above, **Pygmy Falcon** and **Black-breasted Snake Eagle** sat in the open while smartly patterned **Somali Bunting** fed in the shade of an acacia.

Just a short ways down the road, a small flowering tree

attracted the attention of nearly two dozen **Nile Valley** and **Shining Sunbirds**. These glittering nectivores soon turned their focus from feeding to fury, as they chased down a **Gabar Goshawk** lurking nearby.

After settling in to our rooms, overlooking the roaring falls of the Awash River, we set back out to bird under the canopy of the towering riparian forest. A short stroll produced great looks at **Blue-naped Mousebird**, **Northern Puffback**, a very vocal **Pearl-spotted Owlet** and an unexpected group of **Eurasian Thickknees**. Returning for dinner, we finished the day with a cooperative **Slender-tailed Nightjar** and some delicious plates of Bozena Shiro.



*This territorial **White-bellied Bustard** loudly let us know who was in charge.*

Day Six: Awash National Park We left just as the first hints of gray were filling the sky and the night was fading. After a short drive, we left the road on foot to immerse ourselves in the surrounding shrubland for dawn. A mournful duet signaled the presence of **Rosy-patched Bush-shrike** singing from the top of a bush just as the rising sun illuminated the birds. As we were admiring the bold splashes of color on these otherwise sandy birds, the rest of forest began to wake up. In quick succession we found a pair of range-restricted **Gillett's Larks**, an impossibly ornate **Green-winged Pytilia**, and a visiting **European Roller**. We continued to rack up a good number of typical Acacia forest birds before taking a breakfast in the field.

Sipping coffee from our folding chairs, we watched as **Beisar Oryx** and **Soemmerand's Gazelles** grazed across the open plains. As we were finishing the last of our meal we noticed a pair of ungulate sized birds strutting slowly in the distance. Walking for a closer look, these hulking birds turned out to be the first of many **Abyssinian Ground Hornbills** we would encounter. The morning rolled on quickly and after several **Woodchat Shrikes**, **Abyssinian**

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Scimitarbills and **Bateleur** later the day was getting hot. A flock of **Crested Francolin** resting in the shade seemed to have the right idea and we went back to relax and enjoy the view of the thundering Awash Falls.

Feeling refreshed, we set out down a little used road on the backside of the park. While little used by people, the rocky track was a major thoroughfare for birds. Bustards were just waking up from long naps and we were delighted to find pairs of the diminutive and gangly **Buff-crested** and gingerly strolling through the thorny brush. A pair of intricately patterned **Lichtenstein's Sand-Grouse** did their best impression of rocks before realizing they had been spotted. Not wanting to fully admit defeat, they crept away at a glacial pace. Camouflage only works if you believe in it. These were far from our last cryptically patterned birds for the day, though for the next set we had to wait for the sun to set.



Lichtenstein's Sand-Grouse does its best to be part of the landscape.

We left for our game drive under the light of the full moon. Cruising slowly, we startled a **Grayish Eagle Owl** off the road. It perched long enough for us to all get a good look before continuing on its nightly hunt. Around the bend we caught our first hint of eyeshine, in this case belonging to a pair of **Star-spotted Nightjars**. Often difficult to find, the full moon worked to our advantage as we managed to see ten of these mysterious, stygian insectivores in a small patch of grassland. It wasn't long before our spotlight reflected in a distinctly larger set of eyes. Two young **Bat-eared Foxes** wrestled with each other, seemingly undisturbed by our presence. **Three-banded Courser** and **White-bellied Bustard** kept things interesting on our return journey, and we were welcomed at the gate by a **Slender-tailed Nightjar**, just beginning its day as we were ending ours.

Day Seven: Awash National Park and Doho Lodge

Before leaving for Doho Lodge and a different section of the national park, we had a little bit of clean-up to do around Awash Falls. Heading back out into the acacia forest that lined the edge of the gorge, we quickly encountered our main target – the highly localized **Ashy Cisticola**. A pragmatic and sensible little bird, they lack the flash of many of the other birds around, opting instead for perfect harmony with their surroundings. The morning could use a little color though and it was graciously provided by a stunning pair of **Purple Grenadier**, some seafoam **Abyssinian Rollers** and a few more golden **Somali Buntings**. As flocks of sandgrouse passed overhead, a soaring **Lesser Spotted Eagle** provided a welcome surprise and point blank looks at **Arabian Bustard** made for a grand exit of the park.



*A pugnacious predator the **Pygmy Falcon** strikes fear in pint sized prey.*

Arriving at Doho Lodge in the heat of midday we opted for a nice shady lunch. From under a thatched roof we overlooked the complex of wetlands and pools of the Awash River, cutting a brilliant emerald swatch through the otherwise dry hills. Below us, small alcoves filled with the hot spring water that makes this area famous while above the shady Oasis Palms chattered and swarmed with hundreds of **African Palm Swifts**.

These elegant and acrobatic

little insectivores made for great lunchtime entertainment along with the dozens of common species that were making use of the shady and lush hotel grounds.

In the cooler part of the afternoon we set out along the edge of the wetlands, birding both the acacia forest and adjacent reedbeds and pools. **Black-throated Barbets** were a nice addition for the day and seeing dry country species like **Orange-breasted Bushshrike** singing near puddles that held **Temminck's Stint** was a bizarre collision of bird communities. The highlight of the afternoon had to be a massive and agitated flock of birds in a small shrub. We watched as nearly twenty glittering **Nile Valley Sunbirds** were joined by **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, **Mouse-colored Penduline Tit** and even a rare **Icterine Warbler** as they harassed a snake lurking in brush.

Heading back, we could hear the distant roars of the pride of Lions that makes this valley home and some of us enjoyed a relaxing soak in the lodge's hot springs.

Day Eight: Rift Lakes

After a short morning walk around the grounds at Doho we headed to the nearby Lake Basaka. While the lake itself is birdy, the real draw lies to the north. Stretching from the north shore is an expansive field of jagged black lava. This hostile environment, pocked with crevasses and often bakingly hot, is the only known home of the **Sombre Chat**. This species can often take a long time to locate and even return trips. Thankfully, having visited six months prior we knew exactly where to find a cooperative pair. Within a few minutes we heard the beautiful song of this otherwise ashen bird and subsequently enjoyed long scope views of both this and **Brown-tailed Rock Chat**. Overhead clouds of **Bank Swallows** and **Plain Martins** swirled while the chats disappeared deep into the rocks to escape the heat. It is always incredible to see birds that can eke out a living in seemingly uninhabitable environments.

From the Martian landscape of Basaka we continued south to a starkly different environment. Within a few hours we had reached the northern shore of Lake Koka, one of a large chain of Rift Valley Lakes, absolutely loaded with birds. Scanning from a bridge we had our first looks at the hordes of waterbirds calling this lake home. **Hottentot Teal** and **Northern Pintail** dabbled in the shallows next to **Pied Avocet**, **Ruff** and **Marsh Sandpipers**. **Whiskered** and **White-winged Terns** circled and plunged into the deeper waters while **African Jacana**, **Common Snipe** and a single **African Snipe** lurked around the margins.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Further along the shore a pair of stately **Black Crowned Cranes** strode through the pastures, eye-level with nearby cattle.



*Easily confused with Sombre Chat, **Brown-tailed Rock Chat** inhabits the same barren lava fields.*

Continuing down the chain of lakes we reached Lake Ziway in the late afternoon. Surrounded by a bustling town, a large fishing pier gave us good access to the surrounding lake and wetlands. The sheer number of birds was staggering – hundreds of **White-faced** and **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** were joined by the bizarre **Knob-billed Ducks** and **Magpie Geese** while marching troops of **Marabou** and **Yellow-billed Storks** patrolled the shallows. **African Fish Eagles** used every available perch, with six

visible at one time, an estimated 7000 **Ruff** fed together in an open pool, and **Sedge Warblers** hopscotched along a walkway of lily pads. At the end of the pier fisherman cleaned their catch to the delight of waiting **Marabou**, **Hamerkop**, **Pink-backed** and **Great White Pelicans**, **Pied Kingfisher** and **Heuglin's Gull**. The sheer volume of life held us captivated until well after the light was gone. Arriving to our luxurious accommodations on the shore of Lake Langano we would have to wait until morning to see what this next lake held.

Day Nine: Lake Langano

Our day started well before the sun rose. Leaving before 5 we made a short drive to another site along the shore of Lake Langano. Scanning the base of the cliffs we noticed some distant eyeshine. Before we had time to investigate further, the bird began singing revealing several **Freckled Nightjars** were found hunkered down among the rocks. A distant screech signaled the presence of another, significantly larger, nocturnal beast. Moving into the tall scattered trees, we quickly located an adult and a juvenile **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** together. These massive gray and black owls are among the largest in Africa and sport a pair of eerily human pink eye-lids. After satisfying looks, the owls headed off to roost just as the rest of the bird community was waking up. Heading back to the cliff edge a 40 pound mass of fur and quills walked in front of us on its way to bed. Adorned with massive black and white needles, **Crested Porcupine** was a life mammal for all of us and a serious contender for critter of the day. The forest along the cliff base was incredibly active and among the more common species we picked out new finds like **Red-faced Crombec**, **Clapperton's Francolin**, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Northern Black Flycatcher**, and **Spectacled Weaver**. A displaying pair of **Rufous-necked Wrynecks** put on a great show, contorting in odd serpentine poses and calling loudly. We capped off the morning by finding a roosting family group of **Northern White-faced Owl**, all five of them shape-shifting from sleepy balls of fluff to long lean and crimson-eyed with the snapping of a single twig.

Heading back for breakfast, we were joined on the open-air patio by curious groups of **Ruppell's Weavers**, **Mocking Cliff Chats** and **Chestnut Sparrows** all hoping for scraps. After we had all eaten our fill, we moved back north to Lake Abiata. Abiata is a shallow and rapidly drying soda lake, quite different from the surrounding bodies of water. Parking in the distance in the area that used to be the shore we walked over a kilometer to the new water edge. The entire walk we traipsed across a thick dry crust

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

floating on the gelatinous mud underneath. The ground bounced and rippled with every step, as though walking on a waterbed – a truly surreal experience. Reaching as close as we dared to the shore of Abiata we encountered another surreal sight – a sea of pink stretching as far as we could see in either direction – tens of thousands of **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingoes** fed along the shore, shimmering like a mirage in the haze. Muddy depressions in the hard crust held numerous waders including large numbers of plovers – **Kittlitz's**, **Kentish**, **Common Ringed**, and a rare **Caspian Plover** all scampered back and forth across the lake bed, occasionally pausing to use their large eyes to scan for invertebrate prey.



With the day now quite hot, we left the open lake bed and drove to our next lodge on the south shore of Lake Langano.

Approaching Hara Langano, we passed through open fields dotted with enormous figs, the last remaining titans from an ancient forest that once stretched along the entire southern shore. Thankfully, a large patch of this forest remains intact around Hara as we would soon see. Waiting on the shady veranda of the lodge giant

Abyssinian Ground Hornbills (above) walked across the lawn while a group of **Hippopotamus** lounged in the shallows. Heading into the forest, a multitude of birds were enjoying the shade of the towering trees. **Double-toothed Barbets** and **Silvery-cheeked Hornbills** shared space with some skunky **Guereza Colobus Monkeys** at a large fruiting tree. A group of impressive **Rameron Pigeons** sat vigilant in the tree tops while a wary covey of **Scaly Francolin** scrambled through the undergrowth, meanwhile an elegant **Blue-spotted Wood Dove** made a more restrained exit. As dusk approached we racked up **Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole**, **Lesser Honeyguide** and **Rufous-capped Robin Chat** before spotting our main target. A group of **Yellow-fronted Parrots** sat in the bare limbs of a long dead Podocarpus, bathed in the peachy light of sunset. These rare and handsome parrots gave us exceptional looks. Too often parrots are merely seen flying away screeching from the depths of the canopy – confiding views of these brainy

birds is another one of the many treasures of birding in Ethiopia.



Day Ten: Lake Langano to Goba

With so much to see in the Langano forest we took another full morning to explore the area before a fairly lengthy drive. Immediately outside our lodging a **Common Redshank** dashed around through the shallows while a young **African Fish Eagle** made a clumsy attempt at a landing. Losing its grip the inexperienced raptor dangled upside down by one foot for several minutes

Oversaturated to the max, **Blue-breasted Bee-eater**.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

before giving up and fluttering to the ground, choosing to walk to the lakeshore for now. In the forest proper a large clearing held a trifecta of **Honeyguides** with **Greater**, **Lesser** and **Scaly-throated** all present. A **Narina Trogon** gave a fleeting glimpse and while trying to relocate it we found a stunning **Green Twinspot** feeding on a flowering shrub. Nearby a flock held some more surprises including **Brown-throated Wattle-eye** and **Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike**. A cooperative **Masked Shrike** and a flock of **Black-winged Lovebirds** capped off the morning and with that we departed for the Bale Mountains.

While we mostly focused on driving, another roadside vulture bonanza held a good variety including a **Eurasian Griffon** visiting for the winter. Reaching the outer edge of the Bale Mountains National Park at dusk we had time for a quick stop at a small wetland. The little pond was a magnet for local waterbirds including the endemic **Spot-breasted Lapwing** and **Rouget's Rail** (potentially the easiest rail on the planet). **Southern Pochard** floated on the surface and several groups of **Blue-winged Geese** attended at the edge. With the light now gone we departed to our hotel, vowing to return for more extensive looks in the morning.

Day Eleven: Dinsho

The previous evening we had spotted a cow that had been hit on the side of the road. As we headed back to visit the Dinsho forest, this unfortunate incident had transformed into a bonanza for local scavengers. **Cape, Pied**, and **Somali Crows** all flocked to the carcass, **Fan-tailed Ravens** and **Hooded Vultures** waited in attendance but one bird towered above the rest. **Thick-billed Ravens**, perhaps the world's biggest and baddest corvid ran the show. Capable of chasing Bearded Vultures off of kills, these bulbous-billed behemoths had no problem dominating the beefy buffet on the roadside.

After getting our fill of the roadside spectacle we finished the short drive to the Dinsho forest in the Bale Mountain NP. Arriving in the towering grove of juniper and *Hagenia* we were met by local ranger known to many simply as The Owl Man. Not wasting any time we were led directly to a roosting pair of **Abyssinian Owls** (below). These scarce and enigmatic birds were just getting to sleep as we were arriving. After watching some preening and posturing, the birds found comfortable positions and were soon dozing. Not wanting to disturb them, we headed to a sunny glade to see what other local specialties we could find.



Enjoying the warm morning light, **Mountain Nyala** strolled imposingly through the sparse shrubs while flocks of birds moved in the trees ringing the edge. Within half an hour we had picked up **Abyssinian Ground-Thrush**, **Yellow-bellied Waxbill** and **White-backed Black Tits**. We also managed to catch up with those masterful songsters, the **Abyssinian Catbird** and vastly improved our previous looks at **Abyssinian Woodpecker**. The morning still held one more surprise as we were shown a nearby **African Wood Owl** – our 8th owl of the trip so far.

With the Dinsho forest more than meeting our expectations, we headed back to a nearby wetland to enjoy some more time with **Rouget's Rail** and **Spot-breasted Lapwing** before returning to Goba for lunch.

In the late afternoon we made a short trip up the mountain to bird the Goba Escarpment. We spent a few hours tracking down

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT *ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019*

two of the skulkier specialties of the dense moorlands. After some hard work, we managed good looks at **Brown Parisoma** and **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** lurking amongst the heath and boulders. Having cleaned up on targets we headed back down slope, eager to return in the morning.

Day Twelve: Sanetti Plateau and Hareenna Forest

Setting out early, we headed up from Goba to the Sanetti Plateau. At a soaring 14,000 feet, this is literal (and often metaphorical) high point of our trip to Ethiopia. Winding our way up, we stopped to admire a pair of **Slender-billed Starlings** along the road. As the forest transitioned to sparse moorland, **Chestnut-naped Francolins** crisscrossed the road in frantic groups. Occasionally a bird would display from on top of a boulder, momentarily brave while the cold dawn air prevented any assailing raptors from posing immediate threat.

Nearing the edge of the plateau, we were delighted to see a dainty and daring **Klippspringer** peering warily from a nearby precipice. It bounced away effortlessly as we crossed from the escarpment to the strange world of the mountaintop plain. Driving among the alien landscape of silvery shrubs, cartoonish giant Lobelia and placid pools, we scanned for our main target in this lunar wonderland. It wasn't long before we spotted our quarry – the ginger phantom of the Abyssinian highlands, **Ethiopian Wolf**. This regal rufous carnivore looked down at us from a high ridge and then did something shocking – it ran towards us. More concerned with the pursuit of food than with our presence, the wolf passed within 20 meters of us as we sat awestruck, in the presence of one of the worlds rarest animals.

*Sometimes the flying creature of the day is a wolf – this **Ethiopian Wolf** was moving so fast that all its feet left the ground*



TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT *ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019*

From here we went our separate ways, each striking out of the plateau – the wolf in search of rodent prey and our group in search of more alpine extravagancies. As the air warmed, dozens of raptors took to the sky – **Steppe, Eastern Imperial and Golden Eagles** all soared low of the plain while innumerable **Augur Buzzards** waited patiently on the ground. Further ahead we paused to admire the bizarre and bug-eyed **Giant Root-Rats** and a handsome pair of **Ruddy Shelducks**. Standing less than 100 meters apart, we stood, dumbstruck as a pair of **Ethiopian Wolves** bounded towards us before running IN BETWEEN our group. Truly one of the most incredible experiences I have ever had with a wild animal, the wolves paused close by to search for Root Rats, completely ignoring our presence. The lack of persecution has led to some of the most shockingly confiding wildlife I have ever seen and is one of the reasons Ethiopia is a premier wildlife destination.

With a set of wolf encounters beyond anything we could have expected, we left the plateau for a lunch in the ancient Haremma Forest below the plateau. As we enjoyed some shade and a well-deserved meal, **Abyssinian Ground Thrush** fed around us, while a nearby vine tangle held multiple **Abyssinian Catbirds** and **African Hill Babblers**. The forest was mostly quiet in the midday and knowing we would be back tomorrow at a more opportune time, we headed back across the plateau. The lack of wolves made us realize how lucky we had been earlier and a pair of comical, carrot-faced **Red-billed Choughs** demonstrated that animals can hide surprisingly well even in this stark landscape.

With a truly remarkable day in the books, we headed to bed early - after a few celebratory beers of course.

Day Thirteen: Goba to Negele

The road from Goba to Negele is a long journey but for us was punctuated with some truly special birds despite the short amount of time spent birding. Leaving in the dark, we were shocked by the presence of two **Common Quail** standing motionless in the road. Eventually realizing that they were no longer the only ones awake, we headed our separate ways, crossing the Sanetti Plateau at first light, hoping to pick up one of the few species we had missed yesterday. While none of our bird targets materialized, a pair of endemic **Starck's Hares** showed well along the roadside.

Across the plateau in the small town of Robe we enjoyed a traditional local breakfast of warm flatbread, paired with either spinach and potato or fresh local honey and of course copious amounts of coffee. Finishing what we agreed was the best breakfast of the trip, we headed downslope into the Haremma Forest.

Walking a small trail adjacent to the road, bird-activity was high. In addition to the plethora of local specialties we had seen earlier in the trip (including **White-cheeked Turaco**) we found a number of new and difficult targets. While **Abyssinian Crimsonwing** was merely a compact fireball streaking across the path, **African Emerald Cuckoo** showed well in a brilliant coat of sparkling viridian and saffron. A **Green-backed Honeybird** flitted through the treetops and the bizarre and beautiful song of **Sharpe's Starling** echoed around us. Following the solitaire like voice of this strange sturnid, we found a pair perched next to a large woven basket high in the tree. These baskets are used locally as a traditional form of beekeeping but in this case the unoccupied cavity was serving as a perfect nest location for these uncommon birds. With a long road ahead we made a quick stop at a bridge over a small river, picking up a surprise pair of **African Black Ducks**, before leaving the Haremma Forest.

As the wet forest gave way to dry acacia, colossal red termite mounds dotted the landscape. The temperature steadily rose from 32 F at the Sanetti Plateau to nearly 95 F by lunch time. With the thermometer hovering close to triple digits, the shade of a large acacia grove seemed particularly

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT *ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019*

inviting. As we ate, it became apparent that many birds coveted the same shade with **Shelley's Starlings**, **Red and Yellow Barbet**, **Black-bellied Sunbird** and **African Black-headed Oriole** all enjoying the reprieve. The real highlight came in the form of a spectacular **Golden-breasted Starling** that sat directly above our heads. Bordering on gaudy, this species is often considered the most beautiful member of the family and we tended to agree.

Nearing Negele, our main target still lay ahead. We were now in the heart of the range of one of Ethiopia's most enigmatic and desired endemics – Prince Ruspoli's Turaco. Lost to science for nearly one hundred years after the untimely death of the Italian royal who described it, this species was only refound in the 1980's. Favoring well forested watercourses in this scrubby landscape we stopped at just such a place to search. Thankfully, the local children have also keyed in on this special species and keep track of its movements. Within minutes we set out with our team of special turaco operatives in search of this cotton-topped wraith. After a little searching a series of whistles signaled us to come over to a fruiting tree that held two of these pink-mohawked wonders. Lost for a century, turns out finding **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** just takes the right help. Thanking our gracious hosts, we finished the last leg of our trip to Negele and retired for the night.

*Fruiting trees along watercourses are the best place to look for **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** in its limited range.*



Day Fourteen: Negele

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

The focus of the morning was visiting the Liben Plain near Negele. This open, shortgrass expanse is the only known range of the critically endangered Sidamo or Liben Lark, one of the most range-restricted birds in Africa. The quality birding began before we even reached the plain, as we spotted **White-crowned Starling**, **Speke's Weavers** and **Yellow-necked Spurfowl** en route.

Arriving at the plain just after sunrise, we began our search for the lark. Searching through the numerous **Somali Short-toed Larks**, various pipits and **Zitting Cisticolas** we soon came across a pair of **Liben Larks**. Easily recognizable by their boldy patterned backs and serpentine ability to vanish in an inch of grass, we admired the pair while gazing across the entirety of the species known range. From where we stood, a **Short-toed Snake Eagle** sat watchful from a lone tree, several dapper **Temminck's Coursers** dashed across the grasslands and a decidedly out of place **Eurasian Curlew** strode through the arid landscape.



Liben Lark is one of the rarest birds in Africa.

Having found our targets so swiftly left us plenty of time to bird the road heading east toward Filtu. A small dusty track heading to Somalia took us to a lush stream nearby that offered a chance for redemption. Having missed our chance to visit Sof Omar the previous day we had also missed what was historically the best chance for the coveted Salvadori's Serin. Thankfully, a small population had been found along this watercourse and they proved quite reliable. The angry calls of a group of **Somali Tits** brought in a curious

party of nearby birds with the more common **Purple Grenadier**, **Northern Crombec** and **Mariqua Sunbird** being joined by **Somali Crombec**, **Yellow-vented Eremomela** and even **Salvadori's Serin**. With three very difficult specialties and nearly 20 species present – this was one of the best flocks I have seen in Ethiopia. A bonus **Tree Pipit** and another group of incredibly confiding **White Helmetshrikes** (below) and we were on our way back to Negele.

On our way back we spotted a pair of diminutive **Coqui Francolin** perched on a low termite mound. Stopping to admire these normally elusive game birds, we noticed some decidedly larger creatures the distance. Closer inspection revealed a pair of gargantuan **Kori Bustards**, one of the world's largest flying birds. These regal and otherworldly travelers were a great finale to an incredibly successful morning as we returned to rest and escape the heat of the day.

Having cleaned up most of our targets we elected take most of the rest of the day off. We did take a short afternoon drive that was highlighted by the delightfully named **Pringle's Puffback** and a quick



in

to

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

sighting of a **Dwarf Mongoose**.

Day Fifteen: Negele to Yabello

The journey from Negele to Yabello is the longest of the trip and with plans for an afternoon of birding near Yabello we set off promptly and directly. The best laid plans however are often derailed by good birds. In the half-light we spotted some hulking shapes in a roadside tree. A quick check with the spotlight revealed a roost of 6 **Abdim's Storks** just beginning to wake up. We had places to be though and quickly left with renewed purpose.... until a few miles later when a crimson flash stopped us in our tracks.

Exiting the car we soon found a large fruiting fig and in full view, a **Prince Ruspoli's Turaco** enjoying breakfast in the sunshine. We took full advantage, enjoying long, nearly unbeatable views of this bird, taking some photos, and appreciating our good fortune.

With some great birds to tide us over we finally managed to get the drive underway in earnest. Winding up into the coffee covered hillsides and wet forests, we traversed this small mountain range for much of the day, slowly descending back into the acacia scrub in the afternoon.



Reaching Yabello in the early evening, we headed directly to a small lake lined with tall acacias. While we enjoyed the usual waterbirds, some **White and Yellow-billed Storks**, **Temminck's Stint**, a **Bearded Woodpecker**, some soft nasal calls in the

distance sent us hurrying in that direction. Within a few minutes we had caught up with a flock of **Stresemann's Bushcrows** (above), my personal favorite of Ethiopia's many great endemics. Like a Clark's Nutcracker with some seriously flashy eyeliner, these ultra-social corvids stay in tight knit groups, raise young together, feed cooperatively with White-crowned Starlings and hornbills, and are absolutely fascinating to watch. So much more than just a range-restricted species, we spent the remaining hour of daylight with these curious corvids, trying to learn a little more about them and soaking in the experience. A long day bookended by two of Ethiopia's best birds, the crescendoing calls of **Pearl-spotted Owlets** signaled the end of the day and time to retire to our hotel.

Day Sixteen: Yabello

Driving south from Yabello, the town quickly gave way to rolling hills covered in undisturbed briars, brambles and tangles. The dense and thorny vegetation of this region holds an almost unbelievable abundance of birds, as we would later find out. An open, grassy patch held a small group of **Burchell's**

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Zebra – not the species we were expecting to see here but always worth a look. While the zebra grazed in the foreground, a bizarre silhouette appeared farther back. Simultaneously reminiscent of both a gazelle and a camel, a **Gerenuk** strolled through the clearing. These odd, long-necked beasts browse on the high thorny vegetation that most others can't reach and are perhaps the most unique ungulate in the country.

Further down the road we stopped at a particularly good looking patch of thorny scrub to see what was around. The number of birds was overwhelming – **D'Arnaud's Barbets** gave their happy song from every available treetop while a flowering acacia swarmed with **Somali Tit**, **Gray Wren Warbler**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Mariqua Sunbirds**, **Red-fronted Prinia** and **White-bellied Canary**. A mixed flock of **Gray-headed** and **Black-capped Social Weavers** fed together on the ground while a **Pygmy Batis** sang just above them. A troop of **Scaly Chatterers** made a surprise appearance while in the background cobalt-mantled **Vulturine Guineafowl** fed in the road. A little work turned up a pair of **Red-naped Bushshrikes**, followed quickly by several more – there may be no better place on earth to see this scarce and local skulker of the dry acacia scrub. With all our targets cleaned up we had a quick field breakfast, only drawn out by the number of birds distracting us between bites. When **Banded Parisoma** nearly lands on your plate, you put down the fork.



A swirling flock of small birds further down warranted a closer look. Hopping out we followed the flock, locating the largest group of Cutthroat I have ever seen. Among the nearly 200 **Cutthroat** were dozens of **Straw-tailed Whydah**, including a very sharp looking male still in breeding colors, and a pair of **Gray-headed Silverbills**.

Leaving behind the dense scrub, we headed out on the nearby Soda Plain. Almost immediately we encountered a small group of

the endemic **White-tailed Swallows**. These tiny and boldly marked endemics tumbled and fluttered like dry leaves as the wind picked up on the wide-open grassland. While the gusts caused some problems for the small aerialists, more terrestrial birds seemed completely unbothered. A **Foxy Lark** crept low along the ground, reluctant to take flight despite having nearly tripped over the bird. In the distance a large group of vultures gathered around a carcass, moving closer we found a **White-headed Vulture** among the other more regular species. With the wind reaching almost unbirdable levels and all our targets located we started back towards Yabello. As we left the Soda Plain we stopped to check out a pair of towering **Somali Ostrich** that had somehow gone undetected on the way in. These impressive birds are always an unforgettable part of any visit to Africa and we were glad to not have missed them.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019



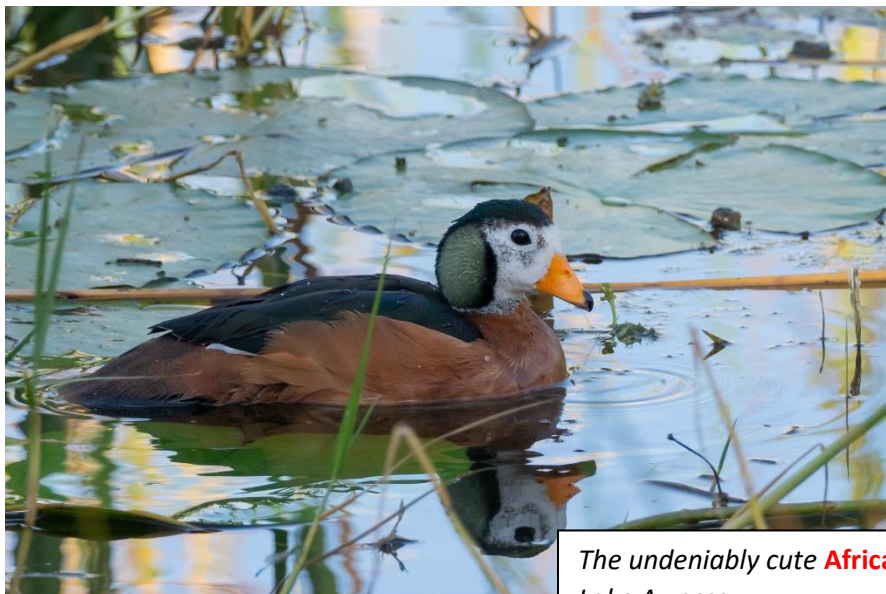
Having done well in the morning, we elected to explore a new area in the afternoon. The low dry expanse of the Sarite Plain is remote and difficult to reach and provides an opportunity to investigate an area visited by few birders. When we arrived the late afternoon temperature was still hovering in the triple digits. In the distance **Grevy's Zebra** and **Grant's Gazelle** shimmered in the haze. Everything was completely

silent. I can remember few places more eerily quiet or still than this barren expanse. Walking in the punishing sun, it was starting to seem that birders were correct in largely avoiding this area. Thankfully, the first bird we saw was the right one. A pair of small gray and chestnut birds flushed ahead of us and flew a long way off. Moving slowly towards where we last saw the birds, we noticed three birds sneaking quietly away through the sparse vegetation – **Masked Larks** (above)! Seen by very few birders ever, these larks were only re-found in Ethiopia a few years ago! After enjoying long looks and getting some good photos, we headed back from our expedition for a few cold beers.

Day Seventeen: Yabello to Awassa

Sadly our trip was nearing its end as we began our long journey north towards Addis Ababa. After a long and arduous trip, traversing thousands of miles, our trusty vehicle ran into its first bit of mechanical trouble shortly into the drive. While mildly inconvenient, this delay worked in our favor as we located several new birds including **Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar**, **African Scops-Owl**, **Bare-eyed Thrush** and **Lesser Striped Swallow** right there along the roadside. We made the short trek back to town, enjoyed a

cup of coffee and were soon back on the road.



Spending the majority of the day heading north, we arrived at our hotel on the shores of Lake Awassa with an hour of daylight left to spare. Wasting no time, we went directly to the promenade paralleling the lakeshore to enjoy the multitudes of birds that make this small rift valley

*The undeniably cute **African Pygmy Goose** is quite common around Lake Awassa*

lake home. During our short walk we had

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

great looks at many retiring wetland birds including **White-backed Duck** and **African Pygmy Goose**, **Blue-headed Coucal**, **Black Crakes** and **Black Heron**. The only thing that stopped this parade of new species was the setting sun. Thankfully we would have a full morning here tomorrow to cap off our grand tour of Ethiopia.

Day Eighteen: Awassa to Addis

We started our final morning of birding at dawn on the ground of our hotel. The tall trees surrounding our rooms echoed with bird song but one in particular caught our attention. Following a high, rising whistle we found a pair of **African Spotted-Creepers** singing from a dead limb. These odd bark-like birds are sometimes placed in their own family and were an exciting way to start our morning.

Walking out to the lake, wetland birds were everywhere, starting their days. **Eurasian Reed Warblers** and **Lesser Swamp Warblers** bounced through the rushes, a pair of **Black Crakes** worked on a nest, and a large dabbling group of ducks included a surprise flock of **Red-billed Ducks**. Further down, it was difficult to overlook a gargantuan **Goliath Heron** standing right next to the boardwalk. Much less conspicuous was a nearby **Lesser Jacana**! We were all surprised by just how small these cryptic marsh birds actually were. Sometimes there is no substitute for seeing something in person.



*This **Black Crake** was taking a break from nest building along a small pier in Awassa.*

With time slipping away we headed back for breakfast. Eating in the shade of a large fruiting fig, **Silvery-cheeked Hornbills** and **Double-toothed Barbets** fed along side us – suddenly scattering in flight as a **Banded Snake-Eagle** passed low overhead. With this last exciting bird we had to pry ourselves away from the shores of the lake and head north to Addis. Passing north the country side faded into

urban sprawl. Even on the outskirts of the city, the small farm fields teemed with birds – hundreds of

Lesser Flamingos were joined by **White Storks** and even **Common Cranes**. A fitting reminder that birds are everywhere in this exceptional country. In a remarkable two and half weeks we saw nearly 500 species of birds, and 35 species of mammals. Above and beyond the numbers, birds were everywhere we looked. We had long, confiding looks of almost all species, close to zero heard-only species and often dozens of looks at the endemics that make this country special. Ethiopia is incomparable in terms of opportunities to see and enjoy the avifauna fully. From the frost covered plains of the Sanetti Plateau to the sun-baked plains and deep canyons of the Rift Valley, Ethiopia is a land rich and varied, filled with unforgettable wildlife and landscapes.

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

Bird List:

STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae		
1.	Somali Ostrich	<i>Struthio molybdophanes</i>
ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae		
2.	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
3.	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
4.	White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
5.	Blue-winged Goose	<i>Cyanochen cyanoptera</i>
6.	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
7.	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
8.	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
9.	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
10.	African Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
11.	African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
12.	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
13.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
14.	Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
15.	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
16.	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
17.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
18.	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
19.	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
20.	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
21.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
GALLIFORMES: Numididae		
22.	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
23.	Vulturine Guineafowl	<i>Acryllium vulturinum</i>
GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae		
24.	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
25.	Chestnut-naped Francolin	<i>Pternistis castaneicollis</i>
26.	Erckel's Francolin	<i>Pternistis erckelii</i>
27.	Scaly Francolin	<i>Pternistis squamatus</i>
28.	Clapperton's Francolin	<i>Pternistis clappertoni</i>
29.	Harwood's Francolin	<i>Pternistis harwoodi</i>
30.	Yellow-necked Francolin	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>
31.	Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>
32.	Coqui Francolin	<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>
PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae		
33.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
34.	Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES:		
Phoenicopteridae		
35.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopus roseus</i>
36.	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopus minor</i>
CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae		
37.	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
38.	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
39.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
40.	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
41.	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae		
42.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
43.	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
SULIFORMES: Anhingidae		
44.	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae		
45.	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
46.	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae		
47.	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae		
48.	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
49.	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
50.	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
51.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
52.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
53.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>
54.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
55.	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
56.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
57.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
58.	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae		
59.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
60.	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
61.	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
62.	Wattled Ibis	<i>Bostrychia carunculata</i>
63.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorid</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

64.	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae		
65.	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
66.	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
67.	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
68.	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
69.	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
70.	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
71.	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
72.	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
73.	Rueppell's Griffon	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
74.	Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
75.	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
76.	Short-toed (Snake-) Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
77.	Black-breasted Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
78.	(Western) Banded Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
79.	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
80.	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
81.	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>
82.	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>
83.	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
84.	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
85.	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
86.	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
87.	Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
88.	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
89.	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
90.	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
91.	Eastern Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>
92.	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
93.	Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
94.	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
95.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
96.	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
97.	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
98.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
99.	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
100.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
101.	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
102.	"Steppe" Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>
103.	Mountain Buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>
104.	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
OTIDIFORMES: Otididae		

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

105.	Arabian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>
106.	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
107.	(Northern) White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
108.	Buff-crested Bustard	<i>Eupodotis gindiana</i>
GRUIFORMES: Rallidae		
109.	Rouget's Rail	<i>Rougetius rougetii</i>
110.	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
111.	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
112.	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
113.	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
GRUIFORMES: Gruidae		
114.	Black Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>
115.	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae		
116.	Senegal Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus senegalensis</i>
117.	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae		
118.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
119.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae		
120.	Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>
121.	Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
122.	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
123.	Spot-breasted Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanocephalus</i>
124.	Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
125.	Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolius</i>
126.	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
127.	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
128.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
129.	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae		
130.	Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
131.	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae		
132.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
133.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
134.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
135.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
136.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
137.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

138.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
139.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
140.	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
141.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
142.	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
143.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
144.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
145.	African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae		
146.	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
147.	Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae		
148.	Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
149.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
150.	"Heuglin's" Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus heuglini</i>
151.	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
152.	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
153.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae		
154.	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>
155.	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>
COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae		
156.	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
157.	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
158.	White-collared Pigeon	<i>Columba albitorques</i>
159.	Rameron (Olive) Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
160.	Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
161.	Dusky Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>
162.	African Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>
163.	Mourning Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
164.	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
165.	Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
166.	Vinaceous Dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>
167.	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
168.	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
169.	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
170.	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
171.	Bruce's Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>
CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae		
172.	White-cheeked Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>
173.	Prince Ruspoli's Turaco	<i>Tauraco ruspolii</i>
174.	Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>
175.	White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

176.	Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>
CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae		
177.	African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
178.	Blue-headed Coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>
179.	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae		
180.	African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
181.	Northern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis leucotis</i>
182.	Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
183.	Grayish Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo cinerascens</i>
184.	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
185.	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
186.	African Wood-Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
187.	African Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio abyssinicus</i>
CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae		
188.	Donaldson-Smith's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus donaldsoni</i>
189.	Abyssinian (Montane) Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus poliocephalus</i>
190.	Plain Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus inornatus</i>
191.	Star-spotted Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus stellatus</i>
192.	Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
193.	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>
APODIFORMES: Apodidae		
194.	Mottled Swift	<i>Apus aequatorialis</i>
195.	Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>
196.	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
COLIIFORMES: Coliidae		
197.	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
198.	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>
TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae		
199.	Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae		
200.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Phoeniculidae		
201.	Black-billed Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus somaliensis</i>
202.	Black Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus aterrimus</i>
203.	Abyssinian Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Bucorvidae		
204.	Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus abyssinicus</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae		
205.	Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
206.	Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>
207.	Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

208.	Hemprich's Hornbill	<i>Tockus hemprichii</i>
209.	African Gray Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
210.	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae		
211.	Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
212.	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
213.	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
214.	Gray-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
215.	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
216.	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
217.	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae		
218.	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
219.	Blue-breasted Bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus</i>
220.	Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>
CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae		
221.	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i>
222.	Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>
223.	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
224.	Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
PICIFORMES: Lybiidae		
225.	Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>
226.	Yellow-breasted Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>
227.	D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>
228.	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
229.	Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>
230.	Black-throated Barbet	<i>Tricholaema melanocephala</i>
231.	Banded Barbet	<i>Lybius undatus</i>
232.	Black-billed Barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>
233.	Double-toothed Barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>
PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae		
234.	Green-backed Honeyguide	<i>Prodotiscus zambesiae</i>
235.	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
236.	Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
237.	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
PICIFORMES: Picidae		
238.	Rufous-necked (Red-throated) Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
239.	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>
240.	Abyssinian Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos abyssinicus</i>
241.	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
242.	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
243.	Mountain Gray (Gray-headed) Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae		
244.	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
245.	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
246.	Eurasian (Common) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
247.	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
248.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae		
249.	Black-winged Lovebird	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>
PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae		
250.	Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>
251.	Yellow-fronted Parrot	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae		
252.	Brown-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira cyanea</i>
253.	Gray-headed Batis	<i>Batis orientalis</i>
254.	Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis minor</i>
255.	Pygmy Batis	<i>Batis perkeo</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae		
256.	White (-crested) Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae		
257.	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
258.	Northern Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus gambensis</i>
259.	Pringle's Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus pringlii</i>
260.	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
261.	Red-naped Bushshrike	<i>Laniarius ruficeps</i>
262.	Tropical (Ethiopian) Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>
263.	Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>
264.	Rosy-patched Bushshrike	<i>Rhodophoneus cruentus</i>
265.	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
266.	Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae		
267.	Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae		
268.	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>
269.	Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>
270.	Southern Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
271.	Gray-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitorius</i>
272.	Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>
273.	Somali Fiscal	<i>Lanius somalicus</i>
274.	Northern Fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>
275.	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
276.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
277.	White-rumped (-crowned) Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

	PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae	
278.	Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>
279.	African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae	
280.	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae	
281.	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae	
282.	Stresemann's Bush-Crow	<i>Zavattariornis stresemanni</i>
283.	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
284.	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
285.	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
286.	Somali Crow	<i>Corvus edithae</i>
287.	Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>
288.	Thick-billed Raven	<i>Corvus crassirostris</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae	
289.	Gillett's Lark	<i>Mirafraga gilletti</i>
290.	Liben (Sidamo) Lark	<i>Heteromirafraga sidamoensis</i>
291.	Foxy Lark	<i>Calendulauda alopex</i>
292.	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix signatus</i>
293.	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
294.	Erlanger's Lark	<i>Calandrella erlangeri</i>
295.	Somali Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella somalica</i>
296.	Masked Lark	<i>Spizocorys personata</i>
297.	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae	
298.	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
299.	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
300.	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
301.	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
302.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
303.	Ethiopian Swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>
304.	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
305.	White-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo megaensis</i>
306.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
307.	Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
308.	Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
309.	Black Sawwing	<i>Psaldoprocne pristoptera</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Paridae	
310.	White-winged Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>
311.	White-backed Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus leuconotus</i>
312.	Somali Tit	<i>Melaniparus thruppi</i>
	PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae	

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

313.	Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus musculus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae		
314.	African Spotted-Creeper	<i>Salpornis salvadori</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae		
315.	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae		
316.	Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>
317.	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>
318.	Somali Crombec	<i>Sylvietta isabellina</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae		
319.	Brown Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>
320.	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
321.	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae		
322.	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>
323.	Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>
324.	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
325.	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
326.	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
327.	African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
328.	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae		
329.	Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>
330.	Little Rush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae		
331.	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>
332.	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
333.	Red-fronted Warbler	<i>Urorhipis rufifrons</i>
334.	Gray Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes simplex</i>
335.	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
336.	Boran Cisticola	<i>Cisticola bodessa</i>
337.	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
338.	Ashy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinereolus</i>
339.	"Ethiopian" Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes lugubris</i>
340.	Tiny Cisticola	<i>Cisticola nana</i>
341.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
342.	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>
343.	Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phyllolais pulchella</i>
344.	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
345.	Pale Prinia	<i>Prinia somalica</i>
346.	Yellow-vented Eremomela	<i>Eremomela flavicrissalis</i>
347.	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae		

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

348.	Abyssinian Catbird	<i>Parophasma galinieri</i>
349.	African Hill Babbler	<i>Sylvia abyssinica</i>
350.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
351.	Banded Warbler (Parisoma)	<i>Sylvia boehmi</i>
352.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
353.	Brown Warbler (Parisoma)	<i>Sylvia lugens</i>
354.	Greater Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae		
355.	Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye	<i>Zosterops poliogastrus</i>
356.	White-breasted (Abyssinian) White-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae		
357.	Scaly Chatterer	<i>Turdoides aylmeri</i>
358.	Rufous Chatterer	<i>Turdoides rubiginosa</i>
359.	White-rumped Babbler	<i>Turdoides leucopygia</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae		
360.	Grayish (African Gray) Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>
361.	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
362.	Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis chocolatinus</i>
363.	Northern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edolioides</i>
364.	Dusky-brown (African Dusky) Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
365.	Gray Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
366.	Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>
367.	Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
368.	Rueppell's Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>
369.	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
370.	Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
371.	Spotted Morning-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa guttata</i>
372.	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
373.	Rufous-tailed (Common) Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
374.	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
375.	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
376.	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
377.	Rueppell's (Black) Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>
378.	Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
379.	White-winged Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i>
380.	Brown-tailed Chat	<i>Cercomela scotocerca</i>
381.	Sombre Chat	<i>Cercomela dubia</i>
382.	Blackstart	<i>Cercomela melanura</i>
383.	Moorland Chat	<i>Cercomela sordida</i>
384.	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
385.	"Abyssinian Black" Mourning Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugens lugubris</i>
386.	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
387.	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

388.	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
389.	Red-breasted Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe bottae</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae		
390.	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush	<i>Geokichla piaggiae</i>
391.	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa simensis</i>
392.	Abyssinian (Olive) Thrush	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>
393.	African Thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>
394.	African Bare-eyed Thrush	<i>Turdus tephronotus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae		
395.	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
396.	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
397.	Slender-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus tenuirostris</i>
398.	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
399.	White-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus albirostris</i>
400.	Sharpe's Starling	<i>Pholia sharpii</i>
401.	Shelley's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis shelleyi</i>
402.	Rueppell's Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>
403.	Golden-breasted Starling	<i>Lamprotornis regius</i>
404.	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>
405.	White-crowned Starling	<i>Spreo albicapillus</i>
406.	Lesser Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>
407.	Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae		
408.	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae		
409.	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
410.	Nile Valley Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>
411.	Western Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra obscura</i>
412.	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
413.	Hunter's Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra hunteri</i>
414.	Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>
415.	Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>
416.	Mariqua Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
417.	Black-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris nectarinioides</i>
418.	Shining Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>
419.	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae		
420.	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
421.	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
422.	Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>
423.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
424.	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
425.	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

426.	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
427.	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
428.	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
429.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
430.	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
431.	Abyssinian Longclaw	<i>Macronyx flavicollis</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae		
432.	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
433.	Striolated (House) Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i>
434.	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
435.	Somali Bunting	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae		
436.	Ankober Serin	<i>Carduelis ankoberensis</i>
437.	Yellow-crowned Canary	<i>Serinus flavivertex</i>
438.	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>
439.	Abyssinian Siskin	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>
440.	African Citril	<i>Serinus citrinelloides</i>
441.	Reichenow's Seedeater	<i>Serinus reichenowi</i>
442.	Yellow-rumped Serin	<i>Serinus xanthopygius</i>
443.	White-bellied Canary	<i>Serinus dorsostriatus</i>
444.	Yellow-throated Serin	<i>Serinus flavigula</i>
445.	Salvadori's Serin	<i>Serinus xantholaemus</i>
446.	Northern Grosbeak-Canary	<i>Serinus donaldsoni</i>
447.	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Serinus striolatus</i>
448.	Brown-rumped Seedeater	<i>Serinus tristriatus</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae		
449.	Shelley's Rufous Sparrow	<i>Passer shelleyi</i>
450.	Swainson's Sparrow	<i>Passer swainsonii</i>
451.	Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer eminibey</i>
452.	Yellow-spotted Petronia	<i>Petronia pyrgita</i>
453.	Bush Petronia	<i>Petronia dentata</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae		
454.	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
455.	White-headed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>
456.	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>
457.	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
458.	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser superciliosus</i>
459.	Gray-headed Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaudi</i>
460.	Black-capped Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita cabanisi</i>
461.	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
462.	Baglafecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafecht</i>
463.	Little Weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>
464.	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

465.	Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
466.	Vitelline Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>
467.	Rueppell's Weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>
468.	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>
469.	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
470.	Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>
471.	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
472.	Northern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>
473.	Black-winged Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>
474.	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
475.	Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae		
476.	Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia quartinia</i>
477.	Green-backed Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
478.	Abyssinian Crimson-wing	<i>Cryptospiza salvadorii</i>
479.	Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>
480.	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
481.	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
482.	Purple Grenadier	<i>Granatina ianthinogaster</i>
483.	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
484.	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
485.	African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
486.	Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
487.	Gray-headed Silverbill	<i>Odontospiza caniceps</i>
488.	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>
489.	Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
490.	African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>
PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae		
491.	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
492.	Eastern Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
493.	Straw-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua fischeri</i>
494.	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>

Mammal List:

1	Guereza White Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza (abyssinicus)</i>
2	Sacred Baboon (Hamadryas)	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>
3	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>
4	Gelada (Baboon)	<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>
5	Grivet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
6	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>
7	Lesser Bushbaby (Senegal Galago)	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>
8	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis fagani</i>

TROPICAL BIRDING TRIP REPORT ETHIOPIA: January 14-31 2019

9	Starck's Hare	<i>Lepus starcki</i>
10	Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>
11	Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>
12	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>
13	Giant Root Rat	<i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>
14	Blick's Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis blicki</i>
15	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
16	Abyssinian Wolf	<i>Canis simmensis</i>
17	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
18	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
19	White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>
20	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
21	Ethiopian Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia habessinica</i>
22	Yellow-spotted Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>
23	Grevy's Zebra	<i>Equus grevyi</i>
24	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
25	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
26	Desert Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>
27	Menelik's Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki</i>
28	Mountain Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus buxtoni</i>
29	Lesser Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i>
30	Gray (Common) Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
31	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
32	Salt's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua saltiana</i>
33	Guenther's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>
34	Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
35	Soemmering's Gazelle	<i>Gazella soemmerringi</i>
36	Grant's (Bright's) Gazelle	<i>Nanger granti brighti</i>
37	Gerenuk	<i>Litocranius walleri</i>