

NOTES ON A SHORT TRIP TO ETHIOPIA OCTOBER 2016

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Introduction

This is a rather chatty report concerning a short trip to Ethiopia in October 2016 in which we which visited Debre Libanos, the Jemma Valley and Awash. These were three contrasting locations with different altitudes and very different fauna. We therefore managed to find 210 species of bird in this short trip, 58 of which were lifers for us and 29 of which were endemic or near-endemic. If you want a “birds only” report it might be best to look elsewhere, as this report attempts to explain what it was actually like in Ethiopia. However, there is also a full list of the birds seen and notes on birding locations at the end.



Background

These notes relate to a birding tour from 1st – 10th October 2016. It was originally intended to be a 20-day trip covering the Northern cultural sites as well as a good deal of birding. However, after some violent demonstrations and shootings by the security forces, the FCO decided that the Northern province of Amhara was not safe to visit (“advise against all but essential travel”) so the itinerary was rejigged to cover most of the usual southern birding locations (Bale Mountains, Rift Valley, Negelle and Yabello) and also including Debre Libanos which, although north of Addis was not inside the “forbidden area. (Ankober was, unfortunately).

On the day we arrived there was a big festival in Bishoftu (at the northern end of the Rift Valley) which developed into a mass stampede and numbers (difficult to get accurate figures) of people were killed. The south of the country then erupted into a series of scattered violent events including the burning down of Bishingari Lodge at Lake Langano, a favourite spot for bird-watchers. In the light of this we agreed with our tour operators (Naturetrek Tailormade) that we would return home after our time at Awash, and indeed on the day before we returned the government declared a State of Emergency and the FCO included the Rift Valley in their do-not-travel advice.

So we had 8 days in Ethiopia, one of which was not in the planned location (we had intended spend a night at Bishoftu to bird Lake Chekaleka but that was obviously out of the question). So we finished up with one night at the Ghion Hotel in Addis, having a rest and familiarising ourselves with the common highland birds, two nights at Debre Libanos, birding the immediate area and the Jemma Valley, one night in transit at Adama (a non-birding location), and three nights in Awash, two at the Awash Falls Lodge and one at Doho Lodge.

Despite the trip being so drastically shortened and the on-going political situation we had a fantastic time. We managed to see a lot of birds with the aid of our excellent guide – Merid Gebremichael who is the co-author of the “Where to watch birds in Ethiopia” book. He balanced our desire to identify as many birds as possible ourselves with making sure we didn’t miss anything important. He also knew we had been to Africa several times before so did not spend time on the common African birds, but concentrated on the difficult species. We also enjoyed the people, the food and the culture – it is certainly true that Ethiopia is just not like anywhere else and we are very keen to go back to finish off what we started.

GENERAL NOTES

Here are a few notes on general topics which you can skip if you want to get to the birds:

Flights

It seems to be usual to take the 9:30 pm Ethiopian Airways flight to Addis which takes about 7½ hours. The trouble with this flight is that it is too short to get any sensible sleep. The first meal is very slow to arrive (about midnight!) so the lights are not dimmed till very late leaving only about 3 hours before waking up. You arrive at Addis at 4:00 am English time feeling like a wet rag. We are too old for this sort of thing now so had organised a “quiet day in” at the Ghion Hotel for the first day in order to recover. Note that the planes are new Airbus 350s and are spacious and comfortable.

The Ghion Hotel

We wanted to stay here as we had read about the good birding in the gardens and nearby park. We liked it – it is a bit old and faded but quite cheap (I think) and there are no other Western tourists. On a Sunday on Oct-Nov the park is full of wedding groups having their photos taken to the accompaniment of much music – great fun and they really don’t mind onlookers.

Weather

We planned this trip to start at the beginning of the dry season – 1st October. Before we went the forecasts showed continuous wet and showery weather over the Ethiopian highlands and it was raining when the plane landed. That day was overcast with a little drizzle. The next day dawned sunny and bright – the doorman at the hotel said “Rain finished now” and he was right. So we actually arrived at exactly the right moment - the countryside was green and flowery but the weather was dry and sunny.

Organisation

I am sure it is possible to organise a birdwatching trip in Ethiopia with a local company and guide booked directly on the web and with email. We chose the simple option of booking through Naturetrek Tailormade since we had to organise the trip at short notice.

Phones

Mobile phone reception is good in most places, even way out in the countryside. We were talking to our tour organiser in the UK whilst watching a suite of African birds in the bush at Awash.

Mosquitos

We took malaria prophylactics (Doxycycline, which also has a welcome side effect of helping to ward off tummy bugs) and expected that, just after the rains, mosquitos would be a problem. In the event the only place where we encountered mosquitos and I got badly bitten was in the town-centre hotel at Adama. A mosquito net was supplied there but we did not use it as the hotel room seemed to be more-or-less hermetically sealed. This was in fact true but I had failed to notice that the bathroom window was slightly ajar and this was enough – I woke up with a good selection of bites. Lesson learnt.

Food

Peter experimented with Ethiopian food and enjoyed it. This is based on Injera, a kind of large circular flat bread made from the Tef grain, which is actually more like a pancake. It is brownish, about 5mm thick and has little holes all over one side like a sponge (or a crumpet). It has a slightly sour taste but is not too bad. It is served with stir-fried meat, or stews or various other things such as chickpeas, with a dish of hot sauce (very tasty with an excellent earthy, slightly sour taste) on the side. The meat was tasty but often a bit tough – it was probably lamb or more likely goat. Injera is also served with injera. This is Firfir – chopped up injera stirred around with hot sauce and served for breakfast and for fasting meals

Coffee ceremony

This is not really a ceremony, just part of Ethiopian life. You can see the coffee ladies at little stalls in the markets and even at breakfast in hotels. They sit on a little stool behind a tray of handle-less coffee cups where they first roast the coffee beans on a tray over a charcoal stove, then grind them, then make the coffee in a tall jug, also over the stove. There will often be incense burning on another little stove in front of the cups, and popcorn (strangely) is often served just before the coffee (it is slightly sweetened and makes an excellent pudding). The coffee is strong but not bitter and has a roasted-grain taste – it is delicious. It is served with sugar separately – I found ½ spoon about right. (Note that if you order coffee anywhere it will be strong and in small cups - essentially espresso. I expect you can order a longer milkier version but I never tried)

Drinks

We developed a taste for Merinda Orange – quite sweet but refreshing. The local beer (we tried St George and Waalia) was very palatable and not too gassy. At the hotel in Adama we noticed the local gin was very cheap so we ordered doubles with tonic – a very generous double and tonics for two people came out at about £3 and was perfectly palatable. At the Awash Lodges they only had imported Gordon's Gin but this was still reasonably cheap and came out about £9 for two doubles including a service charge.

Resources

We made extensive use of “Where to watch birds in Ethiopia”, 2010, Spottiswoode, Gebremichael and Francis (we now have a signed copy!). To identify birds we used “Birds of the Horn of Africa” by Redman, Stevenson and Fanshawe. As a general guide we used the Bradt guide by Philip Briggs, who is an “Ethiopiophile” – the book is also surprisingly good about birds and birding locations. Most trip reports are of limited use – they are mostly by big tour companies and don't give you any flavour of the place at all.

Notes on the Ethiopia way of life

93% of Ethiopians are subsistence farmers and this is obvious when travelling through the countryside. You see small fields being ploughed with oxen (we never saw a tractor or any mechanised farm implement) and fields being hand-weeded. Everywhere there are flocks of goats and sheep often mixed with donkeys and cows, with a shepherd close by. In agricultural areas the homes are still very traditional – thatched wattle & daub huts or maybe with the thatch replaced by a tin roof. Goods are mainly carried by donkey or sometimes pony cart. Life in these areas has probably not materially changed for hundreds of years. In the towns it is different – there are shops, cars, restaurants – all the usual things. And there is obviously a well-heeled upper class - there are a number of 5-star lodges around the Rift Valley lakes and Lake Tana which are the weekend playgrounds for the rich, and there are smart restaurants in Addis. It is not easy to see how this “living standards” gap can be bridged or how a country like this can be brought into the 21st century.

White robes

One of the characteristic features of highland Ethiopia which make it so unlike everywhere else is the wearing of white wraps or shawls on a day-to-day basis. These seem to come in several forms. There is the formal version, which is made of white muslin or cheesecloth, and for women this is often edged with a patterned strip. This is worn to all church services and, as far as I can tell, to many formal events. It is usually wrapped over the head as well the shoulders. Then there is the work-a-day thicker version worn by almost everybody on the cold mornings in the highlands. When we drove to the Jemma Gorge on a rather cold morning, virtually everybody we passed on the road was clad in a thick enveloping white shawl. This seems an impractical colour when you don't have running water or a washing machine but it does make the scenery very characteristic.

ACCOMMODATION

The Ethio-German Hotel

We stayed for two nights at the Ethio-German Hotel at Debre Libanos. It is in a fantastic location, right on the rim of the gorge, and within easy walking distance of the Portuguese Bridge. The room was spacious and looked attractive. But the bed was rock hard and the room was very cold – it felt like a fridge when you walked in. The nights were actually very cold – we had to use all the available bedding. The food was tasty and well-cooked but they only had three items available – spaghetti with tomato sauce, rice with tomato sauce and tomato soup. This got a tad repetitive! But the birding in the grounds and immediate vicinity was very good. Even in our last few minutes here we were seeing new species.

Awash Falls Lodge

This lodge is in a splendid situation right next to the falls. There are crocodiles here which wait in the turbulent water below the falls for anything unfortunate swept over the edge, and these were very entertaining. Every so often one crocodile would swim right up under the falls which his head right up in the fall of water – I don't know why they did this (it looked like fun but the concept of a crocodile having fun seems somewhat alien) but it just shows how strong they are, being able to swim against a really fierce current of water.

The first hut we were offered seemed rather small – we were glad when the attentive staff checked the shower, found it was not working and moved us to a larger one. It was very hot at Awash – high 30s centigrade, so we were glad of the ceiling fan especially during the after-lunch snooze when the power was usually on. Mosquito nets were supplied and they worked well. The hut was not insect-proof, though although all the windows and open areas under the eaves had netting over them, but we found remarkably few creepy-crawlies inside.

The food was fine here – the European-style dishes such as Steak Bismarck (with a fried egg) and Beef Stroganoff (no cream or vodka but quite nice anyway) were quite palatable and served with a good selection of vegetables and usually fried potatoes. Food was served on low tables around a courtyard with a camp fire, with the coffee ceremony going on to one side and Slender-tailed Nightjars flying around overhead. Very pleasant indeed.

Doho Lodge

This lodge is in the North East of the park and it run by the same people as Awash Falls Lodge. The lodge looks out over a lake and a large marshy area (strangely rather birdless) and has hot springs which are quite attractively laid out. The lodge is situated in the Afar region so the locals who work for the lodge can be seen carrying either a very long knife or an AK47 both of which are expressions of manhood and are carried by any male over about 10. The room in the lodge was fine, though electricity was only available in the evening, and the food was the same as Awash but with a more limited menu. We had the place to

ourselves and really liked it. There were Orange-bellied Parrots in the tree by the lake and Yellow-breasted Barbets carolling their duet from the bushes near the gate.

BIRDING INTRODUCTION

In our short trip we managed to see 210 species. Ethiopian endemics and near-endemics seen were:

Endemics	Near-endemics
Wattled Ibis	Erkcel's Francolin
Blue-winged Goose	White-cheeked Turaco
Harwood's Francolin	Ethiopian Bee-eater
White-collared Pigeon	Black-billed Wood-hoopoe
Black-winged Lovebird	Abyssinian Black Wheatear
Banded Barbet	White-rumped Babbler
Abyssinian Woodpecker	Abyssinian White-eye
Erlanger's Lark	Ethiopian Boubou
Gillett's Lark	Swainson's Sparrow
White-winged Cliff Chat	Speckle-fronted Weaver
Ruppell's Black Chat	Brown-rumped Seedeater
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher	Somali (Golden-breasted) Bunting
White-winged Black Tit	
Ethiopian Oriole	
White-billed Starling	
White-bellied Canary	
White-throated Seedeater	

There was also a good list of other northern African specialities: Buff-crested Bustard, Four-banded Sandgrouse, Hemprich's Hornbill, Red-fronted, Black-billed and Yellow-breasted Barbets, Singing Bush-lark, Red-breasted Wheatear, Little Rock Thrush, Abyssinian Thrush, Grey Wren-Warbler, Brown Parisoma, Red-fronted Warbler, Grey-headed Batis, Rufous Chatterer, Montane White-eye, Tacazze Sunbird, Nile Valley Sunbird, Somali Fiscal, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Slender-billed Starling, Bush and Yellow-spotted Petronia, Ruppell's Weaver, Cut-throat Finch, Somali Bunting and Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, all of which were lifers for us.

One of the unexpected highlights of the trip, due to the fact we were there in October, was the profusion of Palearctic migrants. We were not initially excited about this – we do not go all the way to Ethiopia to see a Spotted Flycatcher – but it actually became an interesting feature in its own right. We managed to find two lifers in the form of White-throated Robin (which were common in Awash and several were in full male plumage) and Upcher's Warbler, carrying out its distinctive tail fanning and waving. We also had better views of Olive-tree Warbler than I ever had in Lesbos (which had been frankly a barely tickable sighting). In the Jemma Valley we counted 16 Cuckoos and at Debre Libanos there was a continuous stream of Barn Swallows heading over our heads and down into the Jemma Valley from a south westerly direction – where had they come from? Our guide could hear Menetries Warbler but we never managed to track it down – that would have been another lifer.

BIRDING SITES

Ghion Hotel

We spent the best part of a day sleeping and birding here, mostly on our own but for a couple of hours with our guide. Birds found quite easily just by sitting on the terrace were Blue-naped Mousebird, Tacazze Sunbird, Brown-rumped Seedeater, Streaky Seedeater, Baglafaecht Weaver, Red-eyed Dove and Dusky Turtle Dove. A family of Abyssinian Slaty Flycatchers fed around the tables on the terrace but they do not look much like the picture in the book – they seemed longer tailed and larger beaked and it is worth noting that they feed almost entirely on the ground. Merid took us to a little bit of park just down the hill from the hotel entrance on the right hand side facing the entrance, and there we found Ruppell's Robin Chat, Wattled Ibis, Hadada Ibis. Abyssinian (Mountain) Thrush, Paradise Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher and Montane White-eye. On our return a week later we saw Brown Parisoma. I was hoping to see White-collared Pigeon and Black-winged Lovebird – apparently the latter are often on the big euphorbia bushes but we did not see them.

Debre Libanos

We stayed at Debre Libanos for two nights in order to enable us to have time to find all the highland endemics and also visit the Jemma Valley.

The Portuguese Bridge is the classic site for several of the key species of the northern highlands. White-billed Starlings were flying up and down the gorge continuously so were easy to tick off. Slender-billed Starlings we only saw once, also flying. Ruppell's Black Chat took a bit more work – they are not very active and although we eventually found four, they were often perched under a rock in the shade and tricky to find. We did not see White-winged Cliff-chat on our first visit, but went back the next afternoon and walked up the river valley a little way. Eventually a bird popped up and gave excellent views. Erckel's Francolin were calling in the morning here but we never managed to see one. We did have excellent views of Gelada Baboons from this location - a large group were grazing contentedly on the far side of the river, until chased off by a local farmer. They subsequently walked over the bridge and along the path back to our lodge where we had some excellent close-up views. We also birded the immediate grounds around the lodge and here our guide found Abyssinian Woodpecker. This is a small bird and quite hard to find, I understand, but the call was distinctive and not very wood-pecker-like so worth learning. Other birds seen around the lodge were Ethiopian Boubou, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and White-rumped Babbler. Another feature of the spectacular view from the lodge was the continuous stream of soaring raptors – mostly Ruppell's Vultures, but also the occasional Lammergeier and Augur Buzzard.

We also visited the Debre Libanos monastery. We went inside (we had previously intended to go to Lalibela so this was a bit of a poor substitute) which was interesting and well-explained by a monk who spoke first-class English. The main draw of this area, however, is the forest. We were keen to see some forest birds as by this stage it was clear that we probably would not get to the Bale Mountains. We turned right in front of the monastery and went through an archway into an area with a stony stream crossing. Merid had warned us that this area was used as a toilet by the local beggars, so we had to watch where we put our feet.

Despite (or because of) this, the area, which was right on the edge of good-looking forest, was hopping with birds. We stood next to a tree which Merid said was used as a nest site by Banded Barbets, and indeed they arrived, several of them, and called and displayed for us. While stood at this spot, we had excellent views of Little Rock Thrush, Ethiopian Oriole, Black-winged Lovebird and Mountain Wagtail. We moved up the path along the stream a hundred yards or so and had prolonged views of feeding White-backed Black Tits, and stunning, though fleeting, views of White-cheeked Turaco which is truly a beautiful bird. In about an hour we had seen most of the highland forest endemics apart from the Catbird which is apparently not common there.

Highland Plains

We had expected to stop on our journey across the Sultulta Plains on the way to Debre Libanos but Merid was keen not to draw attention to ourselves as this was the day after the Bishoftu deaths and tension was running high. So instead we found our plains birds on the way back from the Jemma Valley where the road (a much less busy one) crosses similar and slightly better habitat.

The Jemma Valley

The Jemma Valley excursion requires an early start – 5:00 am from the lodge, in the dark and the cold. (Torches were an essential requirement here as the electricity was erratic). We stopped to pick up breakfast at a nearby restaurant which initially seemed completely closed but eventually responded to phone calls. The extremely large omelette in a large roll was very welcome after our tomato sauce diet! The approach road to the valley goes along a very long high spur of flatland with the gorge dropping off on both sides and the scenery is spectacular. After the large village of Lemi the road goes over the edge – but it was not as precipitous or vertiginous as I feared. After nearly running over a couple of Erckel's Francolins our first target bird was the Abyssinian Black Wheatear – we soon found a group of about 4. A strange looking bird with a grubby looking greyish cap and an even grubbier looking buff rump. Then on down the gorge side to a flattish area where we met up with a local who is paid to show birders the Harwood's Francolin – this provides both income and an incentive for not eating them. As we got out of the car we could hear the francolin calling but it was a while until we could see it – the local chap showed us where we could get a view and sure enough it was behind a bush from where we had been previously looking, calling from the top of a stone wall. The scope was useful here and provided a good view of all the salient field marks. Whilst watching the Harwoods' Francolin an Erckel's Francolin started calling – this took a while to find but again gave good scope views and was clearly very different from the Harwood's, being much bigger, darker and with an obvious red cap. All the time we were watching the francolins, a Cinnamon-breasted Bunting was singing from a nearby rock and gave individual-feather-barb scope views! It may be worth noting that it was 6:30 when we saw the francolins and Merid reckons this is the best time to be there.

We then drove on down the valley, stopping only to admire full-breeding-plumage Black-winged Red Bishops on the top of sorghum seed-heads. We crossed the Jemma River and drove up the other side a short way to the Lomi River. We parked by the bridge and got out of the car and were immediately faced

with a proliferation of bird numbers and species – mostly common but brightly-coloured African birds such as Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu, Village Weaver, Superb Starling, Lesser Blue-eared Starling but also including Yellow-fronted Canary and Black-billed Barbet. There were several Common Cuckoos around and many of the birds were mobbing the Cuckoos which made them easy to see. (We eventually totted up 16 Common Cuckoos through the day.) We walked along the track above the river seeing a continuous stream of birds – one small tree held 7 species including Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Woodland Kingfisher and Blackcap. The path then led down into the river bed where we walked along the stream-bed and watched a pool for a while. One key species we found here was White-throated Seedeater, located by its typical jangly seedeater song. The other key species is Red-billed Pytilia - our guide is sure he saw it but it was high in a large-leaved tree and unfortunately we never got a tickable view. Other notable species seen here were Bush Petronia, Bruce's Green Pigeon, Black-billed Barbet, Wire-tailed Swallow, Common Redstart, Whitethroat, Abyssinian White-eye, Marico Sunbird and Eurasian Golden Oriole (unusually, very good views). (Not to mention Common and Green Sandpipers). Our guide commented that the stream bed was not as busy as usual – just after the rains there was presumably still plenty of water around in the general countryside.

After a while we made our way back the way we had come, stopping suddenly as Merid pointed out a Speckle-fronted Weaver perched on a fence. (I had crossed this bird off my expected species list as I did not see how we could possibly see it, not visiting any of its areas of distribution, but I failed to notice a tiny red dot in the Jemma Valley – a strange isolated population.) We also picked up Mocking Cliff Chat on the way back up the gorge, but failed to find Fox Kestrel.

Driving back across the plains in the daylight the first birds we saw were Thekla Larks, looking distinctly different from those in Europe with very small crests (maybe they were just growing new ones after moulting?). We then stopped for a pair of Blue-winged Geese which were resting on the grass next to a stream. Other birds then appeared - we had excellent close views of White-collared Pigeon (not as common as I expected and certainly not a forest bird) then a Red-breasted Wheatear (these could be seen from the car as you drive by but this was the first close view) and then Erlanger's Larks flew in and one sang from a rock very close by showing his red cap. At several stream-sides there were clusters of Wattled Ibises looking like a collection of old rags, and, tearing apart a dead dog, was an excellent collection of Lappet-faced, Ruppell's, Hooded and White-backed Vultures. After an excellent morning's birding we arrived back at the lodge in time for a very late lunch of spaghetti and tomato sauce.

Awash National Park

Awash National Park was very good for birds but disappointing for mammals – the wild kind that is. We came across some very big herds of cattle and big herds of camels all feasting on the green grass and leaves after the rains (which had finished here some time before). We managed to find a few Oryx, one Lesser Kudu, some Warhogs, a Dik-dik and a Hyena, a couple of Olive Baboons, one Hamadryas Baboon (on the main road) and a few Grivet Monkeys. No Gazelles. Either they have been driven out by all the domesticated animals or they had spread out after the rains. But still, we were really there for the birds and they did not disappoint.

On our first transit through the park on the way to the lodge in the late morning we were amazed at the proliferation of Palearctic migrants – Isabelline Wheatear was by far the commonest bird with a supporting cast of Isabelline Shrikes (which incidentally had gone the next day) and flocks of up to ten Hoopoes. There were also large numbers of Olive Bee-eaters which are intra-African migrants. During our drives around the circuit over the Ilat Sala Plains we often stopped to walk into the bush where it looked birdy and we easily picked up most of our wanted species such as Rufous-Chatterer, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Somali Fiscal, Ethiopian Bee-eater, Grey Wren-warbler, Black-billed Wood-hoopoe, Four-banded Sandgrouse and Grey-headed Batis. We saw 3 spectacular species of Whydah, all in full breeding plumage and displaying. Buff-crested Bustard took a bit more finding (possibly because the grass was very long) but in the end we spotted one sheltering under a bush right by the road – it gave fantastic views as it forgot about us and started feeding, catching a large juicy morsel and eating it only a few yards from the car. (There were plenty of large juicy morsels on offer – there were large numbers of huge grasshoppers (locusts?) about 4 inches long often in the trees perched along the branches). There were also plenty more migrants – many Barn Swallows plus Lesser Kestrels, Easter Olivaceous, Olive Tree and Upcher's Warblers, Red-backed, Southern Grey, and Masked Shrikes, European Bee-eaters and Pied Wheatears. One particularly odd sighting was what must have been a Peregrine/Lanner cross – it had the Peregrine hood but the breast was buffy with slightly broken lines and the bird was really big and heavy especially in flight.

The northern section of the park around Doho is drier and supports a slightly different suite of birds. We went here specifically to find Arabian Bustard but in this we failed despite the efforts of our guide and of the locals who had seen them recently. However we did have fine views of Yellow-breasted Barbet, Red-fronted Warbler, Nile Valley Sunbird, Somali Bunting and many other colourful African species (especially

around the areas where the rushes which are used to carpet the floors were disposed of – 5 species in one tree was not unusual.)

BIRD LIST

Common name	Scientific name	Addis	Debre Libanos & plains	Jemma Valley	Awash
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				X
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				X
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				X
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				X
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>				X
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			X	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				X
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>				X
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>				X
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	X	X		
Wattled Ibis	<i>Bostrychia carunculata</i>	X	X		
Blue-winged Goose	<i>Cyanochen cyanoptera</i>		X		
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		X		
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	X	X	X	X
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>				X
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		X		
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				X
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		X		
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		X		
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>		X		
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>		X		
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				X
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>				X
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	X	X	X	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		X		
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>		X		
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				X
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	
Grey Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>				X
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>				X
Peregrine Falcon x Lanner	<i>Falco peregrinus x biarmicus</i>				X
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>				X
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>				X
Harwood's Francolin	<i>Pternistis harwoodi</i>			X	
Erckel's Francolin	<i>Pternistis erckelii</i>		X	X	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>				X
Buff-crested Bustard	<i>Lophotis gindiana</i>				X
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>			X	
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>				X
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			X	

Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa cohropus</i>			X	
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>				X
Four-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>				X
Bruce's Green Pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>			X	
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	X	X		
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		X		X
White-collared Pigeon	<i>Columba albitorques</i>		X		
Dusky Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>	X	X	X	X
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	X	X	X	X
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>				X
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>			X	X
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>				X
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			X	X
Black-winged Lovebird	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>		X		
Orange-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>				X
White-cheeked Turaco	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>		X		
White-bellied Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>				X
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			X	
Diederick Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>		X	X	
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>				H
Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>				X
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>				X
Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>		X		
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>				X
Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	X	X	X	X
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		X		
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>				X
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			X	
Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>				X
Ethiopian/Blue-breasted Bee-eater	<i>Merops variegatus lafresnayii</i>				X
White-throated Bee-Eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>				X
European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				X
Northern Carmine Bee-Eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>				X
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliaris</i>				X
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>				X
Abyssinian Roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>				X
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				X
Black-billed Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus somaliensis</i>				X
Abyssinian Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>				X
Hemprich's Hornbill	<i>Tockus hemprichii</i>		X		
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>				X
Northern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>				X
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus flavirostris</i>				X
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>		X		
Red-fronted Barbet	<i>Tricholaema diademata</i>				X
Black-billed Barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>			X	X
Banded Barbet	<i>Lybius undatus</i>		X		
Yellow-breasted Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus margaritatus</i>				X
Abyssinian Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus abyssinicus</i>		X		

Singing Bush Lark	<i>Mirafra cantillans</i>				X
Gillett's Lark	<i>Mirafra gilletti</i>				X
Erlanger's Lark	<i>Calandrella erlangeri</i>		X		
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		X		
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>		X		
Brown-throated/Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	X			
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		X		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X		X
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			X	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				X
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		X	X	
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>		X	X	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				X
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		X	X	X
Rüppell's Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>	X	X		
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>				X
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			X	
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>				X
Rufous-(tailed) Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>				X
Red-breasted Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe bottae</i>		X		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				X
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>				X
Abyssinian Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris</i>			X	
Blackstart	<i>Oenanthe melanura</i>				X
Rüppell's Black Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>		X		
White-winged Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea semirufa</i>		X		
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>			X	
Little Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>		X		
Abyssinian/Mountain Thrush	<i>Turdus (olivaceous) abyssinicus</i>	X	X		
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>				X
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>				X
Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				X
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>				X
Grey Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes simplex</i>				X
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>				X
Northern Crombec	<i>Sylvietta brachyura</i>				X
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		X		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X	
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>				X
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		X		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			X	
Brown Parisoma	<i>Parisoma lugens</i>	X			
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>		X		
Stout Cisticola	<i>Cisticola robustus</i>		H		
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		X		
Red-fronted Warbler	<i>Urorhipis rufifrons</i>				X
Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Dioptrornis chocolatinus</i>	X	X		
African Grey Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microhynchus</i>				X

Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	X			X
African Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	X	X	X	
Grey-headed Batis	<i>Batis orientalis</i>				X
White-rumped Babbler	<i>Turdoides leucopygia</i>		X	X	
Rufous Chatterer	<i>Turdoides rubiginosa</i>				X
White-backed Black Tit	<i>Parus leuconotus</i>		X		
Abyssinian White-Eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>			X	
Montane White-Eye	<i>Zosterops poliogastrus</i>	X	X		
Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>	X	X	X	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>			X	
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>				X
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>			X	
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		X		
Nile Valley Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna metallica</i>				X
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>				X
Somali Fiscal	<i>Lanius somalicus</i>				X
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				X
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>				X
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>				X
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				X
Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>				X
Ethiopian Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>		X		
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				X
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>				X
Orange (Sulphur)-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telephorus sulfureopectus</i>				X
Rosy-patched Bushshrike	<i>Telephorus cruentus</i>				X
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			X	
Ethiopian Oriole	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>		X		
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>				X
Cape Crow/Rook	<i>Corvus capensis</i>		X		X
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	X	X	X	
Fan-tailed Raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>		X	X	
Thick-billed Raven	<i>Corvus crassirostris</i>		X		
Slender-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus tenuirostris</i>		X		
White-billed Starling	<i>Onychognathus albirostris</i>		X	X	
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>				X
Lesser Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>			X	X
Rüppell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>				X
Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>			X	X
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>				X
Swainson's Sparrow	<i>Passer swainsonii</i>		X	X	X
Bush Petronia	<i>Gymnoris dentata</i>			X	
Yellow-spotted Petronia	<i>Gymnoris pyrgita</i>				X
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>				X
Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>			X	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>				X
White-headed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>				X
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>			X	
Vitelline Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus vitellinus</i>			X	

Rüppell's Weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>				X
Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	X	X	X	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>				X
Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>			X	
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>			X	
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>		X		
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>				X
Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		X	X	X
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>		X	X	
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia quartinia</i>		X		
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>			X	X
African Silverbill	<i>Euodice cantans</i>			X	X
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>	X			
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>				X
Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>				X
Straw-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua fischeri</i>				X
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>				X
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>		X	X	X
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>			X	
White-bellied Canary	<i>Seinus dorsostriatus</i>				X
Yellow-rumped/White-throated Seedeater	<i>Serinus xanthopygia</i>			X	
Brown-rumped Seedeater	<i>Serinus tristriatus</i>	X	X	X	
Streaky Seedeater	<i>Serinus striolata</i>	X	X	X	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>		X	X	
Somali Bunting	<i>Emberiza poliopleura</i>				X
Endemic	Near Endemic	Lifer			