



Ethiopia Photo Tour



October 27 – November 9, 2015

Guided by Andrew Spencer

all photos by the guide

As a nature photographer it's pretty hard to deny that Africa reigns supreme. Nowhere else on earth can you find that magical combination of gorgeous light, amazing wildlife, beautiful backdrops, and ease of photography to the extent that you can there. What most people don't know is that in Africa, Ethiopia reigns supreme when it comes to bird photography. Sure, countries like South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya have more to offer in



the terms of charismatic megafauna. And all of those countries are amazing destinations in their own right, and have plenty of wonderful birds on top of that. But Ethiopia beats them all, hands down, when it comes to photographing birds. Only in Ethiopia can you not only see bucketloads of amazing species, you can see them at point-blank range as they go

completely unconcerned by your presence while you snap away and fill your card with photo after photo. This is in large part due to the unique relationship Ethiopians have with their wildlife, and taking advantage of that is among the must-have experiences for any nature photographer.

This was Tropical Birding's first photo tour to Ethiopia (though we have run many bird tours), and I must say it was a complete success! With everything from the renowned Rift Valley lakes, complete with their hordes of birds in beautiful settings, to the wide-open expanses of the Sanetti Plateau, with Ethiopian Wolves and stunning scenes, to the more classically African extensive open savanna of Awash, this trip had a variety hard to equal anywhere else on the planet. We enjoyed good luck with the weather and the wildlife, scoring just about everything we were hoping for and a good deal we had no right to expect. This tour ranked among my favorite I've ever guided, and I can't wait to go back!

Day 1

With Day 1 also being the arrival day, we didn't have time for any bird photography. But that doesn't mean we didn't make the most of the day! Connie and David arrived right on time, and after a lunch and a bit of a rest it was off to the Addis Ababa market. It's hard to prepare yourself for the mass of humanity that greets you here, all jostling for place as they go about their business. And the variety of goods on tap is mind-numbing as well, everything from recycled plastic containers and electronics to a bewildering variation of

spices to cratefuls of chickens crowding the narrow alleyways. Our visit to the market was a good introduction to the fascinating culture of this wonderful country, and highlighted the interesting mix of olden times and modernity.



Day 2

Leaving Addis early, we made our way north to the Debra Libanos area.

While almost all of the tour was to be spent south and east of the capitol, the area to the north has some different species that we would not encounter again. Our first stop was at an unlikely looking spot on the Sululta Plain, where some dumped garbage and carcasses played host to a stunning variety of scavenging birds. One of the magical things about Ethiopia is that birds like these are not systematically poisoned like they are in much of the world, and when combined with a general lack of harassment by the locals, are both wonderfully common and tame.

Photographing these species was as simple as waiting by the food source and snapping away! The only challenge was deciding which of the many birds to shoot. Highlights

included a few **White-headed Vultures** amid the much more common **Hooded Vultures** (of many different ages, making for an interesting contrast in plumages), a few **Thick-billed Ravens** (with the largest bill of any passerine, and a real bruiser of a bird), and many **Yellow-billed Kites**.



Tearing ourselves away from the carcasses, we turned our attention to a few eagles nearby,



including both **Tawny** and **Steppe Eagles**. Also present were a few water birds (though they mostly stayed out of good photography range), and a couple of **Groundscraper Thrushes**.

Arriving at our hotel in Debre Libanos, we enjoyed a quick lunch and immediately set out after some **Gelada Baboons** that were sitting at the edge of the escarpment nearby. Some stealthy sneaking closer and strategic positioning and we found ourselves getting some of the best shots of the tour, on the very first day! This unique mammal species is endemic to

the Horn of Africa, and was one of the main reasons to make the journey north of the city.



The Debre Libanos Monastery nearby has a nice patch of juniper woodland, and while the photography conditions weren't as good as the more open habitats nearby, it represented our only chance at a few species. It didn't take us long to find the most wanted

of these, **White-cheeked Turaco**, and we even managed a few decent photos of it in the dark forest. A single **Banded Barbet** and a pair of **Hemprich's Hornbills** rounded out the haul here.

The remainder of daylight was spent in a small canyon below our hotel. The light was beginning to fade, but while it was still good we lucked into a couple of **White-winged Cliff-Chats** and **Blue-breasted Bee-eaters**, and the most amazingly tame **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** I've ever had the privilege of laying eyes on.



Day 3

Much like bird photography throughout the world, early mornings are the best in Ethiopia. And for our early morning on this day the good captures began immediately out of the door! Several different dove species were the first on the docket, and we soon had good shots of **Red-eyed Dove** and **Dusky Turtle-Dove** under the belt. Then it was a trio of noisy **White-rumped Babblers**, a ridiculously cooperative **Northern Fiscal**, and a couple of sunbirds (**Tacazze** and **Variable**).

The last bit of time before heading south was spent watching over the escarpment, where raptors of various stripes floated by. Most of them were **Hooded Vultures**, but a single **Lammergeier** provided a nice bit of excitement!

The road south was relatively uneventful, though we did stumble on a **Tawny Eagle** on a



kill right by the road. Now most places, if you find an eagle on a kill you don't have a hope of getting close to it before the bird flushes. Not so in Ethiopia! Using the car as a blind, we had our fill of frame-filling shots before we tore ourselves away.

Going through Addis and continuing south into the Rift Valley, we stopped for lunch in Adama and then made a quick roadside stop at Lake Koka. A distant **Saddle-billed Stork**



was nice to see, but wasn't very good for photos unfortunately. Further on, though, we stumbled on a family group of **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbills** out in a field. Being one of the most charismatic birds in Ethiopia, we decided to work on them a bit. Our strategy was simple – determine their direction of movement, get ahead of them, and hope they came to us. And I must say it worked

beautifully! It took a bit of time, but in the end we walked away with the best photos I've managed of this sometimes shy bird.

The same pasture was good for a few other things, including a very cooperative **Crowned Lapwing**. With a couple of hours of good light left, we moved on to our last site of the day, the famed Lake Ziway fish market.

By the time we arrived the human activity was dying down a bit (in terms of people bringing fish in, and feeding the birds), but the avian activity was pumping! Hundreds of **Great White Pelicans** and dozens of **Marabou Storks** competed for the few fish scraps remaining, while out in the shallow water huge numbers of **Sacred Ibises** walked along in the stunning evening light and a couple of **Yellow-billed Storks** posed nicely. But by this point the light was fast fading, and it was time to wend our way to the hotel.

Day 4

An inconvenient breakfast time the next morning meant we had a little bit of a lie in (but only a very short one), before heading out. We hadn't even managed to leave our hotel grounds, though, before a worker there flagged us down and showed us a pair of roosting **Grayish Eagle-Owls** right behind one of the cabins!

After enjoying the owls a bit, we crossed the highway and headed to Abiata-Shalla National Park. The shallow Lake Abiata is a famous flamingo location in Ethiopia, and indeed we found hundreds of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos**. But they proved to be far shier than usual, so we bailed on trying to photograph them and works on whatever else we could find.

First off was a very close **Isabelline Wheater**, soon followed by a pair of **Von der Decken's Hornbills**. In denser woodland a small flock gave us a nice cooperative **White-shouldered Black-Tit** and a couple of less cooperative **Red-faced Crombecs**. We then split up a bit, and while David focused on a nice **Eurasian Hoopoe** and **Fork-tailed Drongo**, Connie and I found a female **Bearded Woodpecker**.



The day was heating up and the activity starting to decline a bit, so we returned to Lake Ziway for a nice leisurely lunch and to wait for the better afternoon light and activity. Once we made it out, the photographs started pouring in! Large numbers of **Hamerkops** posed beautifully, as did an **African Darter** drying its wings, and oodles of **African Jacanas**. Also popular were a pair of **Little Bee-eaters** and **Gray-backed Fiscals**. A whole slew of other waterbirds, universally extremely cooperative, kept us occupied until the light started to fade, and we returned to our hotel.



Day 5

Since we hadn't yet worked the forest around our hotel, the first few hours of the morning were spent mere steps from our rooms. Activity was high, and we quickly found a family group of **Rufous-necked Wrynecks** that posed nicely, and

several **Ethiopian Boubous** and **White-rumped Babblers** scavenging nearby. In denser woodland some **Black-winged Lovebirds** were feeding rather lower than usual, though only Connie managed the money shot. Then, while David was working on some **Red-cheeked Cordonbleus**, Connie and I got to watch (and photograph!) a pair of **Tawny Eagles** engaged in a talon locking display.

The last photo-op of the morning came in the form of a male **Greater Honeyguide** that was uncharacteristically cooperative, and a few **Superb** and **Ruepell's Starlings** at a feeder nearby.

The morning (and breakfast!) under our belt, it was time to work to our next port of call. A brief stop for a roadside **Long-crested Eagle** broke up the tedium of the journey, as did a short stop at a small canyon for a resident **Cape Eagle-Owl**. Unfortunately the owl wasn't perched in the best location, but some nearby **Yellow-bellied Waxbills** were more cooperative.



As we neared the Bale Mountains the habitat began to change to more humid grasslands, and our last stop of the

afternoon was at a small wetland right along the road. As with everywhere in the country, normally shy birds allowed a nice and close approach. The best of the haul came in the



form of the endemic **Blue-winged Goose** and the unbelievably extroverted **Rouget's Rail**, but we also scored a nice and close **Ethiopian Cisticola** and some **Yellow-billed Ducks**.

Day 6

High above our hotel in Goba, the Sanetti Plateau is among the foremost

destinations in Ethiopia. Traversed by one of the highest roads in Africa, and covered in rocky grasslands above treeline, the Sanetti feels more like being in Colorado or the Andes than in Africa! Well, except for the giant lobelias that dot the hillsides!

We began the morning on the upper slopes just below the plateau. Here **Chestnut-naped**



Francolins and **Rouget's Rails** fed right by the road, along with a couple of **Abyssinian Longclaws** and many **Moorland Chats**. In the shier department, we teased out a skulking **Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler** that eventually sat in the open long enough for a couple of shots.

Finally making it to the top of the Plateau, we set off in search of the few but important targets to be found. On the way we encountered truly ridiculous numbers of eagles, a few of

which even flew close enough for some close photos (the best of these being a **Greater**

Spotted-Eagle). A small pond held a shy (one of the few shy birds we came across!) **Ruddy Shelduck**, but it was just around the corner that one of the most wanted appeared in the form of a pair of **Wattled Cranes!** Given that this low-density species can be hard to find, we devoted a good deal of time to getting the perfect photo – you can take a look at the cover of this report to see our results!



With the crane under our belts, all of our efforts were now devoted to finding the thing that everyone comes to the Sanetti for – **Ethiopian Wolf**. And find one we did, but cooperate it didn't. But not long after, on the way back across the plateau, we found another! And this time we got to spend all the time we wanted watching it as it dug up a grass rat, and devoured it bit by bit, all at close range!



Thinking it couldn't get any better, we finally dragged ourselves away, but hadn't made it far before we found *another* wolf, this time carrying a Giant Root-Rat. Just like with the last animal, we were able to photograph it to our heart's content as it noshed on its tasty meal. After the animal had eaten its fill and walked off, a couple of **Tawny Eagles** descended to pick up the scraps,

rounding out our haul from the plateau.

We had been having such a good time up in the high country that we arrived very late back in Goba for lunch, and thus didn't really have much time in the afternoon to head out. So instead of going further afield, we headed back to the open grassland we had visited the day before and spent the last bit of daylight with whatever we could find. The most photogenic of these was a nice **Red-breasted Wheatear**, but some **Abyssinian Siskins** and **Yellow Bishops** also lined up well before all was said and done.



Day 7

Having done so well the day before up on the plateau, we decided not to return there and instead head east, to the remote town of Sof Omar. This also entailed losing a lot of elevation and entering a new type of habitat, and thus a new mix of birds. It was a long drive, so we left very early, but managed to arrive just as the light was getting good. The photography here involves walking slowly along the road, looking and listening to whatever happens to be around.

And man were things around! Hornbills featured heavily early on, especially **Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill**. Somewhat less colorful, but quite local, was a **Brown-tailed Rock-Chat**, while a pair of the much more colorfully patterned **Brubru** nearby made for one of my favorite photo ops of the trip.

If you were a birder, you would come to Sof Omar for one bird – **Salvadori's Serin**. Sof Omar has much more to offer than just one rare finch (which is why we





were there), but even so, we made sure that we were able to get some good shots off at the local specialty.

Continuing on down the road, we soon found a pair of exceptionally responsive **Somali Tits**, a species we would not see anywhere else on our tour. At the bottom of the road we took a right turn down a small side canyon with some water in the stream, and had

barely made it 100 feet before we were swarmed with activity! Most colorful was a male **Red-headed Weaver** which came in quite nicely, while more subtly patterned but still beautiful was an uncharacteristically still **Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove**. Some **Northern Red-billed Hornbills** moved through quickly (but not too quickly!), and we got off a few more shots of **Salvadori's Serin**.

Further on down the drainage the vegetation became thicker, and photography more difficult, but we still got off a few shots at **White-crested Helmetshrike** before deciding to turn around. By this point it was getting into the heat of the day, and with a superb haul of pics under our belt we decided to head back.



By the time we had made it back it was well into the mid-afternoon, so we spent the rest of our time right behind our hotel, where a small weedy lot can sometimes have quite a few birds. There weren't many there today, but we did stumble across a couple of surprise **African Cuckoos**.

Day 8

For our last morning around the Bale Mountains, we first returned to the open grasslands that we had visited previously. High on the agenda was getting some better shots of **Mountain Nyala**, which we managed to do quite well at, and also of the Abyssinian endemic **Wattled Ibis**, which also cooperated beautifully.

After the park HQ opened, we headed up to a nice patch of juniper woodland, where we soon found a very cooperative **White-backed Tit**, and a less cooperative **Abyssinian Catbird**. Picking up a local guide, we went off in search of the day-roosting owls that make



this spot famous. On the way we stopped for a pair of **Brown Woodland-Warblers** that were singing at the edge of a juniper, and an **Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher** perched nearby.

Then our guide found the first owl, and we spent some

time getting the perfect position to photograph a **African Wood-Owl** perched high in a juniper. Then it was off on a long walk in search of the other targets, and eventually the guide showed us a pair of **Abyssinian Nightjars** perched in the open. We had almost given up hope of the third target species, but finally we were taken to a very dense juniper where a **Abyssinian (African Long-eared) Owl** peered back down at us! The location wasn't great, but we searched until we could find a reasonable opening, and then shot away to our heart's content.

It was now nearing lunch time, so we had to begin our journey back to the rift valley. Stopping for lunch on the way, we finally made it to the town of Awassa, our home for the next two nights. Unfortunately rain clouds made it there about the same time we did, and the rest of the day was a wash, so to speak.

Day 9

Even by Rift Valley lakes, Lake Awassa is out of this world. With a convenient lakeside promenade (just in back our hotel!) you can walk along and never be more than a few feet



from a stunning photo op. Our plan of attack was to head out early, enjoy a few hours along the lake, and return for breakfast.

We had barely made it out of the hotel when the first good photo of the day popped up, in the form of **Blue-headed Coucal**. Once at the lake waterbirds took front and center. First off were a pair of **White-backed**

Ducks (a species tough to photograph most places it occurs, but not here), then it was a **Squacco Heron**, and then **Pied Kingfisher**. Not really a waterbird, a **Woodland Kingfisher** munching down a frog it had caught was nonetheless much appreciated.

Further down the promenade, **Black Crakes** began to become more common, and we spent some time on this exceptionally un-shy rallid. A singing **Little Rush-Warbler** responded quite well, as did a male **Beautiful Sunbird**. My favorite moment along the promenade, though, was right at the end, when an unbelievably close **African Pygmy-Goose**, complete with flowering lilies in the background, just sat there for photo after photo!

After breakfast, we hopped into the truck and headed to the famed Awassa Fish Market. Since we had already done very well with most of the species around the market itself, we walked up onto the hill



above and worked on a pair of **African Fish-Eagles** that were repeatedly engaging in staggering talon locking displays as they tumbled through the trees. A couple of **Hadada Ibis** and **Great Cormorants** rounded out our time there.

Like the day before, rain clouds rolled in for the afternoon, but unlike the day before the rain itself mostly held off. While the light had become quite dark, David and I still headed out into the woodlot associated with the hotel to see what we could find. Conditions were difficult, but we still managed a few shots of a pair of **Black-billed Barbets** and **African Spotted Creeper** before calling it a day.

Day 10

With one of the longer drives of the trip ahead of us today, we only had a few ours to spend



around Awassa. Since the light was better than the afternoon before, we decided to spend it around the hotel. It didn't take us long to find things to photograph, starting with a small troop of the boldly patterned **Guerza Colobus** with some young in tow. Then it was a small group of the

huge **Silvery-cheekd Hornbill**, followed by the far more diminutive **Buff-bellied Warbler** and **Banded Barbet**.

On the other side of the lot, we found a pair of **Tooth-billed Barbets** attending an active nest. While the perfect shot of them perched by the opening proved elusive, we did score some decent photos of them on nearby perches. The same **Black-billed Barbets** of the day before were also present.

Our long drive to Awash National Park was mostly uneventful, though we did make a quick roadside stop for some **Abyssinian Rollers** on a wire, and then much later on a small group of **European Bee-eaters** on another wire. We pulled into Awash during the last bit of daylight, and the



entrance road gave us some **Madagascar Bee-eaters** and a few other common species, but the light was wrong so we just made our way to the lodge and some rest.

Day 11

Awash National Park is among the premier national parks in Ethiopia. It's also "classic Africa", with open savanna and herds of antelope included. While it's missing some of the charismatic megafauna found further south on the continent, it makes up for that in being one of the best places for bird photography anywhere!



We began the day by driving a loop out into the savanna. We made our first stop to work on the same **Madagascar Bee-eaters** we had found the previous day. A couple of **Beisa Oryx** moved through the thornscrub, and we eventually got some decent pics of this stately mammal. Also in the stately department was a nice and cooperative **Arabian Bustard** just down the road. The highlight of the morning, though, came in

the form of a very angry female **Pygmy Falcon** perched at close range, squeaking away as it tried to look fierce.

As we drove through the park it became apparent that prolonged drought had taken its toll. There was very little new growth, and many of the animals were shier than usual. That didn't stop us from doing quite well on a huge **Kori Bustard**, along with some **Grant's Gazelles**, but many of the birds one would normally find here appeared to be absent.

With this in mind, we spent the afternoon in the lush habitat along the Awash River, walking distance from our lodge. The increase in activity was obvious, and it wasn't long before we were happily taking pictures of a tiny **Pearl-spotted Owlet** right along the road. Just down from him was a cooperative **Abyssinian Roller** and an angry female **Gray-headed Batis**, along with large flocks of **Northern Red-Bishops** and a few **Yellow-spotted Petronias**. A loudly calling **Crested Francolin** came in quite well for a few quick photos, while David and Connie found a pair of **Black-billed Barbets** at a nest and spent some time working on them. By this point the light was starting to fade again, so it was time to return to the lodge, looking forward to another morning in the park to come.

Day 12

Given our experience the day before, we elected to return to the riverside vegetation on this morning. Things began well when a few **Vervet Monkeys** sat in front of us preening and carrying on, and continued to go well



with a nicely responding **Nubian Woodpecker** just down the road. A calling **Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike** was a bit less cooperative, unfortunately. Some **Red-billed Firefinches** and a pair of **African Silverbills** rounded out our haul.

As we were walking back to the lodge for breakfast, a streak across the path turned into a nice **Yellow-necked Spurfowl**, and some careful positioning and playback gave us a few quick (but good!) photo ops of this distinctive francolin.



With breakfast under our belt it was time to move on to our last lodge of the tour, Bilen Lodge. We arrived just in time for lunch, but then quickly had our lunch interrupted when a noisy pair of **Yellow-breasted Barbets** began to sing right outside the restaurant! We took a break from eating to take advantage of the

cooperative barbets, and then enjoyed a bit of a break in the heat of the day.

As the light descended into the good levels again, we set out on foot from the lodge to see what we found find. David and I walked down along the edge of a large marsh, and in addition to the hordes of water and shorebirds finally scored some decent photos of **Northern Carmine Bee-eater**. A flock of **Wattled Starlings** were a bit shier, but in the end we won out against them as well, before we angled back to the lodge.

Here the activity had notably picked up, and included everything from hordes of **Rueppell's Starlings** and **White-headed Buffalo-Weavers** by the restaurant, to the crème de la crème of Bilen birds, a small flock of the stunningly patterned **Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**, right as the sun was fading.



Day 13

With the intention of getting to the nearby Aledeghe Plains in time for the good morning light, we didn't spend much time around Bilen this morning and grabbed a very early breakfast. Even so, we couldn't stop ourselves from one last photo op of some **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters**

right by the lodge on the way out!

We hadn't even made it to the highway when the next chance sauntered across the road right in front of us – a **Black-backed Jackal** that then just sat there for us! And then just a couple of hundred feet down the road a pair of **African Golden Wolves** did the same! Hard to beat two beautiful canids within a few minutes of each other I must say. Finally, to wrap up the mammals of the moment, a female **Gerenuk** posed well, just before we got to the highway.

Working our way onto the exceptionally parched Aledeghe Plains it became apparent that the local drought hadn't done them any favors. Even so, there were still things to photograph. First up was a male **White-bellied Bustard** close to the car, but the highlight of the morning came soon after when an **African Porcupine**, waking about in full daylight, walked right by our car! This species, normally nocturnal, can be quite difficult to photograph, so getting one so well was a pleasure.

The rest of the time on the plains was a bit slower, though we did have close **Black-headed Lapwings** and a few further away **Arabian Bustards**. Circling back to the highway, it was time to start the trip back to Addis, where the tour was to end. We did have time for one last stop, at the Lake Beseka lava fields. Looking more like a barren moonscape than anything, the area here plays host to one of Ethiopia's rarest birds – **Sombre Rock-Chat**. And if that doesn't sound like a colorful bird, you'd be right. But what it lacks in looks it makes up for in behavior, with a cool pair display that while rarely given is a joy to watch.

And we got quite lucky! Not only did the Rock-Chats perch right in front of us, they even gave the display! It was a wonderful way to end a very successful tour to one of my favorite countries on earth.



Trip List

Bird taxonomy follows Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, B.L. Sullivan, C. L. Wood, and D. Roberson. 2012. *The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: Version 6.9 (2014)*.

Common Name

Scientific Name

STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Somali Ostrich

Struthio molybdophanes

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus

Blue-winged Goose

Cyanochen cyanoptera

Comb Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

African Pygmy-Goose

Nettapus auritus

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Red-billed Duck

Anas erythrorhyncha

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

Southern Pochard

Netta erythrophthalma

GALLIFORMES: Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Chestnut-naped Francolin

Pternistis castaneicollis

Erckel's Francolin

Pternistis erckelii

Clapperton's Francolin

Pternistis clappertoni

Yellow-necked Francolin

Pternistis leucoscepus

Crested Francolin

Francolinus sephaena

Moorland Francolin

Scleroptila psilolaema

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

Lesser Flamingo

Phoeniconaias minor

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumenifer

Yellow-billed Stork

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant

Long-tailed Cormorant

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

African Darter

PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican

PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae

Hamerkop

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Gray Heron

Goliath Heron

Purple Heron

Great Egret

Intermediate Egret

Little Egret

Black Heron

Cattle Egret

Squacco Heron

Striated Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis

Hadada Ibis

Wattled Ibis

African Spoonbill

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Osprey

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

African Harrier-Hawk

Lammergeier

Egyptian Vulture

White-headed Vulture

Lappet-faced Vulture

Hooded Vulture

White-backed Vulture

Rueppell's Griffon

Martial Eagle

Long-crested Eagle

Lesser Spotted Eagle

Greater Spotted Eagle

Booted Eagle

Mycteria ibis

Phalacrocorax carbo

Phalacrocorax africanus

Anhinga rufa

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Scopus umbretta

Ardea cinerea

Ardea goliath

Ardea purpurea

Ardea alba

Mesophoyx intermedia

Egretta garzetta

Egretta ardesiaca

Bubulcus ibis

Ardeola ralloides

Butorides striata

Nycticorax nycticorax

Plegadis falcinellus

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Bostrychia hagedash

Bostrychia carunculata

Platalea alba

Pandion haliaetus

Polyboroides typus

Gypaetus barbatus

Neophron percnopterus

Trionocephs occipitalis

Torgos tracheliotos

Necrosyrtes monachus

Gyps africanus

Gyps rueppelli

Polemaetus bellicosus

Lophaetus occipitalis

Clanga pomarina

Clanga clanga

Hieraetus pennatus

Tawny Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Imperial Eagle
Golden Eagle
Verreaux's Eagle
Eastern Chanting-Goshawk
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier
Pallid Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Shikra
Black Kite
African Fish-Eagle

Common Buzzard (Steppe)
Augur Buzzard

OTIDIFORMES: Otididae

Arabian Bustard
Kori Bustard
White-bellied Bustard
Buff-crested Bustard

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Rouget's Rail
Black Crake
Allen's Gallinule
African Swamphen
Eurasian Moorhen
Red-knobbed Coot

GRUIFORMES: Gruidae

Wattled Crane

CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae

Senegal Thick-knee

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt
Pied Avocet

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Spur-winged Lapwing
Black-headed Lapwing
Crowned Lapwing
Wattled Lapwing
Spot-breasted Lapwing
Kittlitz's Plover
Common Ringed Plover
Three-banded Plover

Aquila rapax
Aquila nipalensis
Aquila heliaca
Aquila chrysaetos
Aquila verreauxii
Melierax poliopterus
Circus aeruginosus
Circus macrourus
Circus pygargus
Accipiter badius
Milvus migrans
Haliaeetus vocifer
Buteo buteo
vulpinus/menetriesi
Buteo augur

Ardeotis arabs
Ardeotis kori
Eupodotis senegalensis
Eupodotis gindiana

Rougetius rougetii
Amaurornis flavirostra
Porphyrio alleni
Porphyrio madagascariensis
Gallinula chloropus
Fulica cristata

Bugeranus carunculatus

Burhinus senegalensis

Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta

Vanellus spinosus
Vanellus tectus
Vanellus coronatus
Vanellus senegallus
Vanellus melanocephalus
Charadrius pecuarius
Charadrius hiaticula
Charadrius tricollaris

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Ruff

Calidris pugnax

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

African Snipe

Gallinago nigripennis

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Gray-hooded Gull

Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

Pterocles exustus

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse

Pterocles lichtensteinii

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

White-collared Pigeon

Columba albitorques

Lemon Dove

Columba larvata

Dusky Turtle-Dove

Streptopelia lugens

Mourning Collared-Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

Ring-necked Dove

Streptopelia capicola

Laughing Dove

Streptopelia senegalensis

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

Blue-spotted Wood-Dove

Turtur afer

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae

White-cheeked Turaco

Tauraco leucotis

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

White-bellied Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides leucogaster

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

African Cuckoo

Cuculus gularis

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

Blue-headed Coucal

Centropus monachus

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Cape Eagle-Owl

Grayish Eagle-Owl

Pearl-spotted Owlet

African Wood-Owl

African Long-eared Owl

*Bubo capensis**Bubo cinerascens**Glaucidium perlatum**Strix woodfordii**Asio abyssinicus***CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Eurasian Nightjar

Abyssinian Nightjar

Slender-tailed Nightjar

*Caprimulgus europaeus**Caprimulgus poliocephalus**Caprimulgus clarus***APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Alpine Swift

Nyanza Swift

Horus Swift

African Palm-Swift

*Apus melba**Apus niansae**Apus horus**Cypsiurus parvus***COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird

Blue-naped Mousebird

*Colius striatus**Urocolius macrourus***CORACIIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian Hoopoe

*Upupa epops***CORACIIFORMES: Phoeniculidae**

Black-billed Woodhoopoe

Abyssinian Scimitar-bill

*Phoeniculus somaliensis**Rhinopomastus minor***CORACIIFORMES: Bucorvidae**

Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill

*Bucorvus abyssinicus***CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Hemprich's Hornbill

African Gray Hornbill

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Von der Decken's Hornbill

Northern Red-billed Hornbill

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill

*Lophoceros hemprichii**Lophoceros nasutus**Tockus flavirostris**Tockus deckeni**Tockus erythrorhynchus**Bycanistes brevis***CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Malachite Kingfisher

Gray-headed Kingfisher

Woodland Kingfisher

Striped Kingfisher

Pied Kingfisher

*Corythornis cristatus**Halcyon leucocephala**Halcyon senegalensis**Halcyon chelicuti**Ceryle rudis***CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Little Bee-eater

Blue-breasted Bee-eater

Madagascar Bee-eater

European Bee-eater

*Merops pusillus**Merops variegatus**Merops superciliosus**Merops apiaster*

Northern Carmine Bee-eater

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

European Roller

Abyssinian Roller

Rufous-crowned Roller

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae

Yellow-breasted Barbet

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Red-fronted Barbet

Banded Barbet

Black-billed Barbet

Double-toothed Barbet

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae

Lesser Honeyguide

Greater Honeyguide

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck

Rufous-necked Wryneck

Nubian Woodpecker

Abyssinian Woodpecker

Cardinal Woodpecker

Bearded Woodpecker

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon

Lesser Kestrel

Eurasian Kestrel

Lanner Falcon

Saker Falcon

Peregrine Falcon

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

Black-winged Lovebird

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Red-bellied Parrot

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae

Gray-headed Batis

Black-headed Batis

PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae

White Helmetshrike

PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae

Brubru

Northern Puffback

Ethiopian Boubou

Slate-colored Boubou

Merops nubicus

Coracias garrulus

Coracias abyssinicus

Coracias naevius

Trachyphonus margaritatus

Pogoniulus pusillus

Tricholaema diademata

Lybius undatus

Lybius guifsobalito

Lybius bidentatus

Indicator minor

Indicator indicator

Jynx torquilla

Jynx ruficollis

Campethera nubica

Dendropicos abyssinicus

Dendropicos fuscescens

Dendropicos namaquus

Polihierax semitorquatus

Falco naumanni

Falco tinnunculus

Falco biarmicus

Falco cherrug

Falco peregrinus

Agapornis taranta

Poicephalus rufiventris

Batis orientalis

Batis minor

Prionops plumatus

Nilaus afer

Dryoscopus gambensis

Laniarius aethiopicus

Laniarius funebris

Rosy-patched Bushshrike
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike
Gray-headed Bushshrike

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Red-tailed Shrike
Isabelline Shrike
Southern Gray Shrike
Lesser Gray Shrike
Gray-backed Fiscal
Somali Fiscal
Northern Fiscal

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole
African Black-headed Oriole

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

African Paradise-Flycatcher

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Cape Crow
Pied Crow
Somali Crow
Fan-tailed Raven
Thick-billed Raven

PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae

Erlanger's Lark
Thekla Lark

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Plain Martin
Bank Swallow
Rock Martin
Barn Swallow
Red-chested Swallow
Wire-tailed Swallow
Common House-Martin
Black Sawwing
Gray-rumped Swallow

PASSERIFORMES: Paridae

White-winged Black-Tit
Somali Tit
White-backed Black-Tit

PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae

Mouse-colored Penduline-Tit

Rhodophoneus cruentus
Telophorus sulfureopectus
Malaconotus blanchoti

Lanius phoenicuroides
Lanius isabellinus
Lanius meridionalis
Lanius minor
Lanius excubitorius
Lanius somalicus
Lanius humeralis

Oriolus monacha
Oriolus larvatus

Dicrurus adsimilis

Terpsiphone viridis

Corvus capensis
Corvus albus
Corvus edithae
Corvus rhipidurus
Corvus crassirostris

Calandrella erlangeri
Galerida theklae

Riparia paludicola
Riparia riparia
Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Hirundo rustica
Hirundo lucida
Hirundo smithii
Delichon urbicum
Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Pseudhirundo griseopyga

Melaniparus leucomelas
Melaniparus thruppi
Melaniparus leuconotus

Anthoscopus musculus

PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae

African Spotted-Creeper

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Northern Brownbul

Common Bulbul

PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae

Northern Crombec

Red-faced Crombec

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland-Warbler

Willow Warbler

Common Chiffchaff

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Upcher's Warbler

Sedge Warbler

Lesser Swamp-Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler

Little Rush-Warbler

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Green-backed Camaroptera

Gray Wren-Warbler

Singing Cisticola

Rattling Cisticola

Winding Cisticola (Ethiopian)

Buff-bellied Warbler

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

Abyssinian Catbird

Eurasian Blackcap

Asian Desert Warbler

Lesser Whitethroat

Brown Warbler

Greater Whitethroat

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Broad-ringed White-eye

PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae

Rufous Chatterer

White-rumped Babbler

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Grayish Flycatcher

Salpornis salvadori

Phyllastrephus strepitans

Pycnonotus barbatus

Sylvietta brachyura

Sylvietta whytii

Phylloscopus umbrovirens

Phylloscopus trochilus

Phylloscopus collybita

Iduna pallida

Hippolais languida

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

Bradypterus cinnamomeus

Bradypterus baboecala

Camaroptera brachyura

Calamonastes simplex

Cisticola cantans

Cisticola chiniana

Cisticola galactotes lugubris

Phyllolais pulchella

Prinia subflava

Eremomela icteropygialis

Parophasma galinieri

Sylvia atricapilla

Sylvia nana

Sylvia curruca

Sylvia lugens

Sylvia communis

Zosterops polioastrus

Turdoides rubiginosa

Turdoides leucopygia

Bradornis microrhynchus

Abyssinian Slaty-Flycatcher
Northern Black-Flycatcher
Spotted Flycatcher
Dusky-brown Flycatcher
Black Scrub-Robin
Rueppell's Robin-Chat
Thrush Nightingale
Common Nightingale
Common Redstart
Little Rock-Thrush
Blue Rock-Thrush
African Stonechat
Rueppell's Chat
Mocking Cliff-Chat
White-winged Cliff-Chat
Familiar Chat
Brown-tailed Chat
Sombre Chat
Blackstart
Moorland Chat
Northern Wheatear
Abyssinian Wheatear
Pied Wheatear
Cyprus Wheatear
Black-eared Wheatear
Isabelline Wheatear
Red-breasted Wheatear

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Groundscraper Thrush
Abyssinian Thrush
African Thrush

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Wattled Starling
Slender-billed Starling
White-billed Starling
Bristle-crowned Starling
Rueppell's Starling
Splendid Starling
Superb Starling
Greater Blue-eared Starling

PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae

Red-billed Oxpecker

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Melaenornis chocolatinus
Melaenornis edolioides
Muscicapa striata
Muscicapa adusta
Cercotrichas podobe
Cossypha semirufa
Luscinia luscinia
Luscinia megarhynchos
Phoenicurus phoenicurus
Monticola rufocinereus
Monticola solitarius
Saxicola torquatus
Myrmecocichla melaena
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Thamnolaea semirufa
Cercomela familiaris
Cercomela scotocerca
Cercomela dubia
Cercomela melanura
Cercomela sordida
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe lugubris
Oenanthe pleschanka
Oenanthe cypriaca
Oenanthe hispanica
Oenanthe isabellina
Oenanthe bottae

Psophocichla litsitsirupa
Turdus abyssinicus
Turdus pelios

Creatophora cinerea
Onychognathus tenuirostris
Onychognathus albirostris
Onychognathus salvadorii
Lamprotornis purpuroptera
Lamprotornis splendidus
Lamprotornis superbus
Lamprotornis chalybaeus

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

Collared Sunbird
Nile Valley Sunbird
Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Tacazze Sunbird
Beautiful Sunbird
Shining Sunbird
Variable Sunbird

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail
Gray Wagtail
Mountain Wagtail
White Wagtail
Tree Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Abyssinian Longclaw

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Ortolan Bunting
Striolated Bunting
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting
Somali Bunting

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Canary
Abyssinian Siskin
African Citril
Salvadori's Serin
Streaky Seedeater
Brown-rumped Seedeater

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Swainson's Sparrow
Yellow-spotted Petronia

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

White-headed Buffalo-Weaver
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
Red-headed Weaver
Baglafaecht Weaver
Little Weaver
Spectacled Weaver
Vitelline Masked-Weaver
Rueppell's Weaver
Village Weaver
Red-billed Quelea
Northern Red Bishop
Yellow Bishop

Hedydipna collaris
Hedydipna metallica
Chalcomitra senegalensis
Nectarinia tacazze
Cinnyris pulchellus
Cinnyris habessinicus
Cinnyris venustus

Motacilla flava
Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla clara
Motacilla alba
Anthus trivialis
Anthus cervinus
Macronyx flavicollis

Emberiza hortulana
Emberiza striolata
Emberiza tahapisi
Emberiza poliopleura

Serinus flavivertex
Serinus nigriceps
Serinus citrinelloides
Serinus xantholaemus
Serinus striolatus
Serinus tristriatus

Passer swainsonii
Petronia pyrgita

Dinemellia dinemelli
Plocepasser mahali
Anaplectes rubriceps
Ploceus baglafaecht
Ploceus luteolus
Ploceus ocularis
Ploceus vitellinus
Ploceus galbula
Ploceus cucullatus
Quelea quelea
Euplectes franciscanus
Euplectes capensis

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

Yellow-bellied Waxbill

Common Waxbill

Red-cheeked Cordonbleu

Red-billed Firefinch

Cut-throat

Bronze Mannikin

African Silverbill

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

Pin-tailed Whydah

Village Indigobird

Coccygia quartinia

Estrilda astrild

Uraeginthus bengalus

Lagonosticta senegala

Amadina fasciata

Spermestes cucullata

Euodice cantans

Vidua macroura

Vidua chalybeata