# Ethiopia 25/09/ – 29/10/2010

#### Introduction

This report is based on a 5 week trip to Ethiopia on which I was accompanied by my wife Erma. Our interest was mainly birds but we also visited several cultural sites which are well worth visiting and also can hold some interesting birds.

We found that a lot of good reports relating to birding in Ethiopia exist already and that there is no real need to add another but as we often find we were unable to locate a report by independent birders using public transport and arranging the whole trip within the country itself like we did. We thought it might be useful to share our experiences.

Travelling using public transport means exhausting, long days in slow and crowded buses and often means missing species because you can't stop where you would like to and because there are places you cannot reach or are difficult to reach by this means.

This is why we did not go to the Negele/Yabello areas or to some of the destinations around Addis Abeba such as the Jemma Escarpment.

We also dipped on some birds because it was too early in the year for certain species (for example the water level was too high for N.Crowned Crane or Lesser Jacana), we did not have a bird guide most of the time to help us with, for example, the Larks and Nightjars or because of the writers stupidity when realising too late that Ethiopian Cisticola was an endemic and simply overlooked/did not pay attention to this bird.

Often I did not give too much notice to commoner birds that I have already seen many times before in other countries which makes our birdlist somehow incomplete and shorter than it could have been.

Birding in Ethiopia is generally good and not too difficult and with 30 endemics it makes an interesting birding destination. In addition the country is also very interesting culturally (eg Lalibela with its rock hewn churches!), its unique and tasty food, its different tribes and its scenic natural highlights such as the Bale Mountains and the Blue Nile Falls.

#### **Climate**

The dry season is from October until mid March, which is also the best time to visit. We were a bit early in the year but only had two downpours of rain one on our arrival in Addis and the other in the Bale Mountains. Unfortunately the water level of the Rift Valley Lakes was still very high when we visited and as a result we missed a few bird species.

Generally the climate in Ethiopia is very mild with warm days (20-25 degrees Celsius) and cool, but not cold nights. Many of the sites visited lay on an altitude between 1600m and 2600 m. Only the Bale Mountains are much higher, with colder nights and some windy weather, but still nice during the day.

Awash and especially the area around Bilen Lodge was very hot and dry during the day and too warm at night to sleep without fan or aircon.

#### Visas

We obtained our Visas easily and quickly from the friendly Ethiopian Embassy in Frankfurt. We paid 17 Euro per person for a 3 month, single entry Visa.

### How to get there

Turkish Airlines via Istanbul and Egypt Air via Cairo are about 100 Euro cheaper.

# **Getting around**

There is quite a good network of domestic flights operated by Ethiopian Airlines connecting Addis with the bigger towns. Ethiopian Airlines have a good reputation, but expect problems paying with credit card or to have all your luggage handchecked. We had to pull out all our stuff from our backpack in Arba Minch due to lack of x-ray machines at the airport. Used this mode of transport twice.

If you have more time, are on a lower budget or just want to see more of the country you may use buses, minibuses (vans) or shared taxis to get around. Many places are easy to reach, but it often means about 10 hours in crowded and uncomfortable buses. Be aware that bumpy roads exist, that buses are not always well maintained (requiring repair breaks) and that drivers go very fast on narrow roads that are full of people and cattle. On wet and slippery roads in the Bale Mountains we saw 2 buses which had just passed us lying upside down next to the road, on one occasion "our" minibus driver ran over a small child!!

We found it very tiring to hear people shouting into their mobile phones most of the time during the journey it did not seem to matter if it was 4 am or midday.

Having said that the journeys are often fun, interesting experiences and we saw lots on the road and had good conversations with many people.

For short distances hiring a Bajaj (Tuk-tuk) is a good option, they are readily available and may also be called from your Hotel. We used them as mode of transport from our Hotel to the Bus Terminal or for nearby birding destinations.

In Addis you can use the cheap minibuses (2 birr per person) which go to most destinations in town.

# Money

The Ethiopian currency is the birr. At the time we were there one Euro was worth about 23 birr and 16 birr for one dollar.

It is wise to bring a lot of cash dollars as you may only change traveller cheques or find a ATM in bigger cities, increasingly more and more Banks are offering this service nowadays.

#### **Safety**

Ethiopia is one of the safest countries to travel in Africa. We never felt uneasy or threatened in any way nor did we hear about any incidents from other travellers, having said that it is always wise to keep your eyes open. Addis has a poor reputation, especially some districts which are supposed to be dangerous at night.

Rip-offs however are more common with false or bad guides, empty promises, double tourist prices in restaurants or private taxi services that you finally find don't exist after you have already paid half price in advance.

#### Language

Getting along with English is usually no problem although, of course, not everybody speaks this language.

# **People**

When writing this chapter I waited until last moment, because I think it's difficult to find the right words. First I would like to say that everybody I met on an organized tour simply loved birding, the country and the local people. Of course doing things independently and travelling by public transport and organising things locally means that you can have negative experiences as well. To be honest, there were days when I hated it, and days that were wonderful, be prepared for the fact that many people don't want anything other than money from you, that children will follow you in some places shouting, "hey you, you, give money!!" and that things are not always what they seem and promises are rarely completely kept (from guides for example). There will be sometimes when you simply get cheated.

In common with many other places nowadays people make excessive use of handphones in Ethiopia, it happened that in buses somebody shouted into our ears almost the entire journey, (at least we felt that way!)

In some of the more touristy places two different menus exist, with double prices for foreigners. We tried to see this as part of the fun of travelling and at least you maybe get a more realistic impression of the country. Then again, you meet very nice people, friendly and helpful and who are interested to talk with you. We found Harar the friendliest city and Awash and Addis also good, we also liked Bahir Dar (except the tour on Lake Tana) and Awasa.

#### Food

We found the Etihiopian food to be very different from anything we have tried and experienced in other countries. It usually consists of Injera, which looks like a big pancake and is made out of a kind of wheat, and something on top of it, this can be meat (goat, beef or lamb) with a spicy sauce or a vegetable such as chickpeas. Once we got used to it we really liked it but it helps if you enjoy eating meat. If you are tired of the local stuff you can find spaghetti or even pizza in bigger or touristy cities.

Like Muslims, Orthodox Christians do not eat pork.

If you like coffee you are in heaven, the best coffee we ever had !! Freshly roasted (sometimes in front of us), ground and slowly brewed up, usually the coffee is served black, but often Macchiato is also available.

Sometimes you can buy freshly made fruit juice, like Papaya, Orange, Pineapple or Avocado juice. Beer produced by local breweries is of a surprisingly good quality and sometimes offered draught.

#### Accomodation

Accomodation in Ethiopia is generally reasonable and Hotels are good value. On a few occasions we stayed at old lodges or resorts, often in a bungalow within a beautiful garden setting with old trees and various birdlife around. These places were relaxing and quiet, but the rooms were often bit run down and had seen their best days decades ago.

# **Books/Reports**

As a Field Guide we used "Birds of the Horn of Africa" by Redman, Stevenson and Fanshawe.

Reports we used were from Richard Webb 1996, Nik Borrow 2006, Janos Olah 2009 and De Temmermann 2009.

#### **Our Guides**

Wondo Genet: Nuru, a very nice guy who knows the birds and their habitat well. He`ll

find you. If not ask around for him. Be careful with some of the other

Guides.

Arba Minch: Went with a driver who knew the Nechisar NP but not the birds and a

Scout who new birds a bit, but far less than promised. Organized

through our Hotel and the car owner.

Lalibela: Went with a guide called.....to the monastary uphill. Good, but

does not know birds. A guide is not really necessary as you can

probably find the way up yourself but it was convenient and at the time

we did not know how difficult or not it would be to get there.

Harar: Went to the Valley of Marvels and Babille Camel Market with a nice

young man called Daniel Feleke. I think the experience was better with

a guide. You can also do some birding around the valley as we found

out later.

fdaniel2001@gmail.com phone: 0913-820775

Awash: Spent 3 days birding with Yegerem, who was contacted through our

Hotel, he arranged a car for the National Park and knew where to find the speciality birds of Awash like Arabian and Buff-crested Bustards and Sombre Rockchat, having said that he is not a birder and could not

help with Larks or Nightjars.

Afaryegerem@gmail.com phone: 0911-110997

# **Acknowledgement:**

Many thanks to my friend Nick Carter from Midgley, Halifax, you put a lot of effort into correcting and improving this report.

<b>Itenerar</b>	v
I COHOL WI	7

25/09/2010 Flight Dubai – Addis Abeba with Emirates. Taxi (40 US) directly from the Airport to Debre Zeyt. Salayash Lodge (290 birr dr) at Lake Bischuftu Guda. Friendly, peaceful, good food. Our favorite !!! Birding around the Lodge.

26/09/2010 Walk down to the nearby end of Lake Chekelaka.Bajaj (50 birr one way) to the southern end of this lake.

27/09/2010 Birding around the Lodge. Bajaj (50 birr) to the bus station. Minibus to Lake Ziway via Mojo (22 birr each, 2 hours). Bekele Mola Hotel (90 birr dr, OK and good restaurant). Bajaj to Hippo Point (50 two ways).

28/09/2010 Bus and Minibus (caught from the main road, 35 birr) to Lake Langano. Drop off at the track to Wabe Shabelle Hotel. Organise Donkey-cart (4km, 40birr) to the Hotel (295 birr dr, huge garden, acacia trees directly at the lake, nice)

29/09/2010 Birding Hotel Grounds. After breakfast Horsecart to main road. Minibus to Shashemene Bus Station (2 h, 20 birr). Bus (30 min, 7 birr) to Wondo Genet. Bajaj (20 birr) to the expensive Wabe Shabele Hotel (580 birr dr). Beautiful garden.

Afternoon birding up the mountain, taking a left turn leaving the Hotel. Good!

30/09/2010 With guides Bayhe and Nuru from 6:00 until midday (200 birr). Excellent !! Afternoon bath in the nearby Hot Springs.

O1/10/2010 Lift from other Hotel guest to Wondo main road. Bus to Shashemene Bus Station. Caught a late bus to Adaba (2.5 hrs, 39 birr). In Adaba we had to wait another 45 min until we found transport (bus) to Dinsho (2hrs, 25 birr). Tarmac road until Dodola. Walk 2 km to the Bale Mountains National Park Headquarters where they wanted us to arrange our whole stay immediately. We booked 4 nights in the Lodge 1km further inside the Park (60 birr per person sleeping in a bunk bed) fantastic forest and birding all around, a guide for 3 days cost 170 birr per day and a cook for tonight and tomorrow cost 90 birr per person there was also a day entrance fee per person.

02/10/2010 8 am walk with our guide Mahmut to the Gaysey Grasslands. Nice walk, some good birds and mammals.

Afternoon birding around the Lodge. We were on our own in the Lodge for the whole time of our stay so it was very peaceful!!

03/10/2010 Organised a minibus for the day with the help of Mahmut (1400 birr). Day trip to Sanetti Plateau and Harenna Forest. Start 7am, back 8pm. Spectacular scenery!!! Wattled Ibis and Wolf. Dinner in Goba.

- O4/10/2010 On horseback 36 km return to the waterfalls in Web Valley. Good, but painful fun. Some birds, the further we got the more beautiful the countryside became. Paid 60 birr for a horse and 80 birr for a horsehandler.

  O5/10/2010 Heavy rain all night and morning. Totally wet until we reached the mainroad. All buses passing by were full. Finally we got a lift in a private car (Jeep) which was much more comfortable. Paid the driver 100 birr each. It took just
  - 3.5 h to Shashemene excluding a breakfast stop in Adaba.

    Minibus to Awasa (10 birr). Hotel Wabe Shebelle 1 is now called United African Hotel (350 birr for a nice and clean Bungalow) The Hotel is situated directly at the lake and has a good restaurant. Evening birding.
- Morning birding at the lake and nearby woodland. Breakfast and birdwatching at Awasa Fish Market. Evening in the very pleasant city. Lots of friendly and educated people. Meal and draft beer at the excellent Restaurant Post Rendezvous.
- 07/10/2010 We were already at the Bus Terminal by 6am. Our Bus to Arba Minch left at 7 and cost 65 birr for the 9 very uncomfortable hours on a bumpy road with dozens of detours. People shout and fight for an empty seat whenever the bus stops. A local Minibus took us (for extra birr) to the Mekele Mola Hotel (225 birr dr, restaurant just OK, lot of cats on the table, but nice terrace with wonderful view on both lakes).
- 08/10/2010 Lazy day. Birding around the Hotel grounds. Bought flight tickets to Lalibela via Addis. We arranged a car for the National Park with the help of our Hotel.
- 09/10/2010 Pick up at 5:45am by the owner of the really necessary 4-wheel-drive car but then spent 1.5 hours waiting for our driver at the National Park entrance because he went to buy himself something nice for lunch!!!! Missed the best time to bird the woodlands. Paid 200 US for everything. Stayed until dark. Back at our Hotel at 8:30pm.
- 10/10/2010 Walked to town and minibus to the Airport. Flew with Ethiopian Airlines to Addis in a Fokker 50 (55min, 2400 birr). Flight was delayed 2 hrs. Check in at a Hotel near the Airport. Hotel Ambassador (102 US, incl. Breakfast and shuttle to Airport, good and quiet). Evening Bole Rd.
- 11/10/2010 We got up early and had a quick breakfast before we driving to the Airport. Flight at 8am directly to Lalibela (40 min, 3000 birr) in a brand new Bombadier 400. Minibus to Lalibela town (50 birr each, 25km). Blue Lal Hotel (150 birr dr, very noisy till midnight, some bars are situated nearby). Superb lunch in the Seven Olives. Afternoon visit to some of the fantastic rock-hewn churches (Entrance fee: 350 birr for all churches, valid 3 days). Dinner at Seven Olives.
- 12/10/2010 7:30am hike with guide (200 birr) to the Ashetan Maryam Monastery at 3150m altitude. 550 m uphill in about 2.5 hrs, return downhill much faster. Nice view, some good birds on the way.

  Visited more churches in the afternoon. Not to be missed !!!! Dinner 7 Olives.
- 13/10/2010 A bad day. The Jeep we had prearranged and already paid 400 in advance for was found to be nonexistant. At 5:45 we got a seat in a 4-wheel-drive car as far as Gashema but that was it. After a long discussion with 2 Police Officers in Gashema the guy who had cheated us finally ran away and we had to hop on several buses and minibuses to reach Gonder at 3pm (100 birr in total p.p.). Hotel Queen Tayto (150 birr dr, friendly and clean).
- 14/10/2010 Breakfast (the best!) at the Tele-Café and we managed to pay the local price! In the more touristy north there are often two menus with the prices on the English menu double the local price!!!). Visit to Royal Enclosure with its 6

- Palaces, Fasilades Bath and Debre Berhan Selassie Church. Guide for half day costs 200 birr, entrance 50 plus 25 birr for the church per person.
- 15/10/2010 Breakfast at the Tele-Café before going to the Bus Terminal where we had to wait 2 hrs until a bus left for Bahir Dar. On the way we had to change to a minibus. (4hr, 50 birr each). The friendly driver dropped us directly at Ghion Hotel, situated at the lake (250 dr, large and quiet, run down rooms, beautiful terrace restaurant)
- 16/10/2010 Early morning bajaj to the viewpoint over the Nile near Haile Selassie Palace (65 birr). Birding around the viewpoint and along the road back to Bahir Dar (6km by walk). Bajaj back from the main road to our Hotel.
- 17/10/2010 Half day trip to the Monasteries on Lake Tana arranged through the Hotel. Interesting, but not many good birds (100 birr each, entrance for the Monasteries seperate)

  Good meal at the pleasant Café Wude in front of our Hotel.
- 18/10/2010 Caught a bus to Tis Isat at 7am to see the Blue Nile Falls (1hr, 10 birr). 30 min walk from the village. Very impressive falls !! and 2 rare birds.

  Meal in the very good Blue Jay's Restaurant.
- 19/10/2010 Up at 3am!!! Took a minibus from our Hotel to Addis (200 birr each, 11hrs). Hotel Taytu (312 birr dr, OK for a night). Good dinner at Wutma Restaurant.
- 20/10/2010 Travelled with Sky-Bus at 5:30 to Harar (10hr, 262 birr). Taxi (50 birr) from our Hotel to Meskel Square where the buses leave. Belayneh Hotel close to the old town (250 birr dr, very friendly). Strolled through the historical city center. Delicious dinner at the Fresh Touch Restaurant.
- 21/10/2010 Met a nice boy, Daniel, who picked us up at 9am to guide us to the Valley of Marvels and to Babille Cattle/Camel market (bus 10 birr, 45min). This was a very interesting and colourful market with hundreds of Camels for sale. Oromo and Somalie people. A highlight of our trip. Payed Daniel 200 birr. At night we watched the feeding of the Hyaenas (50 birr p.p.). Tasty dinner at the stylish Hirut Restaurant.
- 22/10/2010 Lazy day. We tried Camel meat with Injera for breakfast very nice. Stroll through the market and old town.
- 23/10/2010 Sky-Bus to Awash (262 birr per person.). 2 repair breaks, in total 5 hours !!! After almost 10hr we were dropped at Genet Hotel (350 birr dr with fan, good and friendly, with excellent attached Restaurant)
- 24/10/2010 Set off at 5:30 with prearranged minibus (750 birr), guide (500 birr per day) and NP-Scout (50 birr) to the Awash National Park (entrance fee:100 birr p.p.) until 12:30pm. After lunch break took local bus to Lake Beseka.
- 25/10/2010 At 5:00am us and our guide start to look/hitch for a truck towards Mille/Djibouti.

  After half hour a very old and slow Fiat truck gave us a lift (50 bir

After half hour a very old and slow Fiat truck gave us a lift (50 birr). Probably the worst truck around !! We got down near Andino and spent a few hours walking east and west (towards Bilen Lodge) of the village. Mid-day, when it gets extremly hot we hitched back. A fast Pickup finally gave us a ride back to Awash. Afternoon birding on the main road which traverses the NP, near the so called Microwave Tower.

26/10/2010 Breakfast after sleeping late. 10am Taxi to Nazret (200 birr, all buses were full). There we easily found a minibus to Addis (1hr, 25 birr) went to Legehar Train Station. From there we travelled by local Minibus to our accommodation (2 birr p.p.). Dream Palace Guesthouse (500 birr dr, large room with jacuzi, good value).

27/10/2010	Visited the Ethnological Museum (disappointing) and the National Museum
	(interesting). Afternoon more sightseeing: Holy Trinity Church

No more birding due to lack of own car and a reluctance to spend more hours

on public transport.

28/10/2010 Stroll through Mercato (big and smelly)

29/10/2010 Flight back to Frankfurt via Dubai. Transit time in Dubai 9 (long) hours.

### **Bird Sites**

# **Debre Zeyt** 25/09/ – 27/09/2010

After the long flight we found our Lodge in Debre Zeyt the perfect base for 2 days of relaxed birding and a good introduction to the more common birds of Ethiopia. We found most birds within the beautiful garden of Salayish Lodge just in front of the entrance or along the shore of Lake Bishuftu Guda.

Birding along the other Lakes was not very productive, because the water level was still very high. Lake Chelelaka for example was full until less than 1km from Lake Bishuftu Guda and easily accessible on foot from our Lodge.

Tried Lake Chekelaka (north and south) and Lake Hora.



Around Lodge: 1 Lakes: 2

2 Pink-backed Pelican 2

Little Grebe 2

Long-tailed Cormorant 2

Cormorant 2

Hammerkop 2

2 Yellow-billed Stork 2

Sacred Ibis 2

Little Egret 2

Grey Heron 2

Black-headed Heron 2

Spur-winged Goose 2

Knob-billed Goose 2

Red-billed Duck 2

	Northern Shoveller 2 Lappet-faced Vulture 1 2
	African Fish Eagle 2
c	Yellow-billed Kite 12
C	Western Marsh Harrier 2
	Red-knobbed Coot 2
	African Jacana 2
	Spur-winged Plover 2
	Gull-billed Tern 2
f	Bruce Green Pigeon 1
1	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove 1
	Red-eyed Dove 1
	•
6	Laughing Dove 1
6 f	Black-winged Lovebird 1 E Horus Swift 2
I	
	Spectacled Mousebird 1
	Malachite Kingfisher 2
	Pied Kingfisher 2
c	Blue-breasted BeeEater 1 NE
f	Black-billed Barbet 1
	Red-fronted Tinkerbird 1
•	Cardinal WP 1
2	Red-throated Wryneck 1
	Plain Martin 1
	Rock Martin 1
	Red-chested Swallow 2
	Yellow Wagtail 2
	Common Bulbul 1
_	Rüppell's Robin-Chat 1
5	White-winged Cliff-Chat 1
2	Little Rock Thrush 1
	Mountain Thrush 1
	African Thrush 1
3	Dark-capped Yellow-Warbler 1
	Buff-bellied Warbler 1
	Northern Crombec 1
2	Green-backed Eremomela 1
	Blackcap 1
	Afr. Grey Flycatcher 1
	Afr. Dusky Flycatcher 1
	Afr. Paradise Flycatcher 1
f	White-winged Black Tit 1
fc	Mountain White-eye 1
	Shining Sunbird 1
	Tacazze Sunbird 1
	Variable Sunbird 1
	Scarlet-chested Sunbird 1
	Beautiful Sunbird 1
f	Ethiopian Boubou 1 NE
f	Northern Puffback 1
1	Black-crowned Tchagra 1

- Pied Crow 12
- f Red-winged Starling 1
- c Greater Blue-eared Starling 1
- f Rüppell's Starling 1
- c Swainson's Sparrow 1 Rüppell's Weaver 1
  - Village Weaver 12
- 2 Northern Red (Orange) Bishop 1
- fc Yellow-crowned Bishop 1
  - Red-billed Quelea 1
- c Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu 1
- c Red-billed Finch 1
- f Bronze Mannikin 1
- f Streaky Seedeater 1

# Lake Ziway 27/09/ – 28/09/2010

Afternoon at the so called Hippo-Point. Lots of Pelicans and Marabous at close range. Nice walk along the road near Hippo-Point. Many people wanted to talk to us which made birdwatching difficult. Ask permission to enter a huge garden which belongs to rich people from Addis. There we found a Semi-collared Flycatcher. In general we think that Lake Ziway is not a must-see for birders.



- c Great White Pelican
  - African Darter
  - Cormorant
  - Long-tailed Cormorant
  - Cattle Egret
  - Little Egret
  - Black Heron
  - Hamerkop
  - Marabou
  - Sacred Ibis
  - Egyptian Goose
- White-faced Whistling Duck
- 2 Afr. Fish Eagle

- 1 Afr. Jacana
  - Spur-winged Plover
- f Bruce Green Pigeon

Spectacled Pigeon

Afr. Mourning Dove

Pied Kingfisher

Woodland Kingfisher

Malachite Kingfisher

Blue-breasted BeeEater

#### 1 Black Scimitarbill

Plain Martin

Mosque Swallow

Red-chested Swallow

1 Rattling Cisticola

Tawny-flanked Prinia

### 1 Semi-collared Flycatcher

#### 1 Black-headed Batis

**Shining Sunbird** 

Common Fiscal

Rüppell's Starling

White-browed Sparrow Weaver

#### 2 African Citril

# **Lake Langano** 28/10 – 29/10/2010

The large garden and woodlands of the Wabe Shebele Lodge are quite good for some easy birding. We also tried to walk outside the Lodge but as the surrounding areas are populated we got followed by children all the time which eventually spoiled the birdwatching. The area did not look very productive either.

Great White Pelican

Cormorant

Gull-billed Tern

#### 2 Yellow-fronted Parrot E

- 1 White-bellied Go-away-Bird
- 2 Nightjar spec. (Montane?)

# fc Black-billed Wood-Hoopoe

- 3 Black Scimitarbill
- 2 European Hoopoe
- 4 Hemprich's Hornbill
- 1 Grey-headed Woodpecker Yellow Wagtail
- 2 Mocking Cliff-Chat
- 2 Little Rock Thrush

Afr. Thrush

- 1 Grey-backed Camaroptera
- 1 Red-faced Crombec

Blackcap

2 Rattling Cisticola

Afr. Dusky Flycatcher

# 1 Grey-headed Batis

- 3 Rufous Chatterer
- White-winged Black TitAbyssinian White-eyeTacazze SunbirdBeautiful Sunbird
- 1 Northern White-crowned Shrike
- Fork-tailed DrongoGreater Blue-eared StarlingSuperb Starling
- c White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
- f White-headed Buffalo-Weaver Village Weaver Rüppell`s Weaver



#### Wondo Genet 29/09/ - 01/10/2010

Still an excellent place and a must for birders. Good for endemics. Sadly every day you see hundreds of people carrying firewood from the mountains to the markets, even our guide Nuru said that he believes that within a few years all the good forests around will be gone. Unfortunately very few people like him have an interest in conservation in Wondo. We birded the beautiful garden of the expensive Wabe Shebele Hotel, the area around the Hot Springs and twice up the mountains. Leaving the Hotel take the first road to your left and follow the path leading uphill until you reach the forest. This stretch is very productive, holding Spotted Creeper, Lemon Dove, Banded Barbei, Abyssinian WP and Abyssinian Ground-Thrush.

Half-collared KF was found at a river on a different mountain site, to get there we followed the road on the left hand side of the Hot Springs.

One warning about local guides, when we set off to leave our Hotel to start walking up the hill we were most aggressivly "attacked" by guides saying that it was not allowed to walk anywhere without guide. After a long discussion we were finally threatened by one of them but despite this spent the afternoon on our own. For the following day we arranged to go with the decent, friendly and knowledgeable guide Nuru (accompanied by Bayhe) to the more difficult to find sites, such as for the Half-collared KF. Again, because we refused to have anything to do with the aggressive and unsympathetic guides there was a lot of discussion and

fighting amongst them about money. We have never experienced something like that before!! My recommendation is, go with Nuru if you need a guide.

1: Hote	el 2: around Hot Spring 3: Mountains left from entrance alone 4: Mountains with
Nuru	
5	Scaly Francolin 3
1	Wattled Ibis 1 E
	Long-crested Eagle 1
1	African Goshawk 1
	Lappet-faced Vulture
1	Red-eyed Dove
1	Lemon Dove 3
fc	Yellow-fronted Parrot 3 E
4	Black-winged Lovebird 3 4 White-cheeked Turaco 1 2 3 4 NE
c	Blue-headed Coucal (heard) 3
2	Narina Trogon 3
1	African Pygmy Kingfisher 4
1	Woodland Kingfisher 4
2	Half-collared Kingfisher 4
f	Blue-breasted BeeEater NE
fc	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill 1 3 4
4	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird 14
3	Double-toothed Barbet 1
2	Banded Barbet 3 E
3	Grey-headed Woodpecker 3 4
3	Abyssinian Woodpecker 3 E
1	Nubian Woodpecker 3
fc	Brown Saw-wing 3
f	Afr. Rock Martin 4
4	Mountain Wagtail 24
5	Grey Cuckoo-Shrike 3
	Common Bulbul
fc	Rüppell's Robin-Chat
1	White-winged Robin-Chat 3 or 4
2	Little Shrike Thrush 4
c	Mountain Thrush
1	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3
fc	Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher 34 E
3	African Hill Babbler 34
	Afr. Dusky Flycatcher 1 2 3 4
6	White-rumped Babbler 4 NE
1	Brown Woodland Warbler 3
f	Grey-backed Camaroptera
1	Singing Cisticola 4
1	Brown-throated Wattle-eye 3
3	Spotted Creeper 3 4
fc	Mountain White-eye
1	Common Fiscal
3	Northern Puffback
2	Ethiopian Boubou NE

Ethiopian Boubou NE

# fc Abyssinian Oriole 34 E

- 1 Fork-tailed Drongo
- fc Red-winged Starling 3
- 4 Slender-billed Starling 4

Variable Sunbird

Collared Sunbird

Tacazze Sunbird

# 4 Thick-billed Raven 12 E

Baglafecht Weaver

- 2 Bronze Mannikin
- 2 Black and white Mannikin 4
- 2 Pin-tailed Whydah 4
- fc African Citril



### Bale Mountains 01/10/ - 05/10/2010

A most beautiful place! Extraordinary scenery, good forest, grasslands, lots of endemic birds and interesting mammals such as Mountain Nyala and Ethiopian Wolf. Dinsho, at 3200m is cold at night, but less cold than we expected. We were lucky with the weather as it mostly rained during the night. You can go on wonderful, long treks in the Bale Mountains. Together with our guide Mahmut (obliging) we did 3 day-trips and birded around the NP-Lodge.

1: Gaysey Grasslands: A nice hike, the grasslands hold species like Afr Longclaw, Erlanger's Lark and Botta's Wheatear plus few species of mammals. Walking through Dinsho you first

pass herds of cattle and horses, then after crossing a river you reach the grasslands. It's about 1.5 hrs one way on foot.

- 2: Sanetti-Plateau: With 4100m altitude it does not seem like Africa at all. The road crossing the plateau from Goba Mega is the highest road in whole of Africa. Spent a full day with our chartered car, stopping whenever we saw birds or the sites looked promising. This was the most beautiful landscape of our trip. Best birds: Lammergeier, Moorland and Chestnut-naped Francolins (at the end of the plateau, going down to Harrena), Spot-breasted Plover, Bluewinged Goose and Wattled Crane.
- 3: Harrena Forest: Had only a short visit, just to get an impression. Bale Monkey was a surprise mammal. Birds included Ab. Catbird and Ab. Ground-Thrush. If you have your own car, it would be better to spend more time here.
- 4: Dinsho Lodge: Good forest with good birding is possible just around the Lodge. Abyssinian Long-eared Owl is a highlight (ask the manager, Abdellah to show it to you, but agree the price first! After we saw it, he asked for 450!! birr, we gave him 50 which he accepted).

Other birds include Afr. Wood Owl, Aby.Catbird and White-backed Black Tit. Did not see or hear Mountain Nightjar. Antelopes feed a few meters from the Lodge.

5: Web Valley: on horseback. Fun, but 36km is a long way, if you do not ride on horses normally. We could hardly get down from their backs at the end because all our bones and muscles ached so much! Nice landscape, and a few birds such as Steppe Eagle or Rouget's Rail.

For birds only I would recommend Sanetti-Plateau, the Lodge area and the grasslands.

1 :Gaysey Grasslands 2: Sanetti Plateau 3: Harrena Forest 4: Dinsho Lodge 5: Horse ride to waterfall, Web Valley



- c Wattled Ibis E
- fc Blue-winged Goose 2 E
- f Egyptian Goose
- f Ruddy Shelduck 2
- f Yellow-billed Duck
- 3 Afr. Black Duck 2 Yellow-billed Kite
- 1 Lammergeier 2 Rüppell`s Vulture

c	
	Augur Buzzard
	Mountain Buzzard
2	Golden Eagle 1
2	Tawny Eagle 1
1	Steppe Eagle 5
1	Lanner Falcon 4
1	Moorland Francolin 2
3	Chestnut-naped Francolin 2 E
c	Rouget's Rail E
1	Wattled Crane 2
_	Common Sandpiper
c	Spot-breasted Plover 2 E
c	White-collared Pigeon 145 E
1	Abyssinian Owl 4
1	African Wood Owl 4
50	Mottled Swift
f	Erlanger`s Lark 1 E
c	Thekla Lark
C	Plain Martin
	Red-chested Swallow
	Barn Swallow
fc	Mountain Wagtail
4	Abyssinian Longclaw 1 E
-	Common Bulbul
4	Rüppell's Robin-Chat
f	Afr. Stonechat
2	Botta's (Red-breasted) Wheatear 1
c	Moorland Chat
c	Groundscraper Thrush
·	Mountain Thrush
C	MOUHIAIII THIUSH
c 1	
1	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3
	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4
1	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff
1 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E
1 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher
1 1 2 2 2 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher
1 1 2 2 2 2 f	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher
1 1 2 2 2 2 2 f 1	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E
1 1 2 2 2 2 2 f 1	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye
1 1 2 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 34 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal
1 1 2 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal Ethiopian Boubou NE
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal Ethiopian Boubou NE Abyssinian Oriole
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal Ethiopian Boubou NE Abyssinian Oriole
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 3 4 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal Ethiopian Boubou NE Abyssinian Oriole Red-billed Chough 2 Pied Crow
1 1 2 2 2 2 f 1 2 8	Abyssinian Ground-Thrush 3 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler 4 Chiffchaff Ethiopian Cisticola 1 E Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher African Dusky Flycatcher Afr. Paradise Flycatcher Afr. Hill Babbler Abyssinian Catbird 34 E White-backed Black Tit 4 E Mountain White-eye Tacazze Sunbird Variable Sunbird Common Fiscal Ethiopian Boubou NE Abyssinian Oriole Red-billed Chough 2

- f Red-winged Starling
- f Greater Blue-eared Starling Swainson's Sparrow NE Baglafecht Weaver
- c Yellow Bishop
- 5 Yellow-bellied Waxbill
- fc Common Waxbill Eastern Paradise Whydah
- f Yellow-crowned Canary
- f African Citril
- c Black-headed Siskin E
- f Brown-rumped Seedeater E
- c Sreaky Seedeater





# Lake Awasa 05/10/ - 07/10/2010

A nice place to relax and restore your energy. Pleasant town, excellent Lodge directly at the lake, same good birds. We also enjoyed breakfast at Awasa Fish market.

From the Wabe Shebelle (United Africa) Hotel you have access to the lake. We walked to the right for 1km and birded the woodland to the left from the hotel (looking at the lake).

# 1: Lake 2: Woodland

	Little Grebe 1
	Cormorant 1
	Cattle Egret 1
	Little Egret
	Hamerkop
	Marabou
	Hadada Ibis 1
	Sacred Ibis 1
	Great White Pelican
	Egyptian Goose
	White-faced Whistling Duck 1
	Hottentot Teal 1
2	White-backed Duck 1
	Hooded Vulture
	Lappet-faced Vulture
	Rüppell's Vulture
	Yellow-billed Kite
	Afr. Fish Eagle
f	Afr. Black Crake 1
f	Afr. Jacana 1
1	Black-winged Stilt 1
	Common Sandpiper
	Spur-winged Plover
	Wood Sandpiper 1
2	Marsh Sandpiper 1
	Grey-headed Gull
fc	Black-winged Lovebird 2 E
2	Blue-headed Coucal 2
c	Mottled Swift 1
f	Woodland Kingfisher 2
c	Pied Kingfisher 1
c	Malachite Kingfisher 1
f	Blue-breasted BeeEater
f	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill 2
1	Banded Barbet 2
3	Red-throated Wryneck 2
1	Eurasian Wryneck 2
1	Nubian Woodpecker 2
	Plain Martin
	Wire-tailed Swallow 1
	Yellow Wagtail
1	Afr. Thrush
1	Sedge Warbler 1
2	Lesser Swamp Warbler 1
	Grey-backed Camaroptera Willow Warbler
1	
1	Red-faced Cisticola 1
1	Yellow-breasted Apalis

- 2 Northern Black Flycatcher 2 Spotted Flycatcher 2
- c Afr. Paradise Flycatcher
- f Black-headed Batis 2
- f Rufous Chatterer 2
- 1 Spotted Creeper 2
- c Abyssinian White-eye
  Scarlet-chested Sunbird
  Beautiful Sunbird
  Northern Puffback
  Ethiopian Boubou
  Fork-tailed Drongo
- fc Thick-billed Raven
  Rüppell's Starling
  Swainson's Sparrow
  White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
  Spectacled Weaver
- f Little Weaver 2
- 3 Grosbeak Weaver 2 Red-billed Firefinch
- f Bronze Mannikin African Citril Streaky Seedeater



### Arba Minch/Nechisar National Park 07/10/ - 10/10/2010

The National Park offers a wide range of diverse habitats. Savanna, bushy country, woodland, rocky outcrops and would deserve more than only a full day. Unfortunately a 4-wheel drive vehicle costs 200 US per day so we decided not to stay longer.

Saw goodies like Harlequin Quail, Archers Francolin, Banded Parisoma and Greater Honeyguide but we missed a lot of expected species and had difficulties in identifying the nightjars.



#### 1: Hotel Grounds 2: National Park

Black-headed Heron Hooded Vulture Lappet-faced Vulture White-backed Vulture Rüppell's Vulture Afr. Fish Eagle

- 1 Brown Snake Eagle 2
- 2 Dark Chanting Goshawk 2
- 2 Bataleur 2

Common Kestrel 12

- 1 Grey Kestrel 1
- 5 Helmeted Guineafowl 2
- c Crested Francolin 2
- 4 Orange River (Archers) Francolin 2
- c Yellow-necked Spurfowl 2
- 18 Harlequin Quail 2
- 8 Kori Bustard 2
- 4 Black-bellied Bustard 2

Namaqua Dove 2

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove

- 1 Afr. Orange-bellied Parrot 2
- White-cheeked Turaco 2 NE
- 2 Bare-faced Go-away-Bird 2
- 1 Jacobin Cuckoo 2
- 1 African Cuckoo 2
- 1 Klaas Cuckoo 2
- fc White-browed Coucal 2
- 2 Greyish Eagle Owl? 2 (flying at night, probably this species)
- 12 Slender-tailed Nightjar 2
- 4 Montane Nightjar ??? ? (from the car) 2
- 1 Striped Kingfisher 2
- 1 Little BeeEater 2
- 2 Lilac-breasted Roller 2

2	Abyssinian Scimitarbill 2
1	Eur. Hoopoe 2
2	Van der Decken`s Hornbill 2
f	Red-billed Hornbill 2
fc	Afr. Grey Hornbill 12
1	Red-fronted Tinkerbird 1
1	Dooble-toothed Barbet 2
2	Red and yellow Barbet 2
1	
1	Greater Honeyguide 2
1	Nubian Woodpecker 2
	Bearded Woodpecker 2
fc	Flappet Lark 2
2	Singing Bushlark 2
c	Red-chested Swallow
f	Yellow Wagtail
	Common Bulbul
	White-browed Robin-Chat (heard) 2
fc	Whinchat 2
f	Isabelline Wheatear 2
1	Banded Parisoma 2
1	Rattling Cisticola 2
	Zitting Cisticola 2
	Spotted Flycatcher 1 2
	Afr. Paradise Flycatcher 1 2
2	Black-headed Batis 1
fc	Rufous Chatterer 2
2	Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit 2
	Beautiful Sunbird
2	Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird 2
fc	Grey-backed Fiscal 12
f	Slate-colored Boubou 2
1	Brubru 1
f	Northern Puffback
1	Black-crowned Tschagra 2
f	Northern White-crowned Shrike 2
f	Black-headed Oriole 12
c	Fork-tailed Drongo
-	Thick-billed Raven
	Pied Crow
	Fan-tailed Raven
	Red-billed Oxpecker
	Greater Blue-eared Starling
4	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver 2
•	Village Weaver
fc	Red-headed Weaver 12
10	Red-billed Firefinch
	White-bellied Canary
f	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 2
1	Chinamon-orcasica Dunting 2



#### Lalibela 11/10 – 13/10/2010

Famous for its rock-hewn churches, Lalibela was definitly the cultural highlight of our trip. We found the hike to the Ashetan Maryam Monastary at 3150m to be good birdwise as we easily saw Rüppell's Black Chat, White-billed Starling and a surprise Ayer's Hawk Eagle on the way. Erckels Francolin was seen early morning on the roadside on the way from Lalibela to Gashema.

Rüppell's Vulture

- 1 Lammergeier
  - Augur Buzzard
- 1 Ayers's Hawk Eagle
- 1 Erckel Francolin (Erma)
- f White-collared Pigeon

Dusky Turtle Dove

Hemprich Hornbill

**Rock Martin** 

Red-rumped Swallow

**Moorland Chat** 

Mocking Cliff Chat

- 6 Rüppell's Black Chat E
- 2 Groundscraper Thrush
- 1 Little Rock Thrush
  - Moutain Thrush
- 2 Singing Cisticola

Variable Sunbird

Common Fiscal

- 10 White-billed Starling E
- fc Lesser Blue-eared Starling
- fc Baglafecht Weaver

Yellow Bishop

Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleu

Red-billed Firefinch

- f Village Indigobird
- fc Yellow-crowned Canary
- f Streaky Seedeater

- c Brown-rumped Seedeater
- 2 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

#### Gonder 13/10/ - 15/10/2010

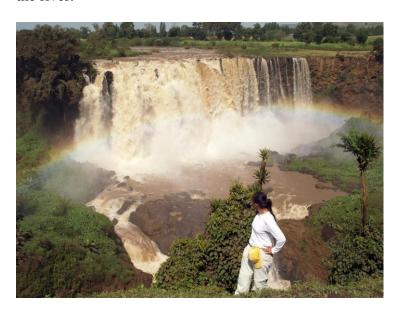
Only saw common birds in the gardens of the royal enclosure.

### Bahir Dar 15/10/ - 18/10/2010

Birded the lake close to the Ghion Hotel and during a boat trip to some of the monastaries on lake Tana. The water level was still high.

On a half day tour to the impressive Water Falls we birded the stretch of grassy bushland between Tis Isat village and the falls where we found the very localised White-throated Seedeater (just after the village) and Bush Petronia (in bushes where the path takes a left turn to step down towards the falls).

After a Bajaj had dropped us near the Haile Selassie Palace we walked from the viewpoint over the Nile (Chestnut crowned Sparrow-Weaver) back to Bahir Dar more or less parallel to the river.



1: Lake 2: Blue Nile Falls 3: Viewpoint/Haile Selassie Palace- Bahir Dar

Little Egret 1

Black-headed Heron 1

- 1 Goliath Heron 3
- 1 Afr. Darter 1

Long-tailed Cormorant 1

Great Cormorant 1

White Pelican 1

Little Grebe 1

Sacred Ibis 1

Hadada Ibis 1

Egyptian Goose 1

Spur-winged Goose 1

3 African Pygmy Goose 1

Hooded Vulture

Lappet-faced Vulture

Rüppell's Vulture

1	Western Marsh Harrier 1
2	Long-crested Eagle 3
	Augur Buzzard
	Afr. Jacana 1
	Lesser Black-backed Gull 1
	Gull-billed Tern 1
	White-winged Tern 1
	Bruce's Green Pigeon 3
	Namaqua Dove
	Black-winged Lovebird
	White-bellied Go-away-Bird 3
1	Blue-headed Coucal 2
1	
1	Giant Kingfisher 1
0	Pied Kingfisher
c	Striped Kingfisher Blue-breasted Bee-eater NE
	Hemprich Hornbill
1	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill
1	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird 2
3	Dooble-toothed Barbet 2
f	Mosque Swallow 1
2	Rüppell's Robin Chat 3
1	Common Redstart
c	Blackcap
	Common Whitethroat 3
f	Northern Black Flycatcher
1	Pale Flycatcher 3
fc	Afr. Paradise Flycatcher
5	White-rumped Babbler (limbata) 3 NE
f	Abyssinian White-eye 2
f	Copper Sunbird 3
	Common Fiscal
	Grey-backed Fiscal
3	Ethiopian Boubou
4	Northern Puffback
1	Black-crowned Tschagra 3
2	Abyssinian Oriole 3
c	Lesser Blue-eared Starling
c	Greater Blue-eared Starling
4	Bush Petronia 2
1	Chestnut-crowned Sparrow Weaver 3
2	Black-winged Red Bishop 3
c	Yellow-mantled Widowbird 3
c	Red-cheeked Cordon -Bleu
c	Red-billed Firefinch
2	Bronze Mannikin
c	Village Indigobird
f	African Citril
1	White-threated Seedester 2 F

No birding. Saw a few birds around Babille/Valley of Marbleds.

#### fc Dwarf Raven

Common Bulbul

2 Bristle-crowned Starling

#### Awash 22/10/ - 25/10/2010

Another must for any birder, holds lots of goodies but Bustards were surprisingly rare. Having our own car we would have loved to stay overnight in the NP at Bilen Lodge. Missed few species especially nightjars.

1: Spent half day in the NP with a chartered Jeep. Good although we expected to see more species. Did a typical game drive through Illala Sala Plains, visited Kereyou Lodge (breakfast) and Awash Falls with its new Awash Falls Lodge. A Crombec seen in a tree near the river looked like Somali but did not see it well enough to be sure.

Another afternoon/evening was spend birding from the main road, for example near the so called Microwave Tower. Saw our only Ab.Ground-Hornbills as well as a single Buff-crested Bustard.

- 2: An afternoon was spent walking around the Lava Fields opposite Lake Beseka where we found Sombre Rock Chat easy to locate. After having seen this extremly localised endemic we did a loop north towards Fantale, walking back to Metahara at dusk. From there lot of minibuses head for Awash. This section was good for Sparrow-Larks and Blackstarts.
- 3: Half day trip to Andino by hitching. Walked all morning around this village (towards Bilen Lodge and towards the Aledeghi Plains) searching for Arabian Bustard which we finally found after we had almost given up hope. Lots of Larks and Grasshopper Buzzard. This place is extremly hot and dry. Did all our birding with our guide Yegerem who is not really a birder but who knows the sites and the main target species. He said that some places on the way to Mille were not entirely safe but that Andino was no problem, true to his word we were greeted and welcomed by some local Afar people.
- 1: Awash Nat.Park 2: Lake Beseka 3: Around Andino Village /way to Bilen Lodge
- 2 Somali Ostrich 3
- 1 Abdim's Stork 1

Marabou

Sacred Ibis

Egyptian Goose

- 1 Secretary Bird 1
- 1 Afr. Fish Eagle 1
- f Egyptian Vulture 23
- Western Marsh Harrier
- 1 Pallied Harrier 1
- 2 Dark Chanting Goshawk 1
- 1 Gabar Goshawk 1
- 1 Little Sparrowhawk
- 1 Grasshopper Buzzard 3
- 1 Tawny Eagle 1
- 1 Lesser Spotted Eagle ? 2
- fc Common Kestrel
- 2 Pygmy Falcon 1
- 1 Red-necked Falcon 1

fc	Helmeted Guineafowl
2	Common Quail 1
c	Red-knobbed Coot 2
2	Arabian Bustard 3
1	Kori Bustard 1
1	Buff-crested Bustard 1
f	Spur-winged Plover 2
1	Common Sandpiper 1
25	Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse 3 ?
2	White-bellied Go-away-Bird 1
1	Great Spotted Cuckoo 3
1	White-browed Coucal 1
5	Blue-naped Mousebird 3
	Woodland Kingfisher
	Striped Kingfisher
f	Blue-breasted Bee-eater
12	Madagaskar Bee-eater 1
10	Northern Carmine Bee-eater 1
fc	Abyssinian Roller 1
1	Lilac-breasted Roller 1
fc	Europian Hoopoe
2	Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill 1
3	Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill 1
2	Singing Bushlark 13
f	Desert Lark 3
20	C 4 C1 4 1 I1- 2
20	Greater Short-toed Lark 3
12	
	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2
12	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2
12	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3
<b>12</b> 40	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin
<b>12</b> 40	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail
12 40 1 4	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul
12 40 1 4 1	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1
12 40 1 4 1 c	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat
12 40 1 4 1 c 1	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 1 2 Blue Rock Thrush 3
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 1 2 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ?
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 1 2 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1 5	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher's Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1 Ashy Cisticola 1
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1 5	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1 Ashy Cisticola 1 Grey-headed Batis 1
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1 5 1 fc	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1 Ashy Cisticola 1 Grey-headed Batis 1 Somali Fiscal
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1 5 1 fc f	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher's Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1 Ashy Cisticola 1 Grey-headed Batis 1 Somali Fiscal Woodchat Shrike 1 3
12 40 1 4 1 c 1 c fc 3 8 1 1 2 1 5 1 fc f f f	Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark 2 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark 1 2 3 Rock Martin African Pied Wagtail Common Bulbul White-browed Scrub Robin 1 Whinchat Pied Wheatear 3 Northern Wheatear Isabelline Wheatear Sombre Rock Chat 2 Blackstart 12 Blue Rock Thrush 3 Upcher`s Warbler 1 Green-backed Eremomela 1 Northern Crombec 1 ? Barred Warbler 1 Ashy Cisticola 1 Grey-headed Batis 1 Somali Fiscal Woodchat Shrike 1 3 Isabelline Shrike 1 3

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Rüppell's Starling

- fc White-browed Sparrow-Weaver
- c White-headed Buffalo-Weaver

Red-billed Firefinch

- 2 Cutthroat Finch 3
- 2 Pin-tailed Whydah
- f Striolated Bunting 2
- 1 Somali Bunting 3

#### Bird names in bold: a new species for me

E: Endemic to Ethiopia

NE: near Endemic to Ethiopia

c: common

fc: fairly common

f: few

#### **Birds:**

- 1. **Somali Ostrich:** 2 near Andido village.
- 2. **Great White Pelican**: fairly common
- 3. **Pink-backed Pelican:** 2 at Lake Chekeleka
- 4. **Little Grebe:** fairly common
- 5. **Great Crested Grebe**: few on the lakes
- 6. **Great Cormorant:** fairly common
- 7. **Long-tailed Cormorant:** fairly common
- 8. **African Darter:** 1 at Lake Ziway (Hippo Point), 1 at Lake Tana
- 9. **Cattle Egret:** fairly common
- 10. **Squacco Heron**: few birds seen
- 11. **Striated Heron:** few birds seen
- 12. **Little Egret**: common
- 13. **Black Heron:** a single bird at Lake Ziway.
- 14. **Great Egret**: common
- 15. **Intermediate Egret:** few birds seen
- 16. **Goliath Heron:** 1 bird along the Nile near Bahir Dar on the way down from the viewpoint.
- 17. **Grey Heron**: few birds seen
- 18. Black-headed Heron: few on Lake Chekalaka, Nechisar NP, Lake Tana
- 19. **Abdim`s Stork:** 1 at Awash NP
- 20. **Hamerkop:** widespread in smaller numbers.
- 21. **Yellow-billed Stork:** 2 at Lake Chekelaka
- 22. **Marabou Stork**: common and widespread.
- 23. Sacred Ibis: at Debre Zeyit, Lake Ziway, Lake Awasa, Bahir Dar and Awash
- 24. **Hadada Ibis:** few at Lake Awasa, Bahir Dar
- 25. **Wattled Ibis**: first seen at Wondo, then more commonly at the Bale Mts.
- 26. **Spur-winged Goose:** Lake Chekelaka, Lake Tana
- 27. **Egyptian Goose:** widespread in smaller numbers.
- 28. **Blue-winged Goose**: fairly common on the Sanetti-Plateau
- 29. **Knob-billed Duck:** Lake Chekelaka,
- 30. White-faced Whistling Duck: 2 seen at Lake Ziway, few Lake Awasa
- 31. **African Pygmy-goose:** 3 on Lake Tana from our Hotels restaurant terrace.
- 32. **Ruddy Shelduck**: seen on lakes of the Sanetti-Plateau.

- 33. **Red-billed Duck:** at Rift Valley Lakes
- 34. **Hottentot Teal:** Lake Awasa
- 35. White-backed Duck: 2 seen on Lake Awasa.
- 36. **Yellow-billed Duck:** on Sanetti-Plateau lakes.
- 37. **Northern Shoveller:** few at Lake Chekelaka
- 38. **Yellow-billed Kite:** a very common sight.
- 39. **Secretarybird:** 1 Awash NP
- 40. **African Fish-Eagle:** fairly common in small numbers along the lakes.
- 41. **Lammergeier**: 1 near Web Falls in Bale NP, another near Lalibela up to Ashetan Maryam monastary.
- 42. **Egyptian Vulture**: few Awash NP and around Andido
- 43. **Hooded Vulture:** common
- 44. **Lappet-faced Vulture:** common
- 45. White-backed Vulture: common
- 46. **Rüppell's Vulture:** common
- 47. **Brown Snake- Eagle:** one at Nechisar NP
- 48. **Western March Harrier:** 3 at the edge of Lake Chekelaka, 1 Lake Tana, 2 Awash
- 49. **Pallied Harrier:** 1 Awash NP
- 50. **Dark Chanting Goshawk:** 2 Nechisar NP, 2 Awash Np
- 51. **Gabar Goshawk:** Awash NP
- 52. **African Goshawk:** only seen at Wondo near our Hotel.
- 53. **Little Sparrowhawk:** 1 Awash NP
- 54. **Grasshopper Buzzard:** 2 seen around Andido village.
- 55. **Augur Buzzard**: common in mountain places like Bale or Lalibela
- 56. **Mountain Buzzard:** few Bale Mts.
- 57. **Lesser Spotted Eagle**: 1 near Lake Beseka
- 58. **Tawny Eagle:** 4 birds in the Bale Mts., sitting near the ground in the Garsey Grasslands. 2 birds Awash NP.
- 59. **Steppe Eagle:** one bird Bale Mts.
- 60. **Ayres's Hawk Eagle:** a single seen near Lalibela on the hike up to the monastary
- 61. **Bataleur:** singles Nechisar NP
- 62. **Long-crested Eagle**: one at Wondo Genet, 2 Bahir Dar
- 63. **Common Kestrel**: fairly common for ex. Nechisar Np and Awash
- 64. **Grey Kestrel:** a surprise bird flew across the Hotel garden in Arba Minch.
- 65. **Pygmy Falcon**: 2 Awash NP
- 66. **Red-necked Falcon**: 1 at Kereyou Lodge Awash NP
- 67. **Lanner Falcon:** our only sighting was a bird in flight near Dinsho village, Bale Mts.
- 68. **Helmeted Guineafowl**: common Nechisar NP and Awash NP
- 69. **Crested Francolin**: common Nechisae NP
- 70. **Scaly Francolin:** 5 at Wondo Genet crossing the mountain path.
- 71. **Erckel's Francolin:** from the car on the way from Lalibela to Gasheme (Erma)
- 72. **Chestnut-naped Francolin:** 3 birds on the road, then beautifully seen flying/gliding on the way from Harenna Forest to Sanetti-Plateau.
- 73. **Archer's Francolin:** good looks at 4 birds in Nechisar NP
- 74. **Moorland Francolin**: one bird on the way back from Harenna climbing towards Sanetti-Plateau.
- 75. **Yellow-necked Spurfowl:** this bird in common in Nechisar NP
- 76. **Harlequin Quail:** about 20 seen on and neat the car treck in Nechisar NP
- 77. **Common Quail:** 2 Awash NP
- 78. **Black Crake**: 2 or 3 at Lake Awasa
- 79. **Purple Swamphen:** few birds seen, but where ?, maybe Awasa

- 80. **Rouget's Rail:** about 15 birds seen in the Bale Mountains at various sites.
- 81. **Red-knobbed Coot:** common
- 82. **Common Moorhen:** few birds seen
- 83. **Wattled Crane:** maybe my bird of the trip, seen on Sanetti-Plateau.
- 84. **Kori Bustard:** 8 at Nechisar NP, 1 Awash NP
- 85. **Arabian Bustard:** 2 wonderful individuals around Andido after searching hours in the heat! Would have hated to miss that bird!!!! One of the best of this trip!
- 86. **Buff-crested Bustard:** 1 bird flushed near the main road passing through Awash NP
- 87. **Black-bellied Bustard:** 4 Nechisar NP
- 89. **African Jacana**: fairly common.
- 90. **Black-winged Stilt:** 1 Lake Awasa
- 91. **Common Ringed Plover:** few birds seen.
- 92. **Spur-winged Plover:** in smaller numbers along many lakes.
- 93. **Spot-breasted Plover:** common on Sanetti-Plateau.
- 94. **Common Sandpiper:** Bale Mts., Lake Awasa,
- 95. Wood Sandpiper: few Lake Awasa
- 96. **Marsh Sandpiper:** 2 Lake Awasa
- 97. **Grey-headed Gull**: Lake Awasa
- 98. **Black-headed Gull:** Lake Tana
- 99. **Gull-billed Tern:** seen on several lakes.
- 100. White-winged Tern: on several lakes.
- 101. Whiskered Tern: few seen on Lake Tana
  - Sandgrouse spec: a far away flock of about 25 birds near Andido village
- 102. Bruce's Green Pigeon: few seen Debre Zeyit, Lake Ziway, Bahir Dar
- 103. **Speckled Pigeon**: fairly common for ex. at Gonder
- 104. **African Mourning Dove:** widespread and common.
- 105. White-collared Pigeon: common in the Bale Mts. Also Lalibela
- 106. **Rock Dove:** seen somewhere
- 107. **Blue-spotted Wood Dove:** Debre Zeyit
- 108. Emerald-spotted Wood Dove: Nechisar NP
- 109. Namaqua Dove: Bahir Dar
- 110. **Ring-necked Dove:** common
- 111. **Red-eved Dove:** common
- 112. Laughing Dove: common
- 113. **Dusky Turtle Dove:** few Lalibela
- 114. **Lemon Dove**: a single bird at Wondo Genet walking up the mountain.
- 115. African Orange-bellied Parrot: 1 Nechisar NP
- 116. **Yellow-fronted Parrot:** 2 at Lake Langano, fairly common at Wondo.
- 117. **Black-winged Lovebird**: first 6 birds near our Hotel in Debre Zeyit. More in Wondo. Also Lake Awasa, Bahir Dar (viewpoint road)
- 118. White-cheeked Turaco: fairly common at Wondo. Also Bale, Nechisar
- 119. White-bellied Go-away-bird: Lake Langano, Bahir Dar (viewpoint), Awash NP
- 120. **Bare-faced Go-away-bird:** 2 Nechisar NP
- 121. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** 1 around Andido village
- 122. **Jakobin Cuckoo:** 1 Nechisar NP
- 123. **African Cuckoo**: 1 Nechisar NP, clearly seen.
- 124. Klaas's Cuckoo: 1 Nechisar NP
- 125. White-browed Coucal: fairly common Nechisar, 1 Awash NP
- 126. **Blue-headed Coucal**: 2 at Lake Awasa, Blue Nile Falls,
- 127. **Abyssinian Owl:** found during day in a tree and seen flying at night near Bale Lodge.
- 128. **African Wood Owl:** 1 bird called and showed up closely, just outside Bale NP Lodge.

- 129. **Greyish Eagle Owl:** 2 birds seen flying at Nechisar NP were probably this species.
- 130. **Slender-tailed Nightjar:** 12 at Nechisar NP in the headlights of our car. **Nightjar spec:** 2 at Lake Langano (Dusky?), few at Nechisar NP (Montane probably) from the car.
- 131. Horus Swift: few Lake Chekelaka
- 132. Mottled Swift: common Lake Awasa, Bale Mts
- 133. **Speckled Mousebird:** common
- 134. **Blue-eared Mousebird:** 5 birds near Andido.
- 135. **Narina Trogon**: a single female nicely seen on a low branch in Wondo. Later one more bird seen flying.
- 136. **Pied Kingfisher**: common
- 137. **Grey-headed Kingfisher:**
- 138. **Giant Kingfisher**: only one bird from the viewpoint road near Bahir Dar.
- 139. **Woodland Kingfisher:** seen on the grounds of Bekele Mola Hotel at Ziway, in Wondo, at Lake Awasa and Awash
- 140. **Half-collared Kingfisher**: 2 of this localised birds seen very well in Wondo, at a uphill river.
- 141. **Striped Kingfisher:** one Nechisar NP, common around Lake Tana, few Awash
- 142. **Malachite Kingfisher**: common
- 143. **African Pygmy Kingfisher**: one at Wondo.
- 144. Little Bee-eater: 1 Nechisar NP
- 145. Blue-breasted Bee-eater: first seen at D.Zevit. Common and widespread throughout.
- 146. **Madagaskar Bee-eater:** 12 at Awash NP
- 147. **Northern Carmine Bee-eater:** 10 at Awash NP, also from main road.
- 148. **Abyssinian Roller:** fairly common Awash NP
- 149. Lilac-breasted Roller: 2 Nechisar NP, 1 Awash NP
- 150. **Black-billed Wood-hoopoe:** fairly common Lake Langano
- 151. **Eurasian Hoopoe**: fairly common and widespread
- 152. **Abyssinian Scimitarbill:** 2 Nechisar NP
- 153. **Black Scimitarbill:** one on the way to Lake Ziway, 3 at Lake Langano
- 154. **Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill:** 2 birds at Awash NP
- 155. **Red-billed Hornbill:** some birds at Nechisar NP
- 156. Von der Decken's Hornbill: 2 at Nechisar NP
- 157. Hemprich's Hornbill: few birds at Lake Langano, near Lalibela and Bahir Dar
- 158. **African Grey Hornbill:** fairly common at Nechisar NP
- 159. **Silvery-cheeked Hornbill:** fairly common at Wondo (Hotel garden), Lake Awasa, Bahir Dar
- 160. **Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill:** 3 birds from the mainroad through Awash NP
- 161. **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird:** 4 at Wondo Genet, incl. the Hotel grounds, 1 along the viewpoint road near Bahir Dar
- 162. **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**: seen at Debre Zeyit, 1 Nechisar NP
- 163. Black-billed Barbet: seen at Debre Zeyit,
- 164. **Double-toothed Barbet:** 3 birds at Wondo, 1 at Nechisar NP, 3 B.Dar viewpoint
- 165. **Banded Barbet:** 3 at Wondo Genet, 1 at Lake Awasa
- 166. **Red- and- yellow Barbet:** 2 seen at Nechisar NP
- 167. **Greater Honeyguide:** 1 bird flying and contiously calling near a river at Nechisar NP
- 168. **Red-throated Wryneck:** 2 at Debre Zeyit, 3 at Awasa Woodlands
- 169. **Eurasian Wryneck:** 1 at Awasa Woodlands
- 170. **Nubian Woodpecker:** 1 at Wondo Genet, 1 at Lake Awasa, 1 Nechisar NP
- 171. **Bearded Woodpecker:** 1 at Nechisar NP
- 172. Cardinal Woodpecker: seen at Debre Zeyit,

- 173. **Abyssinian Woodpecker:** 3 easily found at Wondo
- 174. **Grey-headed Woodpecker:** 1 seen at Lake Langano, 3 at Wondo Genet
- 175. Flappet Lark: fairly common Nechisar NP
- 176. Singing Bush Lark: 2 seen at Nechisar NP, 1 near Andido, 1 Awash NP
- 177. Erlanger's Lark: few birds seen, mainly on the way to the Gaysey grasslands
- 178. **Greater Short-toed Lark:** about 20 seen near Andido village
- 179. **Desert Lark:** some birds near Andido village
- 180. Thekla Lark: common Bale Mts
- 181. Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark: 12 seen behind Lake Beseka and near Andido
- 182. **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark:** about 40 birds in total seen around Awash incl. NP and Andido village
- 183. **Rock Martin:** seen at Wondo Genet, Lalibela, Gonder, Lake Beseka
- 184. **Plain Martin**: fairly common, seen for. ex. Debre Zeyit, Lake Ziway, Bale, Awasa
- 185. Common House Martin: seen
- 186. **Mosque Swallow:** singles at Lake Ziway, Lake Tana
- 187. **Red-rumped Swallow:** some seen in and around Lalibela
- 188. **Barn Swallow:** common for ex. Bale Mts
- 189. **Red-chested Swallow:** common in places like Lake Chekelaka, Lake Ziway, Bale, Nechisar NP
- 190. Ethiopian Swallow: few times seen
- 191. Wire-tailed Swallow: some birds at Lake Awasa
- 192. Black Saw-wing (P. antinorii): common in the mountains around Wondo Genet
- 193. Yellow Wagtail: Lake Chekelaka, Lake Langano, Lake Awasa, Nechisar NP
- 194. African Pied Wagtail: few birds seen for ex. Awash
- 195. White Wagtail: few birds seen
- 196. **Mountain Wagtail:** seen at Wondo, Bale Mts.
- 197. Grey Wagtail: few birds seen
- 198. Abyssinian Longclaw: 4 in the Grasslands near Dinsho, Bale Mts
- 199. **Grassland Pipit:** few birds seen
- 200. Grey Cuckooshrike: 6 birds at Wondo Genet
- 201. **Common Bulbul:** fairly common and widespread
- 202. **Rüppell's Robin-Chat:** some at Debre Zeyit, fairly common at Wondo, 4 Bale, 2 viewpoint Bahir Dar
- 203. White browed Robin-Chat: 1 heard at Nechisar NP
- 204. **Common Redstart:** 1 found around Bahir Dar
- 205. White-browed Scrub Robin: 1 at Awash NP
- 206. **Stonechat:** some Bale Mts
- 207. Whinchat: quite common at Nechisar NP and Awash
- 208. **Red-breasted (Botta's) Wheatear:** 2 birds nicely seen on the way to the Gaysey Grassland
- 209. **Isabelline Wheatear:** some birds at Nechisar NP, quite common Awash
- 210. Northern Wheatear: common around Awash and Andido
- 211. **Pied Wheatear:** 1 seen behind Andido village
- 212. **Sombre Rock Chat:** 3 in the Lava Fields close to Lake Beseka
- 213. **Moorland Chat:** common Bale, some Lalibela
- 214. Blackstart: 8 birds seen at Awash NP and Lake Beseka
- 215. Mocking Cliff Chat: 2 birds at Lake Langano, some Lalibela
- 216. White-winged Cliff Chat: 5 seen at Debre Zeyit near around our Hotel, 1 at Wondo
- 217. **Rüppell's Black Chat:** 6 easily found around Lalibela
- 218. **Groundscraper Thrush:** common Bale Mts, 2 at Lalibela

- 219. **Little Rockthrush:** 2 at Debre Zeyit between our Hotel and Lake Bishuftu Guda, 2 at Lake Langano, 2 at Wondo Genet, 1 at Lalibela
- 220. Blue Rock Thrush: 1 near Andido
- 221. **Mountain Thrush:** common
- 222. **African Thrush:** common
- 223. **Abyssinian Ground Thrush:** 1 splended observation up the mountain in Wondo, 1 at Harenna Forest.
- 224. **Cinnamon Bracken Warbler:** 1 at the Bale Mts
- 225. **Lesser Swamp Warbler:** 1 bird in lakeside vegetation at Awasa
- 226. **Sedge Warbler:** 1 bird at Lake Awasa
- 227. **Dark-capped Yellow Warbler:** singles at Debre Zevit,
- 228. **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler:** seen once or twice
- 229. **Upcher's Warbler:** 1 bird at Awash NP near a river
- 230. **Grey-backed Camaroptera:** common
- 231. Green-backed Eremomela: 2 in the Hotel garden in Debre Zeyit, 2 at Awash NP
- 232. **Yellow-bellied Eremomela:** few birds seen
- 233. Northern Crombec: seen at Debre Zeyit,
- 234. **Red-faced Crombec:** 1 at Lake Langano, 1 Awash NP
- 235. **Buff-bellied Warbler:** seen at Debre Zeyit,
- 236. Willow Warbler: seen at Lake Awasa
- 237. **Common Chiffchaff**: seen at the Bale Mts
- 238. **Brown Woodland Warbler:** 1 found up the hill in Wondo Genet.
- 239. Barred Warbler: 1 seen at Awash NP
- 240. **Lesser Whitethroat:** few birds seen
- 241. **Common Whitethroat:** seen around Bahir Dar (view point)
- 242. **Blackcap:** common in some places like Debre Zeyit, Lake Langano and around Bahir Dar
- 243. **Banded Parisoma:** a single bird at Nechisar Np
- 244. **Zitting Cisticola:** few Nechisar NP
- 245. **Rattling Cisticola:** 1 in our Hotel grounds at Ziway, 2 at Lake Langano,
- 246. **Singing Cisticola:** 1 at Wondo Genet, 2 around Lalibela
- 247. **Ethiopian Cisticola:** birds seen at Gaysey Grasslands were probably this species
- 248. **Red-faced Cisticola:** 1 in lakeside vegetation at Awasa
- 249. **Ashy Cisticola:** 5 birds at Awash NP
- 250. Tawny-flanked Prinia: common
- 251. **Yellow-breasted Apalis:** 1 seen at Lake Awasa
- 252. Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher: fairly common in Wondo, 2 at Bale Mts
- 253. **Northern Black Flycatcher:** 2 seen in the Woodlands near our Hotel in Awasa, some around Bahir Dar
- 254. African Grey Flycatcher: fairly common for ex. at Debre Zeyit,
- 255. Pale Flycatcher: a single bird at Bahir Dar viewpoint road
- 256. African Dusky Flycatcher: seen at Debre Zeyit, Lake Langano, Wondo, Bale
- 257. **Spotted Flycatcher**: some at Lake Awasa, Nechisar NP and Arba Minch,
- 258. **Semi-collared Flycatcher:** 1 female in a huge garden along Lake Ziway 10min walk from Hippo Point. Asked for permission to enter this private residence because it looked promising.
- 259. African Paradise Flycatcher: common and widespread
- 260. **Grey-headed Batis:** 1 bird at Lake Langano, 1 Awash NP
- 261. **Black-headed Batis:** 1 near Hippo Point at Lake Ziway, a handful at Lake Awasa, 2 Arba Minch around our Hotel.
- 262. **Brown-throated Wattle-eye:** only 1 seen at Wondo Genet.

- 263. African Hill Babbler: good looks on 3 birds in Wondo Genet, 1 at Bale Mts
- 264. White-rumped Babbler: 6 seen in Wondo Genet, 4 at B. Dar view point
- 265. **Rufous Chatterer:** 3 at Lake Langano, some Lake Awasa, fc Nechisar NP
- 266. **Abyssinian Catbird:** 2 birds seen, at Harenna Forest and near our Lodge
- 267. White-winged Black Tit: seen at Debre Zeyit, 1 at Lake Langano,
- 268. White-backed Black Tit: 8 easily at Bale Mts., also found around our Lodge
- 269. **Spotted Creeper:** 3 birds found in Wondo Genet, 1 seen in the Awasa Woodlands close to our Hotel.
- 270. **Mouse-coloured Penduline-tit:** 2 at Nechisar NP
- 271. **Mountain White-eye:** common for ex. at Debre Zeyit, Wondo, Bale Mts, Lake Awasa
- 272. **Abyssinian White-eye:** fairly common for ex. at Lake Langano, Blue Nile Falls
- 273. **Tacazze Sunbird:** fairly common, for ex. Debre Zeyit, Lake Langano, Wondo, Bale
- 274. **Copper Sunbird:** few birds seen around Bahir Dar along the viewpoint road
- 275. **Scarlet-chested Sunbird:** some seen at Debre Zeyit, Lake Awasa
- 276. **Beautiful Sunbird:** a common sight in many places.
- 277. **Shining Sunbird:** some birds seen at Debre Zeyit, Lake Ziway,
- 278. Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird: some seen at Nechisar NP
- 279. Variable Sunbird: fairly common Debre Zeyit, Wondo Genet, Bale, Lalibela
- 280. Collared Sunbird: seen at Wondo Genet
- 281. **Common Fiscal**: seen Lake Ziway, Wondo, Bale Mts, Lalibela
- 282. **Somali Fiscal:** quite common around Awash
- 283. **Grey-backed Fiscal:** fairly common Arba Minch and Nechisar NP, also around Bahir Dar
- 284. **Isabelline Shrike:** some birds at Awash NP and Andido
- 285. Woodchat Shrike: some birds seen at Awash NP and around Andido
- 286. **Brubru:** 1 seen at the Hotel grounds in Arba Minch
- 287. **Slate-coloured Boubou:** few at Nechisar NP
- 288. **Ethiopian Boubou:** widespead and often seen in smaller numbers
- 289. Northern Puffback: fairly common
- 290. **Black-crowned Tchagra:** 1 at Debre Zeyit, 1 at Nechisar NP, 1 B.Dar (viewpoint)
- 291. **Rosy-patched Bush-shrike:** 1 seen at Awash NP
- 292. Northern White-crowned Shrike: 1 at Lake Langano, few Awash NP
- 293. Black-headed Oriole: some in Arba Minch and Nechisar NP
- 294. **Abyssinian Oriole**: fairly common at Wondo Genet, Bale Mts, 2 B. Dar (viewpoint)
- 295. **Fork-tailed Drongo:** 2 at Lake Langano, 1 Wondo Genet, few Lake Awasa, common Nechisa NP and Arba Minch
- 296. **Red-billed Chough:** 2 on Sanetti.Plateau
- 297. **Pied Crow:** common
- 298. **Dwarf Raven:** fairly common around Harar
- 299. Cape Rook: fairly common Bale Mts
- 300. Fan-tailed Raven: some Nechisar NP, Lalibela
- 301. Thick-billed Raven: 4 birds at Wondo. Quite common Bale Mts. And Lake Awasa
- 302. **Red-billed Oxpecker:** 4 seen Bale Mts., some Nechisar NP
- 303. **Red-winged Starling:** Debre Zeyit, Wondo, Bale,
- 304. **Slender-billed Starling:** 4 at Wondo Genet
- 305. White-billed Starling: 10 seen around Lalibela (way to monastary)
- 306. **Bristle-crowned Starling:** few birds seen around the Valley of Marvels near Babille/Harar
- 307. Lesser Blue-eared Starling: fairly common Lalibela and around Bahir Dar
- 308. **Greater Blue-eared Starling:** common

- 309. **Rüppell's Starling:** common Debre Zeyit, some at Lake Ziway, Lake Awasa, Awash
- 310. **Superb Starling:** seen Lake Langano, Awash
- 311. **Violet-backed Starling:**
- 312. **Swainson's Sparrow:** common
- 313. **Bush Petronia:** 4 birds in a bush on the path toward Blue Nile Falls
- 314. White-browed Sparrow-Weaver: common
- 315. **Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver:** 1 bird briefly seen at the viewpoint near Bahir Dar
- 316. White-headed Buffalo-Weaver: few seen at Lake Langano, common Awash
- 317. **Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver:** 4 birds at Nechisar NP
- 318. Village Weaver: common
- 319. Spectacled Weaver: some birds at Lake Awasa
- 320. **Rüppell's Weaver:** few birds seen at Debre Zeyit, Lake Langano,
- 321. Little Weaver: 5 along the waterfront at Lake Awasa
- 322. Baglafecht Weaver: common
- 323. Grosbeak Weaver: 3 at Lake Awasa
- 324. **Red-billed Quelea:** few birds seen near our lodge in Debre Zeyit
- 325. **Red-headed Weaver:** fairly common at Arba Minch and Nechisar NP
- 326. **Yellow-crowned Bishop**: fairly common at Debre Zeyit,
- 327. **Black-winged Red Bishop:** some Bahir Dar (viewpoint road)
- 328. Northern Red (Orange) Bishop: 2 birds seen atbDebre Zeyit behind our Hotel,
- 329. **Yellow Bishop:** common Bale, also seen around Lalibela
- 330. **Yellow-mantled Widowbird:** common around Bahir Dar
- 331. Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu: common
- 332. **Red-billed Firefinch:** common
- 333. **Common Waxbill:** fairly common Bale Mts.
- 334. **Yellow-bellied Waxbill:** 5 at Bale Mts.
- 335. **African Silverbill:** few birds seen
- 336. **Bronze Mannikin**: some seen at Debre Zeyit, 2 at Wondo, few Lake Awasa, B. Dar
- 337. Black- and- white Mannikin: 2 seen at Wondo Genet
- 338. **Cut-throat Finch:** 2 seen around Andido
- 339. **Eastern Paradise Whydah:** seen around Dinsho
- 340. **Pin-tailed Whydah:** 2 at Wondo Genet, 2 at Awash
- 341. Village Indigobird: some around Lalibela, common around Bahir Dar
- 342. White-bellied Canary: seen at Nechisar NP
- 343. **Yellow-crowned Canary:** a handful of those birds seen at Bale, fairly common Lalibela
- 344. **African Citril:** 4 at Lake Ziway, fairly common Wondo, Bale Mts, Lake Awasa, around Bahir Dar
- 345. **Black-headed Siskin:** common at the Bale Mts
- 346. **White-throated Seedeater:** 4 birds found between Tis Isat village and the Blue Nile Falls on dry grass/grain. Excellent looks!
- 347. **Brown-rumped Seedeater:** seen at Bale Mts, common Lalibela
- 348. **Streaky Seedeater:** fairly common
- 349. **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting:** few birds seen in Nechisar NP, 2 at Lalibela
- 350. Striolated Bunting: few birds behind Lake Beseka
- 351. **Somali Bunting:** 1 around Andido

#### **Mammals:**

Guereza Colobus (Colobus guereza) - Wondo Genet, Bale NP, Nechisar

Sacred Baboon (Papio hamadryas) - Awash NP
Olive Baboon (Papio anubis) - Nechisar NP
Gelada Baboon (Theropithecus gelada) - Wondo Genet

Grivet Monkey (Cercopithecus aethiops) - Wondo Genet, Nechisar,

Bale Monkey (Cercopithecus djamdjamensis) - Harenna Forest
Starck`s Hare (Cepus starcki) - Sanetti-Plateau
Striped Ground Squirrel (Xerus erythropus) - Nechisar NP
Unstriped Ground Squirrel (Xerus rutilus) - Wondo Genet
Big-headed Mole Rat (Tachyoryctes macrocephalus) Sanetti-Plateau
Ethiopian Wolf (Canis simensis) - Sanetti-Plateau

Spotted Hyaena (Crocuta crocuta) - Harar Black-backed Jackel (Canis mesomelas) - Awash NP Ethiopian Rock Hyrax (Procavia habessinica) - Bale NP

Grevy's Zebra (Equus grevyi) - Nechisar NP. Awash NP

Hippopotamus (Hippopotamus amphibius) - Nechisar NP

Common Warthog (Phacochoerus aethiopicus) - Bale NP, Nechisar NP, Awash NP

Mountain Reedbuck (Redunca vulvorufula) Bale NP Menelik's Bushbuck (Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki) Bale NP Lesser Kudu (Tragelaphus imberbis) Awash NP Greater Kudu (Tragelaphus strepsiceros) Nechisar NP Mountain Nyala (Tragelaphus buxtoni) Bale NP Salt`s Dikdik (Madoqua saltiana) Awash NP Guenther's Dikdik (Madoqua guentheri) Nechisar NP Grant's Gazelle (Gazella Granti) Nechisar NP Soemmering's Gazelle (Gazella soemmeringi) Awash NP Gerenuk (Litocranius walleri) Awash NP Beisa Oryx (Oryx beisa) Awash NP

Ralf Jahraus ralf.jahraus@gmx.de