

Tour Report Ethiopia Wildlife Highlights 21 March – 2 April 2026

Ethiopian wolf



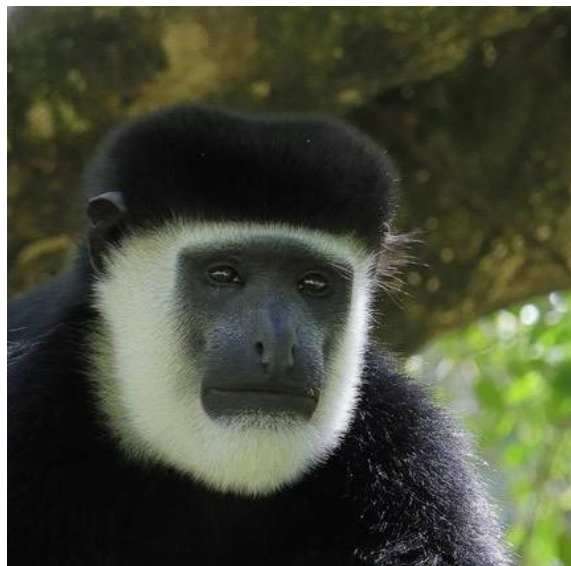
Serval



Black-winged lovebird



Guereza colobus



Compiled by Robert Mileto

Tour participants: Rob Mileto (UK leader and guide), Abel Belay (Ethiopian leader and guide), ChuChu Beyene, Temesgen Abebe, Zewdu Gezahagn (Ethiopian driver/guides) and seven guests

Friday 20 & Saturday 21 March 2026

Day 1:

London Gatwick to Addis Ababa Bole International Airport

Six of eight met up in departures, or on the aircraft, for our overnight flight to Addis Ababa, capital of the extraordinary country that is Ethiopia.

We arrived around 06:15 local time, but our bodies still thought it was 03:15 in the morning. Immigration was swift, but checking of optics took a little while. Soonish, though, we were out and saying hello to Mohammed, our guide for the day. We climbed aboard our minibus and made our way through the already busy streets of Addis.

The Getfam hotel was only ten minutes away and offered a comfortable bed for a few hours before we all met up at noon. This included the final two guests who had arrived a day earlier and off we all went to lunch.

The Union was the lunch venue and from the balcony we saw our first Ethiopian bird of the trip, the ubiquitous pied crow. A nearby tree held our first baglafaecht weaver. In the air above the city skyline floated yellow-billed kites and a couple of hooded vultures. One brave soul ordered injera, one of the staple carbohydrates of the country made from fermented tef (an ancient grain) flour. He was happy for us to all try some... let's call it an acquired taste!

From here we went to the National Museum of Ethiopia, which holds both paleontological and cultural relics. Our guide spent most of the hour we were there talking about Lucy. Lucy is one of the most significant paleoanthropological discoveries in history. Found in Ethiopia in 1974, these 3.2-million-year-old fossilised remains of an *Australopithecus afarensis* provided crucial evidence that bipedalism evolved well before large brain sizes in our ancestors. We also had a little time to scan over the cultural relics and hear stories of secret societies and the Ark of the Covenant.

From there, it was a short hop to the landscaped grounds of the University. Here the birds are used to the passage of human students walking to and from lectures so we got pretty close up and personal to Abyssinian thrush (our first endemic), Abyssinian slaty flycatchers (our second endemic... I'll stop now though or it will become tedious!), Swainson's sparrows, brown-rumped and streaky seedeaters.

A brown parisoma hunted for insects whilst many gloriously iridescent Tacazze sunbirds flitted from bottlebrush flower to bottlebush flower, drinking nectar as they went. Nearby, a wattled ibis probed the ground for juicy morsels, as a dusky turtle dove watched on from the top of a lamppost.

It had been a long day for most, so we dragged ourselves away and back to the hotel with time to spare before the checklist at around 18:30 and dinner at around 19:00, complete with Dr Mekbib Eshetu as a guest speaker, making for interesting discussions about all things environment, culture and conservation in Ethiopia.

Sunday 22 March 2026

Day 2:

Menagesha Forest

Breakfast was at 06:00 in time for a 06:30ish departure in order to miss the worst of the Addis traffic.

This holiday was always going to be a bit of an adventure but we hadn't really realised that part of that adventure was the city driving! As one guest said, there is one rule of the road, which is that there are no

rules! Having said that, we never felt unsafe, just a little surprised how nobody seemed to bump into each other! The cityscape gave us glimpses of marabou and white stork and even an Egyptian goose on a small block of flats!

Once we were out into the agricultural areas, mountain and augur buzzard put in a welcome appearance. An unexpected minor vehicle issue gave us a chance to have a little stroll, along with what seemed to be half the village residents. The nearby bushes contained dinky blue-cheeked cordonbleu, yellow-bellied waxbill and Abyssinian white-eye, whilst in the taller trees foraged a gorgeous African paradise flycatcher.

Vehicle sorted, we entered the Menagesha Forest. Mohammed expertly spotted a Menilik's bushbuck which sadly slunk off quite quickly into the undergrowth. It had been raining and the gravel and earth road was very slippery. We almost, but not quite made it all the way to the park offices in the minibus. However, the few hundred-metre walk proved serendipitous when guereza colobus were spotted in trees. These black and white beauties of monkeys gave us some excellent views, especially through Rob's scope.

At the park offices, we were invited to a coffee ceremony in a tiny cafe. Having coffee is an important social and cultural event in Ethiopia and this was freshly brewed on a charcoal stove and served in tiny China cups (locally called sini or fnjals), together with some frankincense to add to the aroma. From there we took a short walk along the track and got some good views of the endemic Ethiopian oriole as well as another colobus.

We enjoyed a packed lunch back at the headquarters along with tea flavoured with cinnamon and cloves - yummy! Thick-billed ravens lurked nearby, ready to snatch any remains we left behind or unguarded and broadly green-striped swallowtail butterflies flitted amongst the nearby flowers. A singing Abyssinian catbird put in a brief appearance but many were distracted by yet more colobus nearby and a fleeting but excellent view of a perched melanistic African goshawk.

Local intel reported that the road to the Gerefersa reservoir, which we had planned to visit next, was impassable. Hence, instead, we took a slow walk down the track we had driven up. A white-cheeked turaco was perfectly perched, but unfortunately against the light, so it was hard to pick up the colour of this splendid bird. Guess what, another colobus sat prominently on a tree probably giving us our best view so far. At least three Menilik's bushbuck dashed across the track but sadly did not linger. Not so the Ethiopian orioles, dusky turtle doves, white-backed black tits and Abyssinian woodpecker that were all busy feeding in one fruiting tree.

Time to hop back in the van and set off towards the hotel. We did not get very far before we were surrounded by olive baboons. They were happy to let us watch their feeding, playing, grooming and riding on or under mum's antics from just a few tens of metres. Shortly after, a family of warthogs were seen grazing, mum and dad both sporting fine 'moustaches' with four safely guarded wartlets nearby. A mini stop on the edge of the forest yielded brown parisona, red billed quelea and fly over by an African hawk eagle, very closely followed by an augur buzzard.

Augur buzzard



We were back at the hotel for 17:30 with checklists and dinner from 18:30.

Monday 23 March 2026

Day 3:

Addis to Chebera-Churchura National Park, via Jimma.

Another 06:00 breakfast was in order to meet a 06:30 departure to the domestic terminal. Accompanying us there and for essentially the rest of the trip was Abel, our local leader, wildlife guide, and, as we were to discover, quite the 'fixer', sorting everything from hot water to local currency and much in between.

It was a smooth 45-minute flight to Jimma. Here we met two of our driver/guides, ChuChu and Zewdu, along with a temporary driver in a temporary pickup whilst 'our' 4x4 was fixed. It was then a short transfer to a local hotel to have coffee, order packed lunches and get optics ready. Into the bargain, the hotel grounds held hawking yellow-billed kite, an olivaceous warbler and an African paradise flycatcher, including its dinky little cup nest.

In an area of wetland on the outskirts of Jimma, a perched hadada ibis signposted a birding stop. To begin with, we had an excellent comparison between great and yellow-billed egrets feeding near each other. Meanwhile, a pool shoreline was dotted with yellow-billed ducks, moorhens and an elegant purple heron. Shortly after, this heron was inexplicably mobbed by a passing western marsh harrier! A small flock of glossy ibis circled the marshes and a squacco heron was spotted 'hiding' in some dense vegetation.

A distant tree harboured a perched woodland kingfisher, which helpfully came even closer to give full frame scope views, and with that we hit the road. En route, we enjoyed flying Abyssinian ground hornbills and a perched northern black flycatcher.

Lunch was at a scenic spot overlooking rolling green hills. As if from nowhere, a table and chairs arrived and we were soon tucking in to salads, pizza, sandwiches and wraps whilst the scope was trained on white-backed vultures at the nest. Other birds that joined us for lunch were white-rumped babblers, African citril and a perched but rather distant silvery-cheeked hornbill. Lunch leftovers were left to the mini crowd of locals that had gathered to watch our antics.

African citril



Off we went on bumpy roads, stopping briefly to scope what turned out to be a crowned hornbill. Later, a leg stretch stop afforded good views of village weavers, fork-tailed drongo, black-crowned tchagra and a cracking black-billed barbet, whose name grossly overlooks its bright red head. A bridge over a large river has us looking down on a myriad of little swifts and a pair of pied kingfishers, hovering regularly as they quartered the river's edge.

We arrived at our rustic lodge a touch before 18:00 and enjoyed a delicious buffet, fireflies and the checklist from 19:00ish.

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Day 4:

Chebera-Churchura National Park

It was a 06:30 departure straight out into the park... and pretty much straight into a flock of helmeted guineafowl and a lone woolly-necked stork, prowling through the long grass, looking for breakfast. A little further on, an African fish eagle perched regally on top of a tall leafless palm trunk.

At a particular spot, the roadside looked out over a large grassy and marshy floodplain. This was dotted with African buffalo and occasional waterbuck and warthog. In the pools, African spoonbill waved their bills

to and fro in the water, whilst white-faced whistling ducks loafed or ducked their heads under for a snack. A black-headed heron stood stoically waiting for food to come to it and hadada ibis noisily arrived to join in the feeding action.

We could hear black crakes wheezing and bubbling in the long waterside grass, but they played hard to get. Eventually we teased them out with a few calls and everybody enjoyed their rather comical yellow bills and scarlet legs.

As we further surveyed the vista in front of us, elephants were spotted on a distant hillside. It was hard to make them out with the naked eye, better with binoculars and more than decent scope views were available. Soon afterwards, a pair of smart silvery-cheeked hornbills landed on a nearby tree and an African harrier hawk also chose to perch on another tree top.

We drove slowly back and stopped at some dark birds at the top of a nearby tree - double-toothed barbets! What a treat! As we scanned around, another branch held a striped kingfisher and just to polish off a trio of choice birds, a black cuckooshrike chased insects amongst grasses, flashing its orange shoulder plumage nicely.

Back at camp, some of us were walking up the hill to the restaurant for breakfast when we stumbled across a small gang of Stuhlmann's starling. This slim black starling is found in many parts of Africa but is restricted to this small part of Ethiopia, so we did well to see it.

At the restaurant kitchen hooded vultures, yellow-billed kites, thick-billed and fan-tailed ravens all waited for scraps to be put out.

At 10:30, we took a little walk in and around the camp. A pair of lesser-striped swallows perched helpfully on top of a leafless tree and a pale flycatcher was equally accommodating. Speckled mousebirds initially played hide and seek but eventually came out on show. Similarly, it took a little while for all to find the violet-backed starlings and yellow-fronted tinker birds amongst the large fig leaves.

Down a grassy track, a particular tree appeared very attractive to several yellow-billed eremomela that leapt from topmost branches to catch flies. A nearby copper sunbird shining purple/green in the sunshine looked on as if entertained. From the same tree, an Eastern black-headed batis was coaxed out with a little burst of song,

It was warming up and a dozen or so hooded vultures had found a thermal and were 'kettling' in a broad helix. Amongst them was a smaller brown bird of prey which turned out to be a Wahlberg's eagle. As we returned to camp we added grosbeak weaver to the list.

We had another lovely lunch and then a short siesta in the heat of the afternoon. At 15:30, we headed out into the wilds and soon found white-throated, little and Ethiopian bee-eaters all hawking for insects. One little bee-eater, beakful of butterfly, landed nervously nearby us before flying off and returning. We waited quietly and patiently and it finally plucked up the courage to enter its nest hole in a meter-high bank at the roadside. Meanwhile a bateleur circled overhead.

At the grassy/marshy area three gorgeous black crowned cranes elegantly strolled along the water's edge. Elsewhere, shaggy Defassa waterbuck grazed as a purple heron glided in over them. The park scout we had with us thought he saw a giant forest hog. We looked hard, including driving to a nearer spot and going off piste, but sadly no joy. We returned to the grassy/marshy area and were pleased to find hippos in one of the pools along with better views of the black-crowned cranes.

All the chasing around after hogs meant we were a touch later than expected. However, that did have the added advantage of what was effectively a night drive back to the lodge. That yielded a gorgeous montane nightjar that we managed to approach closely enough to fully admire its exquisitely camouflaged plumage.

As dinner was later than expected, we skipped the checklist for the night and did a double checklist the next night.

Wednesday 25 March 2026

Day 5:

Chebera-Churchura National Park

After a night of thunderstorms, some of us attempted an early morning bird walk, but rain stopped play before we had even started! We did manage to sneak in a quick 10-minute twitch and were rewarded with good views of silvery-cheeked hornbills and a buzzing grey-backed camaroptera.

Breakfast was as delicious as always and then it was off out... Well almost!... Before we even set off, a few banded barbets were seen in a nearby tree. We headed in a different direction to all previous outings and found ourselves on a ridge overlooking the 1250km sq national park. We tried hard to find an elephant but only found a Western yellow wagtail! A little further on, a perched long-crested eagle was rather more interesting than the wagtail.

We discovered the track we had taken also led to the grassy/marshy area and from the lookout we could see buffalo but little else this morning. Hence, we pressed on to an area of riverine forest punctuated by huge fig trees. Here, red chested cuckoo regularly called out "it will rain, it will rain" but luckily, it proved to be mistaken!

Perhaps unsurprisingly, given the number of fruiting figs, we did well for starlings, with lesser blue-eared, Stuhlmann's and splendid all seen by some. A perched grey-headed kingfisher was a treat as were weaving village weavers. However, the bird of the day probably goes to the massive Verreaux's eagle-owl that stared down at us from up high, occasionally blinking to give us great views of its pink eyelids!

We were really hoping for the shy De Brazza monkeys to make an appearance, but it was not to be, so we had to 'make do' with glorious white-throated bee-eaters, a cracking male red-headed weaver at the nest and all topped off with a very smart grey cuckooshrike, rounding off the morning nicely.

Lunch and coffee was followed by excellent views of a splendid African pigmy kingfisher that came and perched nearby for those who had not gone for a siesta. It was around this time that Teme, our final driver/guide arrived in the newly repaired 4x4.

The afternoon sojourn started with a pair of smart Northern black flycatchers just a metre or so from our vans. A little later on, we had a choice of two buzzards, one on each side of the track; to the right was an augur buzzard and to the left was a common buzzard, guess which most people chose?!

The same leafless palm trunk top sported what we were beginning to suspect was a stuffed African fish eagle, given it had been in the same place for the last three days!

Our destination was a suspension bridge overlooking quite a dramatic waterfall (given the thunderstorms). On the bridge pillar was another gorgeous African pygmy kingfisher. The bridge itself was over a gorge and the humidity meant the trees were dripping in ferns, bromeliads and hanging strings of moss. A platform on the other side gave a panoramic view out over the national park.

Off we went back towards camp and straight into our second long-crested eagle of the day! We had a final look for De Brazza monkey but it was not to be. We did though, see some lovely African green pigeons and a pair of grey-headed kingfishers. Oh, and perhaps we got a little too close for comfort to some hippos in the river.

Thursday 26 March 2026

Day 6:

Chebera-Churchura National Park to Halala Kella Lodge (via the Dawro region).

We had a pre-breakfast walk and the air was alive with swallows. This meant many settled on a nearby leafless tree and we could get good views of them in the scope. The problem was trying to explain which species was which when they were all shuffled together on the branches. Slowly but surely, distinctive features were described and we managed to separate barn from wire-tailed and wire-tailed from Ethiopian giving us three new species for the trip list.

It amazed everyone what brilliant breakfasts and dinners the cook and her assistants managed to produce from the simple kitchen. We said a hearty goodbye to her and all the staff at the lodge and headed off out of the park. We had time for a little stop to watch both colobus monkeys in the tree tops and yet another swallow, this one lesser striped, collecting mud for nesting.

About an hour and a half into our journey, a puncture forced a stop on a mountainside. It seems it was in a fortuitous location given we almost immediately found olive baboon and more colobus monkeys. Into the bargain, at least half a dozen white-cheeked turacos raced around nearby trees (as they do) affording not only excellent views of their smart green 'running' plumage, but also the surprise blue and red flashy wing plumage when they flew. Some red-winged starlings helpfully perched in a leafless tree and although distant there were reasonably good scope views. Before long, the wheel was changed and off we went.

In the next town, the puncture was best fixed to ensure we had a spare wheel. This appeared to provide the entertainment for the week for the town's people. They thronged around us, eager to communicate if only with a few words, faces full of smiles. They were clearly curious about these strange people adorned with binoculars and cameras.

Puncture fixed, we headed off for an hour or so before stopping for a loo and leg stretch stop in a wonderfully scenic spot. This also provided an opportunity for some decent birding. On one side of a little promontory swooped Ethiopian bee-eaters, whilst yellow-fronted canaries and African citril fed in the short grassland. On the other side of the promontory there were even more species. A scarlet-chested sunbird perched in a tree, whilst the seed eaters in the grass here included bronze manikins and pin-tailed whydahs, as well as more yellow-fronted canaries. The same 'sunbird' tree revealed it also held double-toothed barbets and a superb male violet-backed starling. positively glittering purple in the sunshine. Meanwhile, back in the grass, a black-crowned tchagra had caught a juicy insect and was busily devouring it. Time was ticking on and we hit the road again.

Lunch was al fresco, prepared and packed by the lodge. We drew a few more onlookers, not surprising really given we must have looked so incongruous sitting at a picnic table covered in a pure white cloth on picnic stools, drinking tea and eating pizza!

Grivet monkeys at the side of the road provided a short but entertaining stop, but otherwise we pressed on to get to Halala Kella Lodge in time to enjoy a cold beer with the sunset. This lodge is named after the Halala stone wall built by King Kawo Halala between 1782 and 1822 to protect the Dawro people and land and the bar looks out over a section of it.

Friday 27 March 2026

Day 7:

Halala Kella Lodge to Sodo

Breakfast was at 07.30 and we watched the rain pitter-patter on the restaurant patio. Hence the post-breakfast bird walk was cancelled.

Having said that, as we loaded the luggage, ChuChu managed to reverse into a flower bed and get the vehicle stuck! So some ventured off for a short walk and found an African grey hornbill and a wonderfully iridescent

lesser blue-eared starling.

Having freed the stranded vehicle, off we went... the whole of 200 metres. An area of crops, bushes and trees near the hotel gates was thrumming with birdlife. First up, yellow-fronted canaries were taking seed from the short grassland. These were soon eclipsed by cracking orange-breasted bushshrike in a nearby bush (where else?!). We chased after some unidentified brown jobs, but only found a calling vinaceous dove. Bruce's green pigeon also gave away its location by its call, and nearby, the bright scarlet breast of double-toothed barbet was hard to miss! A flitting dark sunbird finally perched and glowed green and purple in the emerging sunshine - marico sunbird, what a treat! Finally, we dragged ourselves back to the vans but the birding was not over. Bouncing in the short grass was a red-cheeked cordonbleu and a brownish bird in a nearby bush turned out to be a female greater honeyguide.

A few kilometres on we had a roadside stop to enjoy an Eastern plantain eater at the top of a bush. You can rarely stop in Ethiopia and just see one species, so naturally, nearby we also found Eastern black-headed batis and African paradise flycatcher.

A biscuit, loo and leg stretch stop yielded a low flyover by bateleur. A bridge sported a kestrel and red-winged starlings. These stops meant we were a little behind schedule, so Abel bought some fresh mangoes and pineapples from roadside sellers. We then stopped at a small village 'café' to prepare and enjoy these. I think the local children enjoyed our visit as much as we did the fresh fruit. Ever curious about these fair-skinned visitors, some of the group engaged in conversations ranging from football to employment. We had one further stop to twitch an Abdim's stork in a field before arriving at our hotel in Sodo and engaging with a late but enormous lunch.

After lunch, we headed out to visit a very grand local orthodox church, but were side-lined into a museum visit that took longer than expected, so we had to unfortunately forgo the church because a service had started by the time we had finished at the museum. The museum itself housed various religious relics such as cloaks and other ceremonial wear worn by previous religious leaders. We also saw tomes written on goat skin (vellum) that were the life stories of various saints (ie: hagiographies) and heard how the orthodoxy believes the oldest and most complete bible originated in Ethiopia. It contains 81 books, significantly more than the 66 books in the King James Version. Originally written in Ge'ez, it includes unique texts like Enoch, Jubilees, and Maccabees.

There was a fuel shortage, so the vans that had gone to get fuel had yet to return. Hence, we made the short journey back to the hotel in four tuk-tuks - basically a small motorised three-wheeled tin shed! The checklist was at 19:00 followed by dinner.

Saturday 28 March 2026

Day 8:

Maze National Park to Argash Lodge, near Yirga Alem

We had an early breakfast in order to enjoy as much time as feasible in Maze National Park.

The short grass plains not far from Sodo were dotted with African sacred ibis, black and Abdim's storks. The front of our three 4x4s managed to spot a common duiker, but it had dashed off by the time the second and third 4x4 arrived.

A roadside stop quickly produced crested francolin, speckled pigeon, white-browed sparrow weaver, bare-faced go-away-bird, Ruppell's starling and a glorious grey-backed fiscal. A second roadside stop in a cutting just after a bridge was primarily for seeking out mocking cliff-chat. This little beauty we quickly found but we also managed to pick up cinnamon-breasted bunting, laughing dove and white-browed coucals getting up to a bit of nooky.

At the park office, a beautiful sunbird shimmered metallic green in the sunshine. The tops of some bushes

held Eastern plantain eaters and a grey-headed bushshrike showed itself far too briefly, so we had to make do with a less shy singing cisticola.

Once in the park, we quickly found many Swayne's hartebeest. This critically endangered subspecies of hartebeest antelope is endemic to the grasslands of Ethiopia. There was also a single greater kudu mixed in with them. An African wattled lapwing made a massive, noisy fuss of our passing, but this did not spook the Lichtenstein sandgrouse that snuck off the track in front of us, nor the yellow-throated spurfowl that dashed across it.

Defassa waterbuck watched us pass by as we watched a Eurasian hoopoe perch in a nearby tree. Diminutive oribi antelope would stare at us for a short while before dashing off into the long grass. Soon it was time for tea, biscuits and sweet local bananas under a shady tree with European bee-eaters gliding and calling overhead. Fed and watered, it was time to head back in the direction of Sodo again, but not before we had a curious black-bellied bustard come and check us out! Before we left the park, there were many more hartebeest and oribi to enjoy. We stopped briefly at the park offices to drop off a scout, finish paperwork and spot a rufous chatterer.

The hotel in Sodo was bustling with students from today's graduation ceremony. However, we had pre-ordered lunch in advance and it arrived promptly.

Post lunch we hit the road. About halfway into our three-hour journey we stopped at a scenic spot overlooking grassland with scattered short bushes. Here we quickly found several dashing red and yellow barbets. Nearby, the bushes held black-winged lovebirds. Perched on a prominent rock was an isabelline wheatear. As we scanned the bushes from a viewpoint, we also found: little rock thrush, white-browed scrub robin, Hemprich's hornbill and two endemics, the smart Abyssinian wheatear and Ruppell's black chat.

Some ten minutes from our destination, Argash Lodge, Abel spotted a third endemic in a tree, a yellow-fronted parrot. We arrived at the lodge not long before dark and were immediately treated to both a banana and a papaya smoothie and the feeding of a local hyena clan. That clan has been habituated to the banging of a bucket announcing that food is on offer. As soon as it was placed just a few meters from us, five of these perhaps less than handsome carnivores rushed into grab mouthfuls, whilst also regularly peering up to ensure we were not a threat.

Spotted hyena



The checklist was at 19:00, followed by a dinner of epic portions.

Sunday 29 March 2026

Day 9:

Lake Awassa and Argash Lodge

We were in no great hurry this morning so we had a rather leisurely breakfast from 07:30. Watching us longingly through the windows were a troop of grivet monkeys.

Packed and ready to leave, we were waylaid by a beautiful Bruce's green pigeon perched in a nearby tree. Pigeon in the bag, we headed up the rift valley to Lake Awassa. This rift valley lake of around 129 sq km is teeming with bird life and we stepped off the bus straight into it. We headed for the little lakeside Amora Gedel park, next to the famous fish market. The air and treetops held many rather macabre-looking marabout storks and the trees and grassland were a hive of activity. Wattled ibis stalked the grasslands, whilst the likes of blue-naped mousebird, African citril and double-toothed barbets feasted on juicy figs.

Along with the water's edge, there were African jacanas pattering about on elongated toes and we woke a young spur-winged goose from its slumber, although it didn't seem particularly perturbed. A gorgeous malachite kingfisher perched on a bulrush leaf, hoping for a meal to pass beneath and black crakes rushed from one patch of thick vegetation to another. A Nile monitor emerged from the lake waters, its beady eyes unblinkingly staring at us.

Out on the open water, a great white pelican cruised and a little vegetated island held great cormorants and spur-winged lapwings. As we strolled, there was a good variety of birds to be spotted flitting amongst the trees. These included striped kingfisher, banded barbet and both Nubian and Eastern grey woodpeckers.

We walked on and found some guereza colobus lazing at eye height. They were so used to people being around that they allowed a close approach. Then we looked down and found a diminutive but glorious red-cheeked cordonbleu literally at our feet.

Red-cheeked cordonbleu



A nearby fig tree held a hole that could clearly be seen to have been partly sealed with mud. This was the nest hole of a silvery-cheeked hornbill. Whilst the adults collected food, the chicks inside the hole were safer from predators than in an unsealed hole. Through the scope or binoculars, you could just about see the movement of the chicks within it.

It was time to wander slowly back but we still had time to enjoy black-winged lovebirds feeding on figs.

We then drove a short distance to a makeshift dock where we boarded a boat and headed out onto the lake. Rafts of vegetation supported many red-knobbed coots and a scattering of great and little egrets. We flushed a common greenshank which flew a short distance to where the egrets were. Out in the open water a pink-backed pelican bobbed along and so did grey-headed gulls. Gull-billed, whiskered, and white-winged terns all patrolled up and down looking for tasty morsels.

We then reached a bay where about half a dozen hippos were lazing, one with its head resting on another's back. On the bay shore and dead trees nearby loafed great and reed cormorant, hamerkops, African fish eagles and a single glossy ibis. Overhead, a small squadron of purple herons flew. From here, we slowly returned along the lakeshore picking up such beauties as African darter, black heron, wood sandpiper and dashing garganeys in full breeding plumage.

We were dropped off at the quay of the Haile Resort Hotel, where we were to have lunch. However, it was slow progress to the dining room because the quay side rocks held two feeding malachite kingfishers affording excellent photo opportunities. As we climbed the steps to the hotel, the flowers were being used

as nectar sites for both scarlet-chested and beautiful sunbirds.

We 'shared' a lovely lunch with a common bulbul that had managed to find its way into the restaurant. Lunch done, we headed outside to find the vehicles. Perched on one of the hotel balconies was a red-winged starling, clearly treating it as a surrogate for its usual cliff habitat.

Once back, we had a little time to ourselves before a 'coffee ceremony' with a hyena feeding twist. Firstly, the green coffee beans, which had already been de-husked, were washed to remove dirt and any husk remnants. They were then roasted on a charcoal fire using a special ceramic pan. Throughout, they are stirred with a flat bent stick to prevent burning. It was during this roasting process that a goat hide was brought out and tied to a tree and unidentifiable scraps were placed on the ground whilst the bucket they were in was beaten. On cue, three hyenas appeared from the forest. They were skittish, perhaps because they had a larger crowd of onlookers today? Whatever the reason, they would not approach the food or the hide. So instead, we had a good look at an endemic Ethiopian oriole singing in a nearby tree. By now the coffee was roasted and each of us wafted some of the smoke emanating from the pan to our nose to ensure it smelled ready. At this point a second hyena feeding for newly arrived guests happened. This time, the hyenas were bolder and took the food. Throughout, frankincense was burnt apparently because traditional huts are/were made of dung and this was the natural air freshener.

Once ready, the coffee was served with popcorn, the modern alternative to the traditional roasted barley. It was then the usual checklist and dinner.

Monday 30 March 2026

Day 10:

Argash Lodge to Robe via the Gaysay Grasslands

We had a final breakfast at Argash at 07:30 and said fond farewells to the lovely staff there around 08:00. Not long later came the worrying news that our destination, the Bale Mountains, had no fuel available, thanks to the US and Israeli conflict with Iran (in March 2026). We therefore had no choice but to find fuel in Hawassa.

Given that we had seen 500 metre long queues for fuel the previous day, this could have been problematic. Thankfully, though, we had a 'VIP pass' since the government had decreed tourism as a priority recipient. Even so, we all had to visit the local government official to expedite the process. He very helpfully rang all the local fuel station owners to see which, if any, had fuel. We struck lucky on the third call and arrangements were made. Perhaps unsurprisingly, even given this, we had to negotiate with senior police officials and the station owner to allow us access. Thankfully, it did not appear to cause any bad feeling amongst the waiting queues. I for one though felt acutely uncomfortable at jumping to the front of the queue.

This all took quite some time, so there was no way we would get to our destination in time for even a late lunch. Therefore, plan B was to visit the hotel we had enjoyed lunch at the previous day, order a packed lunch, grab some coffee and depart as soon as the packed lunches were ready. Plan B worked and before too long we were on the road to Robe, near the Bale mountains. We had a late lunch on a lane off the main road. It was in a relatively intensively farmed arable area, so lunchtime bird life was limited to Swainson's sparrows, cape crows, a fly past by a white-backed vulture and, rather bizarrely, a chiffchaff.

As we climbed into the more mountainous area, the temperature became chilly and trees gave way to short rocky grassland with bushes. Small flocks of white-collared pigeons appeared and a single African stonechat perched stoically in the breeze. When we reached the edge of the Gaysay grasslands, a small pool held Rouget's rail, as well as red-knobbed coots and a scattering of yellow-crowned bishops. The grasslands themselves were dotted with bohor reedbuck, common warthogs and the impossibly elegant mountain nyala. Abel spotted a serval, but despite trying hard we sadly failed to re-find it. We did though see a ghost-like pallid harrier quartering the grasslands as we searched for it.

Eventually we moved on, and bumped into an Ethiopian thrush. This long-legged short-tailed thrush has been relatively recently split from the similar groundscraper thrush and so is now an endemic to the Horn of Africa. Some saw a common duiker disappearing into the bushes. A little later, on the edge of a village, a stunning male mountain nyala stood watching us from just at the roadside.

We arrived at our town hotel at dusk, followed by the checklist and dinner as usual.

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Day 11:

The Sanetti Plateau

We had a rather comical breakfast at 08:00 with random hot water, coffee, tea and cups arriving individually as the hotel apparently had no tea/coffee pots! The concept of toast also appeared to be new to them and a 'plain' scrambled egg was here, apparently one without chillies but with onion and tomato. It was fine though - it all added to the adventurous nature of the holiday.

At around 08:30 we set off for the Sanetti plateau. This is the highest part of the Bale Mountains, and is located within Bale Mountains National Park. As we gained altitude, the vegetation changed from low intensity agriculture, through forestry, to tall heathers and finally Afroalpine vegetation, including *Helichrysum* shrublands, tussock grasslands and groves of the giant lobelia *Lobelia rhynchopetalum*. This final habitat was the main home of the Ethiopian wolf which was our target species for the day.

First though, we hopped out to enjoy a lammergeyer floating overhead. We also had a quick stop to watch a small covey of chestnut-naped francolins close by. Once at the top of the plateau, we drove for around half an hour, 'ignoring' the likes of moorland chat and augur buzzard in our search for wolves.

Rob asked the vans to stop because he thought he had spotted the correct rusty brown colour amongst the grey and green at some distance. He got the scope out but could not refind it. Then Abel exclaimed, "wolf!" and there it was in the middle distance, quartering the ground, looking for breakfast. Everyone soon got onto it and we got good scope views whenever it stood still for long enough! We followed it for quite some time and it got reasonably close before disappearing. It was probably a teenage male. Perhaps 5 minutes later on, there was another one, closer than the first! This also appeared to be a teenage male and walked past affording good binocular and naked eye views. On we went, another five minutes and another wolf! This one was the closest yet and an adult. As we watched it trot, it suddenly dashed forward and grabbed, as if from nowhere, a giant mole rat! This was quickly dispatched and sat crunching away at the unfortunate rodent for a good 10 to 15 minutes with us watching from no more than some 30 meters away! Fabulous!

Ethiopian wolf with giant mole rat



Elated, we drove on, only to encounter our fourth and fifth wolves, both affording decent views. Happy days! We later arrived at an area known as "BBC", since this is where the corporation filmed their Ethiopian wolf action. Here we met a PhD student studying their behaviour and some went to see their research in their research station nearby. We also enjoyed the antics of the local rodents who would pop out of their burrows, grab some food, and rush back in, or sometimes chase each other around. Biggest and brownest was the giant mole rat, with eyes like periscopes on the top of its head, to watch for predators, not that this helped the one we had seen earlier as wolf breakfast! Middlesized, blackest and cutest was Blick's grass rat. Smallest, fastest and greyest was probably the Ethiopian narrow-headed rat... hard to be sure as they rarely kept still!

With the wolf quest achieved, we could enjoy watching moorland chats and Thekla larks fly from boulder to boulder. We continued our journey and found a lovely perched lanner falcon to enjoy. Soon after, the rain started to fall heavily, so we parked up and had our packed lunches in the vehicles.

The rain abated after lunch, but the mist and cloud still swirled, giving periods of clarity amongst periods of fog. Some set off amongst the tussocky vegetation and boundaries here in search of the Ethiopian highland hare. We soon found them! This large endemic hare with large ears was obliging enough to stay still for long enough for the mist to swirl away and clear photos to be taken.

Back in the vehicles, we started a slow journey back. There were more hares, so everyone got to see them, not just the walking party. The rain started to fall very heavily and when thunder was heard, we knew it was time to leave the plateau. We sneaked in augur buzzard and bohor reedbuck on the lower slopes, but it was hard to spot much in the deluge falling from the sky.

We arrived back at the hotel just after 16:00 and had a break until 18:30, when we met up in the restaurant for the usual checklist and dinner combo.

Wednesday 1 April 2026

Day 12:

The Sanetti Plateau and Gaysay Grasslands

At breakfast, our entertaining hotel managed a jug of tea - hurrah! However, we still needed hot water for coffee...

Since the Haremma forest was closed to visitors, we headed back to the Sanetti plateau. Today, it took less time to find four wolves in one area. Whilst they were at some distance, they were clearly visible through binoculars and were possibly having a territorial conflict, since they were running backwards and forwards staring at each other. Whilst we were watching wolves, a variety of eagles flew over, including a tawny, a steppe and what appeared to be a golden, albeit rather oddly coloured on the back.

At the research station, thick-billed ravens came in to have a look at us. The nearby pool had shedloads of blue-winged geese, several ruddy shelducks and one or two yellow-billed ducks. The resident rodent population appeared to have been flooded out of the tunnels we had seen them at the previous day and had apparently moved uphill by some 100 metres.

We had an afternoon in the Gaysay grasslands planned, so we started to head back... only to be waylaid by a wolf trotting towards us, and then trotting on by. Fabulous, but there was more to come before we started off again! An Eastern imperial eagle floated lazily down and landed on a nearby ridge. What a show off! Heading back, we had a final Ethiopian wolf in a valley not far from the vehicles.

Back at the hotel for lunch, we discovered that they made really quite good pizzas!

We headed out towards the Gaysay grasslands in the early afternoon. We stopped briefly at the Robe town tip, where there were lots of marabou storks, hooded vultures and African sacred ibis finding scraps to eat amongst the refuse.

We took a back road to the grasslands and stopped on a small ridge that overlooked them. Below us, the plain was dotted with many bohor reedbuck, mountain nyala and warthog, several sporting long white whiskers. The serval target was proving elusive. Whilst searching, we came across a small herd of mountain nyala right next to the road, including males with excellent spiral horns. Just as we were thinking of giving up and leaving, ChuChu in vehicle three spotted the desired cat! It was close by, but must have sensed us, stopped, and ran to take shelter in a patch of bushes. We waited... after some five minutes, it emerged from the back of the bushes and afforded excellent binocular and especially scope views. It then entered more bushes. The driver/guides and Abel went to gently encourage it out, but we could see it walk past one of them unseen, even though it was within just a couple of metres. As they walked back, it headed off too.

Mountain nyala



By now it was late afternoon and dark clouds gathered on the horizon, so we headed back. En route we stumbled across a large flock of white-collared pigeons. This pigeon is endemic to the Abyssinian Highlands, but I have to admit, it was hard to get excited about it when it looks remarkably like our wood pigeon! There was one more treat. As we joined the main road, some saw a side-striped jackal running off into tall vegetation. It was a brief view, but a satisfying one of this rather rarely seen mammal.

A fair few pizzas were ordered for dinner and whilst we waited for them, we took team photos. We also thanked ChuChu, Teme, Zewdu and of course Abel for their enthusiasm, skill and care provided to us throughout the trip.

Thursday 2 & Friday 3 April 2026

Days 13 and 14:

Robe to London Heathrow

Ethiopian Airlines had unhelpfully cancelled our afternoon flight from Goba to Addis, so we had swapped to a morning flight. Hence, we had an earlyish breakfast. I think the hotel had taken on our positive comments for improvements... We had jugs of coffee and cinnamon tea and an egg station!

Luggage was loaded into the vehicle and it was just a short drive from there to Goba airport, with speckled pigeon en route. Here we hugged our three excellent driver/guides goodbye. All but one guest checked in smoothly. Inexplicably, this one guest had been mistakenly registered as dual nationality. Sorting this meant quite a lot of bureaucratic paperwork, payment and time! Luckily with Abel's impeccable diplomatic skills, we managed to get it sorted and they even held the flight for us for five minutes.

We flew over a couple of rift valley lakes, sadly, currently out of bounds to UK tourists on Foreign Office advice and were soon landing in Addis. Back at the Getfam hotel where we started this adventure, we

enjoyed a lovely lunch and it was time to say goodbye and soooo many thanks to our excellent, enthusiastic and indefatigable guide, Abel.

We had a short break before a 14:30 departure for a guest-requested visit to an Eastern Orthodox church. When we arrived, it was clear that a service was in progress, which was an interesting experience in its own right. A few hundred people were inside and also all around the church compound, all shawled in white, praying to the service being delivered over loudspeaker. Mohammed, our guide for the afternoon, went to find out when the service was to finish, which was shortly. The sermon stopped and soon people began to disperse, taking morsels of holy bread and sips of holy water as they departed. Muhammed discussed our entrance with the priests; they were not particularly keen, apparently because they had been fasting all day and wished to break their fast. However, they did allow us a quick tour of the brightly painted octagonal church. It was unlike any traditional European Christian church in that there was no seating, no altar and no pulpit, just a wide corridor around a sealed inner octagonal room within which only the priests are allowed. It was a short but interesting insight into this orthodoxy. Into the bargain, we also saw our last hooded vultures and yellow-billed kites float overhead.

Back at the Getfam, we had some time to relax, repack and shower as required, before heading to the Dok restaurant at 18:00. This restaurant is vaguely Italian and, unlike some of the hotels we stayed at, knew the difference between spaghetti and penne. We moved from here to the Yod Abyssinia to sample some honey wine and traditional music and dancing with Molla, the boss of the local agents. The wine was pleasant enough, though I doubt many would want to take a bottle home. The entertainment was a touch loud, but also energetic, engaging and enjoyable. We were asked to do a shaky dance, but there was only one taker.

After a last cup of cinnamon tea, we departed, said goodbye to Molla and two guests who were setting off on an extension the next day and headed for the airport.

Security required us to prove the optics we had arrived with were the optics we were leaving with, but otherwise, it was painless. The overnight flight back proved trouble-free and we arrived at London Heathrow safely the following morning.

Images by Chris Hutchinson

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Checklist for Ethiopia Wildlife Highlights



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13
	BIRDS														
1	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				✓									
2	Spur-winged goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>									✓				
3	Blue-winged goose	<i>Cyanochen cyanoptera</i>											✓	✓	
4	Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓				
5	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>											✓	✓	
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>									✓				
7	Yellow-billed duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>			✓								✓	✓	
8	Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>				✓	✓			✓					
9	Crested francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>							✓	✓					
10	Chestnut-naped francolin	<i>Pternistis castaneicollis</i>											✓	✓	
11	Yellow-necked spurfowl	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>								✓					
12	Common quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>												H	
13	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓						✓	✓			
14	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					✓		✓	✓					
15	Abdim's stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>							✓	✓					
16	Woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓					
17	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓											
18	Marabou stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓		✓	
19	African sacred ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			✓					✓				✓	
20	Hadada ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				
21	Wattled ibis	<i>Bostrychia carunculata</i>	✓	✓							✓		✓	✓	
22	Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓						✓				
23	African spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>				✓					✓				
24	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					✓								
25	Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓						✓				
26	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>							✓						

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27	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓							
28	Black-headed heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>					✓								
29	Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓	✓					✓				
30	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓						✓				
31	Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>			✓										
32	Black heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>									✓				
33	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>									✓				
34	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓							✓				
35	Great white pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>									✓				
36	Pink-backed pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>									✓				
37	Reed cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>			✓						✓				
38	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>									✓				
39	African harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		H			✓								
40	Bearded vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>											✓		
41	Hooded vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
42	White-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>			✓					✓		✓			
43	Rüppell's vulture	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>								✓					
44	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>					✓		✓	✓					
45	Long-crested eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>						✓			✓				
46	Wahlberg's eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>					✓								
47	Tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>													✓
48	Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>											✓	✓	
49	Eastern imperial eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>													✓
50	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>													✓
51	African hawk-eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>		✓											
52	Dark chanting goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>									✓				
53	African goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>		✓											
54	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓										
55	Pallid harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>										✓		✓	
56	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			✓	✓									
57	Yellow-billed kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓				
59	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						✓							
60	Mountain buzzard	<i>Buteo oreophilus</i>		✓											
61	Augur buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	

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62	Black-bellied bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>								✓					
63	Rouget's rail	<i>Rougetius rougetii</i>										✓	✓	✓	
64	Black crane	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>				✓					✓				
65	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓										
66	Red-knobbed coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>									✓	✓			
67	Black crowned crane	<i>Baelearica pavonina</i>				✓									
68	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>									✓				
69	African wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>								✓					
70	Spot-breasted lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanocephalus</i>											✓	✓	
71	Spur-winged lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>									✓				
72	African jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>				✓					✓	✓			
73	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓			✓				✓			
74	Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>									✓				
75	Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>									✓				
76	Grey-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>									✓				
77	Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									✓				
78	Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>									✓				
79	White-winged tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>									✓				
80	Lichtenstein's sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles lichtensteinii</i>								✓					
81	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>									✓				
82	Speckled pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>								✓		✓			
83	White-collared pigeon	<i>Columba albitorques</i>										✓	✓	✓	
84	Dusky turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>	✓	✓		✓									
85	Red-eyed dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓					
86	Ring-necked dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>								✓					
87	Vinaceous dove	<i>Streptopelia vinacea</i>							✓						
88	Laughing dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>								✓					
89	Emerald-spotted wood dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>							✓						
90	Blue-spotted wood dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>			✓		✓	✓							
91	Tambourine dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>					H								
92	Bruce's green pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>							✓		✓				
93	African green pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>					✓								
94	White-cheeked turaco	<i>Tauraco leucotis</i>		✓				✓							
95	Bare-faced go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>								✓					
96	White-bellied go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>								✓					

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97	Eastern plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>							✓	✓					
98	Blue-headed coucal	<i>Centropus monachus</i>					✓								
99	White-browed coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>								✓					
100	Klaas's cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>				✓									
101	Red-chested cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>				H	✓								
102	Verreaux's eagle-owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>					✓								
103	Montane nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus poliocephalus</i>				✓	H								
104	Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓												
105	Little swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			✓										
106	Speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓				
107	Blue-naped mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>										✓			
108	Abyssinian roller	<i>Coracias abyssinicus</i>								✓					
109	Grey-headed kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓					
110	Striped kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>				✓						✓	✓		
111	Woodland kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			✓		✓								
112	African pygmy kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>					✓								
113	Malachite kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>										✓	✓		
114	Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓							✓	✓		
115	Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>				✓	✓								
116	European bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								✓					
117	Ethiopian bee-eater	<i>Merops lafresnayii</i>				✓		✓	✓						
118	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓			✓					
119	Northern red-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>			✓										
120	Hemprich's hornbill	<i>Lophoceros hemprichii</i>								✓	✓				
121	African grey hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>							✓	✓					
122	Crowned hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>			✓	✓	✓								
123	Silvery-cheeked hornbill	<i>Bycanistes brevis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
124	Yellow-fronted tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>				✓									
125	Banded barbet	<i>Lybius undatus</i>					✓					✓			
126	Black-billed barbet	<i>Lybius guifsobalito</i>			✓										
127	Double-toothed barbet	<i>Lybius bidentatus</i>				✓		✓	✓			✓			
128	Red-and-yellow barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>								✓					
129	Greater honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>				✓			✓						
130	Nubian woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>										✓			
131	Abyssinian woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus abyssinicus</i>			✓										

132	Eastern grey woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i>									✓				
133	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							✓				✓	✓	
134	Lanner falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>											✓		
135	Yellow-fronted parrot	<i>Poicephalus flavifrons</i>								✓					
136	Black-winged lovebird	<i>Agapornis taranta</i>	✓							✓	✓				
137	Eastern Black-headed Batis	<i>Batis minor</i>				✓			✓						
138	Grey-headed bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>								✓					
139	Orange-breasted bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>							✓						
140	Black-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>			✓			✓							
141	Grey cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>					✓								
142	Black cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>				✓									
143	Red-shouldered cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga phoenicea</i>				✓									
144	Grey-backed fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>								✓					
145	Northern fiscal	<i>Lanius humeralis</i>		✓		✓			✓						✓
146	Ethiopian oriole	<i>Oriolus monacha</i>		✓							✓				
147	Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			✓		✓		✓						
148	African paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>		✓					✓		✓				
149	Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>												✓	
150	Cape crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>		✓	✓							✓			
151	Pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓				
152	Somali crow	<i>Corvus edithae</i>											✓	✓	
153	Fan-tailed raven	<i>Corvus rhipidurus</i>				✓			✓	✓		✓			
154	Thick-billed raven	<i>Corvus crassirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓
155	White-backed black tit	<i>Melaniparus leuconotus</i>		✓											
156	Thekla's lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>											✓	✓	
157	Flappet Lark	<i>Amirafra rufocinnamomea</i>								✓					
158	Common bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
159	Black saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristopectera</i>				✓	✓								
160	Brown-throated martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		✓											
161	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						✓							
162	Ethiopian swallow	<i>Hirundo aethiopica</i>						✓							
163	Wire-tailed swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>						✓							
164	Lesser striped swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>				✓		✓							
165	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓			✓						✓			
166	Eastern olivaceous warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			✓										

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167	Singing cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>								✓				
168	Grey-backed camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		H		✓								
169	Yellow-bellied eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>				✓								
170	Rufous chatterer	<i>Turdoides rubiginosa</i>								✓				
171	White-rumped babbler	<i>Turdoides leucopygia</i>			✓									
172	Abyssinian catbird	<i>Parophasma galinieri</i>		✓										
173	Brown parisoma	<i>Sylvia lugens</i>	✓	✓										
174	Abyssinian white-eye	<i>Zosterops abyssinicus</i>		✓										
175	Greater blue-eared starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>		✓	✓									
176	Lesser blue-eared starling	<i>Lamprotornis chloropterus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
177	Rüppell's starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuroptera</i>									✓			
178	Violet-backed starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>				✓		✓	✓					
179	Red-winged starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>						✓	✓					
180	White-billed starling	<i>Onychognathus albirostris</i>												✓
181	Stuhlmann's starling	<i>Poeoptera stuhlmanni</i>			✓		✓							
182	Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorynchus</i>				✓				✓				
183	White-browed scrub robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>								✓				
184	Abyssinian slaty flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis chocolatinus</i>	✓				✓							✓
185	Northern black flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis edoloides</i>						✓						
186	Pale flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>				✓								
187	African thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>				✓					✓			
188	Abyssinian thrush	<i>Turdus abyssinicus</i>	✓	✓										
189	Ethiopian thrush	<i>Turdus simensis</i>										✓		
190	African dusky flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
191	Rüppell's robin-chat	<i>Cossypha semirufa</i>	✓	✓										
192	Little rock thrush	<i>Monticola rufocinereus</i>								✓				
193	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				✓								
194	African stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>										✓		✓
195	Moorland chat	<i>Pinarochroa sordida</i>										✓	✓	✓
196	Mocking cliff chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>								✓				
197	Rüppell's black chat	<i>Myrmecocichla melaena</i>						✓		✓				
198	Isabelline wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								✓				
199	Pied wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>		✓										
200	Abyssinian wheatear	<i>Oenanthe lugubris</i>								✓				
201	Scarlet-chested sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>				✓		✓			✓			

202	Tacazze sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>	✓															
203	Beautiful sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>								✓	✓	✓						
204	Marico sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>							✓									
205	Abyssinian sunbird	<i>Cinnyris habessinicus</i>								✓								
206	Variable sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		✓														
207	Copper sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>				✓												
208	Swainson's sparrow	<i>Passer swainsonii</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓						
209	White-browed sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>								✓	✓							
210	Thick-billed weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>				✓												
211	Baglafaecht weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	✓	✓														
212	Little weaver	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>									✓							
213	Spectacled weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>									✓							
214	Rüppell's weaver	<i>Ploceus galbula</i>									✓							
215	Village weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>			✓		✓											
216	Red-headed weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>				✓	✓											
217	Red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		✓														
218	Yellow-crowned bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>										✓	✓					
219	Red-billed firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>								✓	✓							
220	Red-cheeked cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>		✓					✓		✓							
221	Yellow-bellied waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia quartinia</i>		✓		✓												
222	Bronze mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>				✓		✓										
223	Pin-tailed whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>						✓										
224	Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓			✓				✓							
225	African pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>			✓													
226	African pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>								✓								
227	Plain-backed pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>									✓							
228	Red-throated pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>		✓														
229	African citril	<i>Crithagra citrinelloides</i>			✓			✓				✓						
230	Yellow-fronted canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>						✓	✓									
231	Brown-rumped seedeater	<i>Crithagra tristriata</i>	✓	✓														
232	Streaky seedeater	<i>Crithagra striolata</i>	✓															
233	Ethiopian siskin	<i>Serinus nigriceps</i>														✓	✓	
234	Cinnamon-breasted bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>								✓								
	MAMMALS																	

1	Grivet monkey	<i>Chlorocebus aethiops</i>			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			
2	Guereza colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
3	Olive baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	
4	Ethiopian highland hare	<i>Lepus starcki</i>											✓		
5	Blick's grass rat	<i>Arvicanthis blicki</i>											✓	✓	
6	Gray-tailed narrow-headed rat	<i>Stenocephalemys griseicauda</i>											✓	✓	
7	Giant mole rat	<i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>											✓	✓	
8	Gambian sun squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>						✓							
9	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>												✓	
10	Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>			H			H		✓	✓				
11	Side-striped jackal	<i>Lupulella adusta</i>												✓	
12	Ethiopian wolf	<i>Canis simensis</i>											✓	✓	
13	Common warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
14	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>				✓	✓				✓				
15	African bush elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>				✓									
16	African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>				✓	✓								
17	Swayne's hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus swaynei</i>								✓					
18	Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>								✓					
19	Bohor reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>										✓	✓	✓	
20	Common duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>								✓	✓				
21	Mountain nyala	<i>Tragelaphus buxtoni</i>										✓		✓	
22	Defassa waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>				✓	✓			✓					
23	Menelik's bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki</i>		✓											
24	Greater kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>								✓					
	REPTILES														
1	Leopard tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>											✓		
2	Nile monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>									✓				
	INSECTS														
1	Green-banded swallowtail	<i>Papilio nireus</i>		✓											
2	Plain tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>				✓									
3	African clouded yellow	<i>Colias electo</i>								✓					
4	Common grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>		✓											
5	Guinea-fowl Butterfly	<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i>						✓							