



Wildwings

WILDWINGS ETHIOPIA TOUR

MAMMALS AND BIRDS

11th – 23rd MARCH 2018

RICHARD WEBB

Wildwings
Davis House
Lodge Causeway
Bristol BS16 3JB

+44 01179 658333
www.wildwings.co.uk



Ethiopian Wolf (Greg Dean)

INTRODUCTION

This was the third Wildwings' tour to Ethiopia following on from successful tours in 2014 and 2016. The tour was one day shorter and we did not go to Yabello in the far south of Ethiopia but were able to visit Senkelle which was closed due to security issues in 2016. Heavy overnight storms restricted access in Ali Dege on our second morning with black soil areas being inaccessible and we had bad weather on our first afternoon in Gaysay Grasslands. In general recent rains had made most places much greener than on previous trips and it was certainly cooler around Negele.

Despite not going to the far south we still saw 47 species of mammal (44 in 2016) with another, **Lion**, being heard,

The full trip report with day-to-day accounts, many more photos and a checklist of the birds seen is available on the Wildwings website www.wildwings.co.uk.

Richard Webb
6th April 2018

MAMMALS

Nomenclature largely follows the six-volume *Mammals of Africa* except for bovids where it follows the recently published *Bovids of the World* which in turn follows the taxonomy of the *Handbook of Mammals of the World*.

African Sheath-tailed Bat *Coleura afra* – One hanging on the side of a crevice near the hyaena den at Mount Fantalle and another 10+ emerging from the crevices as we watched the hyaenas.

Yellow-spotted (Bush) Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* – Three at Ziway on the 16th, two at Harrena Forest on the 19th and one on the 20th.

Ethiopian Rock Hyrax *Procavia habessinica* - Two at Lake Beseka on the 12th, 80+ near the Mount Fantalle hyaena caves on the 13th, four at the Cape Eagle Owl site near Dinsho on the 17th and 5+ south of Negele on the 21st.

Northern Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis* – Two at Bilen on the 14th, two near Haro Lodge on the 16th and two in Harrena Forest on the 19th. Two galagos seen south of Negele on the 21st may have been this species but Somali Lesser Galago *G. gallarum* is also in range. Most of the sightings were simply 'leaping eyeshine' although two of the individuals were seen.

Grivet Monkey *Chlorocebus aethiops* – Four at Debre Libanos on the 11th, small numbers on all three days at Awash NP and two on route from Harrena Forest to Negele on the 20th.

Bale Monkey *Chlorocebus djamdjamentis* Great views of 10+ for most of the group in Harrena Forest on the 19th with another 6+ seen near the lodge the following morning.

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza* – Four near the campsite in Awash NP on the 14th, seen at Haro Lodge on the 16th and 17th. Common in Harrena Forest on the 19th and 20th and 5+ at Awasa on the 22nd and 23rd.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* – Small numbers seen on 8 days. Recorded at Awash, Bilen Plain, Haro Lodge, Gaysay Grasslands, Harrena Forest, Wadera and Awasa.

Hamadryas (Sacred) Baboon *Papio hamadryas* - Fantastic encounters with upwards of 100 around Filowha Hotsprings, and a mixed group with Olive Baboons and probable hybrids in Kudu Valley in the north of Awash NP on the 13th. Small numbers east of Awash town and/or near Animalia Lodge on the 14th, 15th and 16th.

Gelada Baboon *Theropithecus gelada* - Good views of a group of at least 70 animals with a second group of five animals at Debre Libanos.

Abyssinian Hare *Lepus habessinicus* - In Awash NP up to 10 seen on all three days, five at Ali Dege on the 15th and up to 10+ at Bilen Plain on the 14th and 15th. One near Haro Lodge on the 16th appears to be this species on range. One south of Negele on the 21st. Most were seen while spotlighting but several were also seen well during the day. Unfortunately we could not find Ethiopian Hare *L. fagani* in Senkelle. According to *Mammals of Africa*, Abyssinian Hare occurs east of the Rift Valley with Ethiopian Hare occurring to the west. *Mammals of Africa* treats this as a good species but the latest version of the *Kingdon field guide* lumps both forms back in with Cape Hare *L. capensis*.

Ethiopian Highland (Starck's) Hare *Lepus starcki* – Six on Sanetti Plateau on the 18th and 5+ at the same location on the 19th. Missed in 2016.

Blick's Grass Rat *Arvicanthis blicki* – Common Sanetti Plateau although less common and later to appear in the morning than in 2016.

Yellow-spotted Brush-furred Rat *Lophuromys flavopunctatus* – 3+ seen on Sanetti Plateau on the 16th.

Black-clawed Brush-furred Rat *Lophuromys melanonyx* – Less common than in 2016 but small numbers widespread on Sanetti Plateau on the 16th.

Giant (Large-headed) Mole Rat *Tachyoryctes microcephalus* – Three on Sanetti Plateau on the 15th with another four on the 16th.

Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* - Singles at Haro Lodge and Awasa on the 17th and 22nd.

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus* - Two north of Negele on the 20th.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus* – Only one seen around Animalia Lodge at Bilen this year.

Serval *Leptailurus serval* – One at night near Animalia Lodge on the 15th was seen briefly by the first vehicle but the second vehicle only saw eye-shine. Unfortunately missed at Gaysay Grasslands this year partly due to adverse weather conditions.

Lion *Panthera leo* – Heard roaring throughout the night at Animalia Lodge on the 14th.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus* - One in Awash NP on the 13th.

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda* – Two near Animalia Lodge on the 14th with another on the 15th. Two near Haro Lodge on the Haro Lodge on the 16th and two near Negele on the 22nd. All seen while spotlighting.

Cape Clawless Otter *Aonyx capensis* – One unexpectedly seen in a small stream during the spotlighting session in Harrena Forest.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* – One for the second vehicle in Awash NP on the 12th and heard on both nights there. Twelve at the hyaena cave near Mount Fantalle in Awash NP on the 13th. Eight near Haro Lodge on the 16th. One at Dinsho during the day on the 18th heard in Negele on the 21st. Much commoner than in 2016 when we only saw four in total.

Small-spotted Genet *Genetta genetta* – One possibly two during the night drive near Animalia Lodge on Bilen Plains on the 14th one giving great close range views. Not seen in 2016.

(Central African) Large-spotted Genet *Genetta maculata* - A good year. Two on the night drive near Animalia Lodge on the 15th, one while spotlighting near Haro Lodge on the 16th, great views of one with a second probable during the night drive in Harrena Forest on the 19th and one south of Negele while spotlighting on the 21st. Another species not seen in 2016.

African Golden Wolf *Canis anthus* – Eleven at Ali Dege on the 14th including a nice family group with 8 pups, three at the same site on the 15th with at least three in Gaysay Grasslands on the 18th. This species was previously considered to be a Golden Jackal *C. aureus* which is common in Asia, in eastern Europe and across North Africa. However it has now been split in Africa as DNA studies have shown it to be closer to wolves than jackals.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* – Only one seen this year in Awash NP on the 13th, compared to eight at four sites in 2016.

Ethiopian Wolf *Canis simensis* - Good views of one found sleeping on the first morning on Sanetti Plateau followed by at least seven and probably eight including two large pups leaving the area of a den half an hour later. Another gave great views as it hunted rodents and crossed the road close to where we were standing and another the 10th or 11th of the morning was watched unsuccessfully stalking three different Giant Mole Rats. Another on the drive back to Goba may have been one of the individuals seen near the den. On the following morning at least three were seen on the drive across the plateau with one giving great close range views near to where it had unsuccessfully stalked mole rats the day before.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* One seen near Haro Lodge on the 16th.

Grevy's Zebra *Equus greyvi* – A lone stallion on Ali Dege on the 15th. Torrential overnight rain prevented us checking the black soil areas where we suspected the herds were on the 16th.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* – Widespread being seen on 11 of the 13 days.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* – At least 14 on Lake Langano at Haro Lodge on the 16th and 17th. Only one seen in 2016.

Swayne's Hartebeest *Alcephalus swaynei* – Common in Senkelle (which was inaccessible in 2016) on the 23rd.

Northern Gerenuk *Litocranius sclateri* – Four on Bilen Plains and four at Ali Dege on the 15th. Split from Southern Gerenuk *L. walleri* in the 'Bovids' guide.

Guenther's Dik-dik *Madoqua guentheri* At least 29 south of Negele on the Yabello road on the 21st. Nine seen during the day and another 20 while spotlighting.

Salt's Dik-dik *Madoqua saltiana* – Up to 12 on the three days in Awash NP and up to 20 on the three days at Bilen Plain.

Bright's Gazelle *Nanger notatus* – At least 12 at Abiata-Shala NP on the 17th. Split from Grant's Gazelle *N. granti* in the 'Bovids' guide.

Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii* – Just two in Awash NP on the 14th with at least 50 at Ali Dege on the same day.

Ethiopian Klipspringer *Oreotragus saltatrixoides* – Only one seen on Sanetti Plateau on the 18th. Treated as a distinct species in the 'Bovids' guide.

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa* – Small numbers seen daily in Awash NP and at Ali Dege on the 14th.

Sudan Oribi *Ourebia montana* – Great views of at least 30 in Senkelle on the 23rd. Recognised as a distinct species in the 'Bovids' guide.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* – One at Haro Lodge on the 16th and common at Gaysay Grasslands on the 17th and 18th.

Common Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* Two at Bilen Plains and at Haro Lodge on the 16th. One at Gaysay Grasslands on the 17th with 10+ there on the 18th. One between Goba and Sanetti Plateau on the 18th. Two while spotlighting near Negele on the 21st.

Mountain Nyala (Gedesma) *Tragelaphus buxtoni* – Common on Gaysay Grasslands on the 17th and 18th and at Dinsho on the 18th.

Menelik's Bushbuck *Tragelaphus meneliki* – Three at Dinsho on the 18th, three in Harrena Forest on the 19th and two on the 20th.

Northern Lesser Kudu *Ammelaphus inerbis* – Three in Awash NP on the 12th and 8+ on the 14th.



African Sheath-tailed Bat (Greg Dean)



Gelada Baboon (Ray Vessey)



Hamadryas Baboon (Greg Dean)



Soemmerring's Gazelle (Ray Vessey)



Northern Gerenuk (Ray Vessey)



Abyssinian Hare (Chris Schofield)



White-tailed Mongoose (Ewan Davies)



Bohoe Reedbuck (Linda Schofield)



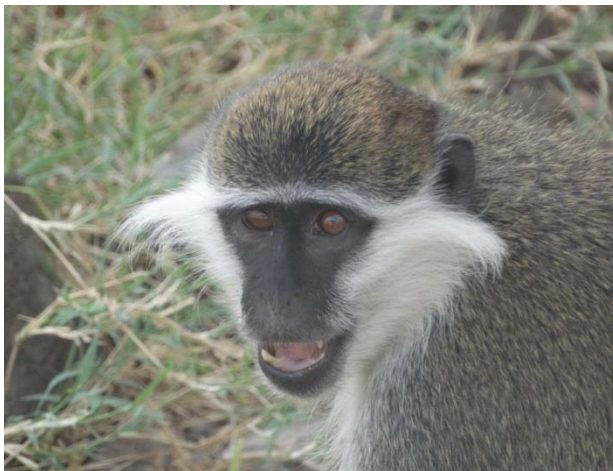
Menelik's Bushbuck (Ray Vessey)



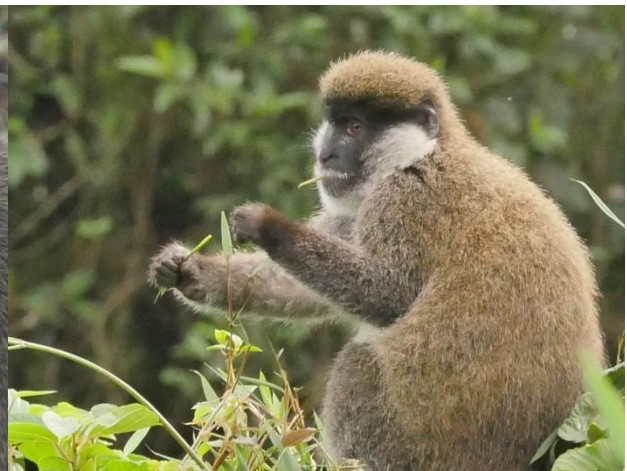
Ethiopian Wolf (Ray Vessey)



Starck's Hare (Greg Dean)



Grivet Monkey (Ewan Davies)



Bale Monkey (Ray Vessey)



Salt's Dik-dik (Chris Schofield)



Guenther's Dik-dik (Ewan Davies)



Sudan Oribi (Ewan Davies)



Bright's Gazelle (Greg Dean)



Swayne's Hartebeest (Greg Dean)

www.wildwings.co.uk