

Ethiopia's Somali region

8-19 March 2017

This trip report is compiled by Tomas Carlberg (Tomas.Carlberg@slu.se)



Little Brown Bustard *Eupodotis humilis*, one of many highlights in the Somali region. (TC)

Participants

Håkan Pohlstrand (main tour leader, guide and driver), Brook Kassa (guide and driver), and Tomas Carlberg (co-leader).

Joakim Djerf, Uppsala; Elisabeth Djerf, Uppsala; Lena Krogh, Uppsala; Thomas Andersson, Stockholm; Åsa Sullivan, Stockholm, and Ludwig Siege, Germany.

Introduction

We recorded 241 species of birds and 25 species of mammals during this 10 birding days trip, focusing on the special birds and mammals in the Somali region. We managed too see all species on our “want list”, including Little Brown Bustard, Philippa’s Crombec, Somali Crombec, Rufous Elephant Shrew, Harar Dik-dik, Silver Dik-dik, and Dibatag.

Very few Swedish birders have visited this area before. Entry into the Somali region was facilitated by the fact that we had the company of Ludwig Siege, who came to Ethiopia in 2008 and was in charge of a support program for the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), and our local guide Hassan Yusuf Kaariye. Håkan Pohlstrand and Brook Kassa did a reconnoitring tour a year ahead. We were greeted with respect by the officials of the Ministry of Tourism, and some of them were with us for much of the trip. Much of East Africa experienced a drought; no rain fell during our visit. This trip was arranged by Håkan Pohlstrand and Brook Kassa, Magic Land Tours (contact: hpohlstrand@gmail.com).

We spent 4 nights in our comfortable tent camp, and 5 nights in different hotels.

Photographers: Tomas Carlberg (TC), Joakim Djerf (JD), Elisabeth Djerf (ED).

Itinerary

Wed 8 March 2017

Checked in 3 hrs before departure. Evening flight at 19:30 (delayed c. 45 min.) with Ethiopian Airlines from Stockholm to Addis Abeba.

Thu 9 March 2017

Arrived Addis Abeba at c. 07:00, +16 °C, met Håkan and Brook and left at 08:15, driving the Express Way eastwards. Passed Lake Beseka at 11:10. Lunch at restaurant in Awash 11:45, temperature now +33 °C. Continued at 13:00, temp. +35 °C. Passed Asebe Teferi at 14:40. Did birding and watched “Donaldson’s Turaco” at 15:40. At Kobo 17:10. Scanned a lake with ducks from road. Drove totally 500 kms today to Harar, arrived at 19:20. Stayed at Ras Hotel, had nice dinner with pasta and Bedeka beer.

Fri 10 March 2017

Breakfast at Ras Hotel 05:50, left 06:25. Did birding 45 min at a site for Salvadori’s Serin (which we did not see...), +28 °C. Met Hassen in Jijiga. Went to the Tourist Ministry to sort out formalia. Checked in at Hotel Universal in Jijiga, and then out looking for larks 10:30-12:00, just outside Jijiga. Back for lunch at Universal. Out birding again 15:15, back 18:00, seeing c. 150 Somali Short-toed Larks but no Archer’s Lark, which we looked for in the area where Spottiswoode did a field study in 2011. It was very dry here now.

Sat 11 March 2017

Woke up at 05:15. Long drive – 06:00 to 17:00 – from Jijiga to our camp site c. 6 km NW Aware, in the Somali region. Did some birding en route.

Sun 12 March 2017

An appreciated joke was when Hassen, after a question, described our camp as a “million star hotel – at night!” Woke up 05:30. Birding around camp site until 08:30. Continued to camp site near Gurdumi, arrived at lunch time. Afternoon excursion to look for Dibatag and Silver Dik-dik. +29 °C at midday. Superb dinner, as usual, this time lentil soup and goat.



Camp Gurdumi in the Somali region. (TC)

Mon 13 March

Woke up 04:40, went birding and looking for mammals at 06:00, back in camp at 11:00 for lunch and siesta; +32 °C. Out birding/mammaling again at 16:00, watched one of the trips highlights: Rufous Elephant Shrew. All of us had now seen most of the targets, but still some had not seen the elusive Dibatag, so we continued to look for it...

Tue 14 March 2017

Woke up 05:00. As yesterday we split in two groups; one jeep went east, the other SW. Back in camp 09:45 for siesta and lunch. Went

out in the field again at 16:00, around Gurdumi, back for dinner 18:30. We saw 1 to 4 Dibatags daily 12-14th March; the best sightings we did today, when 4 individuals were seen and could be photographed.



Another highlight was of course to see the rare Dibatag *Ammodorcas clarkei* (TC).

- Wed 15 March 2017 Woke up 04:40. Went birding in the vicinity of camp until 07:00. Long driving Gurdumi – Aware – Jijiga 07:00 to 15:00. Checked in at Hotel Universal. Saw several “dust devils” en route, of which one blew away a party of birds from a tree.
- Thu 16 March 2017 Left our hotel early and drove to the “Serin well” in Erer. After birding back for lunch in Harar. After receiving tips about elephants we went on a long afternoon excursion to Fadis area, but did not connect with the elephants. In the evening we visited the “Hyena man”; it was spectacular to see him feeding these wild animals. Hotel Ras in Harar.
- Fri 17 March 2017 Went back early morning to the “Serin well” in Erer, where only Håkan saw a Salvadori’s Serin, one of Ethiopia’s most sought after endemics. But to everyone’s happiness Joakim discovered two “Salvadori’s” on the way out of the area. We now started a long journey back, and did some birding en route, e.g. again watching and photographing the “Donaldson’s Turaco”. Spent 10 hours in the cars today, arrived at Animalia Lodge at dusk. At most, it was +39 °C in the afternoon. After check in and dinner we went out looking for nightjars and other stuff; one of the highlights was a Wild Cat close to the car.
- Sat 18 March 2017 Woke up at the very nice Animalia Lodge, did some birding in the garden and the drove to Aledeghi Plains, where we (in vain) looked

for Hartlaub's Bustard, but were rewarded with Scissor-tailed Kites, Common Buttonquail, Soemmerring's Gazelle and other goodies. Looked for Sombre Rock Chat at the spot near Lake Basaka. After finished birding we drove to Addis Abeba, where we spent some time at Ghion Hotel. After farewell dinner it was time to go to the airport for a late night's flight back to Sweden.

Sun 19 March

Arrived safe back home in the morning.



Local guide Hassan (left). Acacia-Commiphora landscape in the Somali region (right). (TC)



The "hyena man" in Harar (left), and Joakim feeding the hyena (right). (TC)



Our group and staff at the Tourist Ministry in Jijiga.

List of birds; 241 species

Taxonomy follows IOC.

The subspecies (in brackets) are in most cases assigned based on the IOC list rather than by morphological characters noted in the field.

Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes* 23 at Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* 2 9/3, 12 10/3, 2 14/3, and 5 17/3.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* 4 rd 9/3, and 1 rd 18/3. (*leucostigma*)

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* 5 9/3. (*ruppelli*)

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 1 male 9/3.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* 2 males 9/3, and 1 male 17/3.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* 4 9/3, and 4 18/3.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* 2 Alem Maya 9/3.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 1 male 9/3.

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* 2 males 9/3.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* 15 14/3, 5 15/3, 20 17/3, and 35 18/3. (*somaliensis*)

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum* 40 12/3, 15 13/3, 50 14/3, and 15 15/3.



Vulturine Guineafowl. (TC)

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* 5 13/3, 6 14/3, 2 15/3, 5 16/3, and 2 17/3.
(*spilogaster*)

Chestnut-naped Francolin *Pternistis castaneicollis* Heard 10/3. (*castaneicollis*)

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* 1 11/3, 1 16/3, and 6 17/3.

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* 1 seen well at Aledeghi Plains 18/3. (*lepurana*)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 5 9/3, and 5 in the same lake 17/3.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* 1 9/3, 1 10/3, 1 chased by Somali Crows above our camp in Gurdumi 13/3, and 4 16/3.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* 20 9/3, and 2 18/3.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Wattled Ibis *Bostrychia carunculata* 4 9/3, and 4 rd 18/3.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* 4 9/3, and 1 17/3.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* 50 9/3, 2 10/3, 4 16/3, 40 17/3, and 10 18/3.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* 1 rd 10/3.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* 2 9/3, and 1 18/3.

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* 1 18/3.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* 10 18/3.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 1 17/3, and 1 18/3.

Scissor-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii* 4 at Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* 1 10/3, and 4 18/3.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* 10 9/3, 20 10/3, 10 16/3, 20 17/3, and 20 18/3.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* 20 9/3, 20 10/3, 20 16/3, 10 17/3, and 2 18/3.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* 1 Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* 1 11/3, and 1 17/3.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* 3 9/3, and 1 16/3

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* 1 rd 17/3, and 2 near Animalia Lodge 18/3.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* 1 rd 9/3.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* 1 rd 17/3

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* 1 9/3

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* 4 9/3, and 1 16/3.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* 1 9/3, and 1 18/3. (*orientalis*)

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* 1 10/3, and 2 18/3.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* 2 9/3, 1 11/3, 3 12/3, 1 13/3, 1 juv 14/3, 2 15/3, 4 16/3, and 1 17/3.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* 2 rd 11/3.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* 1 Lonekoko 17/3. (nominate)

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* 1 male 9/3.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* At least 5 Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* 2 9/3, 2 10/3, 1 17/3, and 10 Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 2 rd 17/3.



Black Sparrowhawk, in a somewhat odd plumage. (TC)

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* common almost daily 9-18/3.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* 1 juv 18/3.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* 10 rd 9/3, 2 10/3, 3 16/3, 2 17/3, and 1 18/3.

Arabian Bustard *Ardeotis arabs* 7 Aledoghi Plains 18/3.



Arabian Bustard. (TC).

Little Brown Bustard *Eupodotis humilis* 7 11/3, 3 13/3, and 6 14/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Somalia.

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* 4 11/3, 3 12/3, 10 13/3, 10 14/3, and 4 15/3.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* c. 50 9/3, and c. 100 17/3.

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* 1 11/3.

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* 1 15/3, 6 17/3, and 2 18/3.

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* 15 Aledeghi Plains 18/3.

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* 30 10/3.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* 5 10/3, 10 11/3, 6 12/3, 5 13/3, 6 14/3, 2 15/3, and 2 18/3. (*demissus* in the Somali region, *coronatus* in Aledeghi Plains).

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* 1 18/3.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 1 16/3.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 1 17/3.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 1 near Lake Basaka 18/3.



Little Stint *Calidris minuta* at Lake Basaka. (TC).



Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis*. (TC).

Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis* 10 10/3, 3 13/3, 4 14/3, and 2 15/3.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* 4 10/3.

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus* 3 Aledoghi Plains 18/3. Exact in the same area where HP saw this species 40 years ago! (*raffertyi*)

Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus* 2 at our lunch site 16/3. (*mayaudi*)

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 1 17/3.

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* 8 10/3, 40 11/3, 8 12/3, 4 14/3, 1 15/3, 6 16/3, 6 17/3, and 20 18/3.

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus* 7 13/3, and 1 female 15/3. (*ellenbecki*)

Rock Dove *Columba livia* 2 rd 18/3.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* common, seen daily 9-18/3.

White-collared Pigeon *Columba albitorques* 4 9/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* 1 9/3.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* Noted 9-10/3.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* 1 seen by JD at Aledoghi Plains 18/3.



African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*, Aledeghi Plains. (JD)

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* Noted 9-10/3, and 16/3.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Noted as fairly common 10/3, and 16-18/3.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Common 11-18/3. (*somalica*)

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Fairly common 9-18/3.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Fairly common 9-18/3.

White-cheeked Turaco *Tauraco leucotis donaldsoni* 1 seen + 1 heard at Lonekoko 9/3, and 2 seen well at the same spot 17/3. This subspecies – *donaldsoni* – is a distinct taxon and a possible future split, sometimes called **Maroon-crested Turaco, or Donaldson's Turaco**. According to HBW Alive is “race *donaldsoni* said to be found ‘east of the Rift Valley in the... Bale mountains, where... at least it is found alongside nominate *leucotis* supporting the view for its specific separation’. It has elongate feathers of hindcrown dull reddish-brown, rather than the dull blackish-blue of nominate, on which this colour starts earlier on the mid-crown so that most of crown looks indigo, rather than green and then maroon (score 3); otherwise very similar. Clarification needed as to whether the two co-occur or are parapatric in Bale Mts. A score of 3 for parapatry and 3 for crown colour would mean that any small vocal difference would be sufficient to establish the split.”

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* 1 10/3, 6 11/3, 20 12/3, 20 13/3, 20 14/3, 15 15/3, and 2 17/3.



'Maroon-crested Turaco' *Tauraco leucotis donaldsoni*. (TC)

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* 3 16/3.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* 1 at the "Serine ravine" 10/3.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* 2 heard and seen at camp area 14/3.

Little Owl *Athene noctua* 1 11/3, 5 13/3, 4 14/3, and 2 15/3. (*somaliensis*)



Little Owl ssp *somaliensis* at nesting hole. (TC)

Donaldson Smith's Nightjar *Caprimulgus donaldsoni* 2 heard 12/3.

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* 6 seen during nightdriving near Animalia Lodge 17/3, and 1 heard 18/3.

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae* 1 14/3, 20 17/3, and 10 in Addis 18/3. (*somaticus* in the Somali region, *niansae* elsewhere)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Noted 9/3, 10 10/3, 20 16/3, and 5 17/3.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* 5 11/3, 2 13/3, and 5 15/3.

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* 1 9/3, and 2 10/3.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* 1 11/3, and 1 16/3. (*lorti*)

Abyssinian Roller *Coracias abyssinicus* 1 Animalia Lodge 17/3, and 5 en route to Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* 1 rd 10/3.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Totally 22 seen: 2 12/3, 6 13/3, 5 14/3, 4 15/3, 2 16/3, 2 17/3, and 1 18/3. (*cyanostictus*)



Little Bee-eater with prey. (TC)



Somali Bee-eater – we saw at least 23 of them... (TC)

Blue-breasted Bee-eater *Merops variegatus* 3 9/3, 2 10/3, and 1 17/3. (*lafresnayii*)

Note: HBW splits this taxon into **Ethiopian Bee-eater** *Merops lafresnayii* (endemic to Ethiopia, Eritrea and E South Sudan).

Somali Bee-eater *Merops revoilii* 5 11/3, 4 12/3, 8 13/3, and 6 14/3.

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus* 3 at Erer 17/3.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* 2 16/3.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Totally 39 seen: 1 9/3, 2 11/3, 4 12/3, 5 13/3, 10 14/3, 6 15/3, 2 16/3, 4 17/3, and 5 18/3.

Black-billed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus somaliensis* 3 15/3. (*somaliensis*)

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* 10 11/3, 3 12/10, 2 13/3, and 3 15/3. (*minor*)

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus* 2 Erer 16/3.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* Noted daily as common 10-16/3.

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris* 4 11/3, 30 12/3, and common 13-16/3.

Hemprich's Hornbill *Lophoceros hemprichii* 1 10/3.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* 1 10/3, 5 16/3, and 4 17/3.

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala* 2 11/3, 1 12/3, 4 13/3, 5 14/3, and 1 18/3. (*blandi* in the Somali region, nominate elsewhere)

Black-billed Barbet *Lybius guifsobalito* 1 10/3, 1 16/3, and 1 17/3.

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* 1 12/3, 2 13/3, 4 14/3, and 2 15/3.
(*shelleyi*)

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii* 2 13/3. (*boehmi*)

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* 1 male 13/3.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* 2 12/3, 1 13/3, 2 14/3, and 2 15/3.
(*hemprichii*)

Eastern Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos spodocephalus* 1 11/3.

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* 2 11/3, 5 12/3, 2 13/3, 6 14/3, and 6 15/3.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* c. 50 en route to Aledoghi Plains 18/3.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 10 9-10/3, 2 11/3, 2 17/3, and 2 18/3.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* 2 17/3, and 2 Aledoghi Plains 18/3. (*abyssinicus*)

Red-bellied Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris* Totally 40 seen: 2 10/3, 10 11/3, 6 12/3, 10 13/3, 8 14/3, and 4 15/3. (*pallidus*)

Western Black-headed Batis *Batis erlangeri* 1 16/3, and 1 (female) 17/3.

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo* 1 11/3, 1 13/3, and 1 14/3.

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* 4 15/3. (*cristatus*)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* 1 16/3 (only seen by ED).
(*similis*)

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Telophorus cruentus* Totally 33 seen: 10 11/3, 6 12/3, 5 13/3, 7 14/3, 2 15/3, and 2 18/3. (*hilgerti*)

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* 1 heard 9/3, 1 10/3, and 1 Erer 17/3.
(*habessinicus*)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* 2 11/3, 1 12/3, 1 13/3, 8 14/3, 2 15/3, and 1 17/3.(nominate)

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli* 20 11/3, 10 12/3, 5 13/3, 5 15/3, and 1 17/3.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* 1 18/3.

Somali Fiscal *Lanius somalicus* 1 10/3, 8 11/3, 2 12/3, 5 13/3, 4 14/3, and 4 15/3.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* 10 rd 9/3.

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* 1 Animalia Lodge 17/3.

Ethiopian Oriole *Oriolus monacha* 1 Koneloko 17/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea. (*meneliki*)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Common, seen daily 9-18/3.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* 1 16/3, and 1 17/3. (*ferreti*)

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* 2 10/3, and 5 11/3.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* 15 9/3, 5 10/3, 2 15/3, 2 16/3, and 10 18/3.

Somali Crow *Corvus edithae* Noted as fairly common or common 9-16/3, e.g. c. 200 13/3.



Somali Crow. (TC)

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* Fairly common 9-10/3, and 10 17/10.

Thick-billed Raven *Corvus crassirostris* 1 9/3, 1 11/3, and 5 17/3.

Acacia Tit *Melaniparus thruppi* 4 11/3. (nominate)

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus* 1 12/3, 2 13/3, and 1 14/3.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* 10 10/3, 5 11/3, and 5 18/3. (nominate)

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus* 10 11/3, 5 13/3, and 6 14/3. (nominate)

Foxy Lark *Calendulauda alopex* 1 11/3. (*intercedens*)

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans* c. 100 Aledoghi Plains 18/3. (*marginata*)



Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark. (TC)

Gillett's Lark *Mirafra gilletti* 8 12/3, 2 13/3, 5 14/10, and 5 15/3. (nominate)



Gillett's Lark *Mirafra gilletti*. (TC)

Short-tailed Lark *Spizocorys fremantlii* 20 (in one flock) 13-15/3. (nominate)

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* 4 10/3, 3 11/3, 1 14/3, and 4 15/3. (possibly *harrarensis* in eastern Ethiopia, but “Revision of subspecies is needed”, Alström et al. 2013). From IOC: Thekla Lark comprises several possible species, e.g. East African populations (*huei*, *praetermissa* and *elliottii*) exhibit deep genetic divergences among themselves and from Mediterranean populations (Guillaumet et al. 2008).



Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*. (TC)

Somali Short-toed Lark *Alaudala somalica* c. 150 10/3 (maximum c. 50 in one flock). (*perconfusa*)





Somali Short-toed Lark *Alaudala somalica*. (TC)

Somali Bulbul *Pycnonotus somaliensis* 2 10/3, 1 11/3, 30 16/3, and common 17/3.

Dodson's Bulbul *Pycnonotus dodsoni* 10 12/3, 8 13/3, 4 14/3, and 1 15/3.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* c. 100 Lake Basaka 18/3.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 1 up to 20 noted almost daily 10-18/3.

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* 5 10/3, 5 11/3, 1 12/3, 3 13/3, and 10 15/3. (*amadoni*)

Philippa's Crombec *Sylvietta philippae* 3 11/3, 2 13/3, and 2 14/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Somalia.

Somali Crombec *Sylvietta isabellina* 1 11/3, and 1 14/3.



Philippa's Crombec. (TC)



Somali Crombec. (TC)

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* 1 11/3.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* 1 Erer area 17/3. (*pyrrhomitra*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* 1 16/3, and 2 17/3. (nominate)



Tawny-flanked Prinia. (TC)

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica* 3 16/3. (*erlangeri*)

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* 2 11/3. (*viridiceps*)



Red-fronted Warbler, ssp *smithi*, showing more red in the neck than is shown in the book. (TC)

Red-fronted Warbler *Urorhipis rufifrons* 2 11/3, 4 12/3, and 2 14/3. (*smithi*)

Note: HBW Alive classifies this taxon as a prinia: Red-fronted Prinia *Prinia rufifrons*.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* 1 heard 10/3, 1 16/3, and 1 17/3. (*abessinica*)

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* 1 in the “Serin ravine” 10/3.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* 2 11/3, 5 12/3, 5 13/3, and 5 14/3. (*griseoflava*)

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa* 3 Erer 17/3. (nominate)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 1 9/3.

Banded Parisoma *Sylvia boehmi* 2 11/3. (*somalica*)

Abyssinian White-eye *Zosterops abyssinicus* 2 10/3, 15 16/3, and 10 17/3. (nominate)



Banded Parisoma ssp. *somalica*. (TC)

Montane White-eye *Zosterops poliogastrus* 2 9/3. (nominate)

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* 6 10/3, 50 11/3, 5 17/3, and 10 18/3.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Common 9-18/3. (*cyaniventris*)

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* 1 9/3, 5 10/3, and seen 16-18/3. (nominate)

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* 10 11/3, 15 12/3, 20 13/3, 10 14/3, and 30 15/3.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* Common 10-17/3.

White-crowned Starling *Lamprotornis albicapillus* 20 11/3, 10 12/3, 20 13/3, 50 14/3, 15 15/3, and 8 Aledoghi Plains 18/3. (nominate).

Note: In HBW Alive this species is treated as monotypic.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* 4 11/3, 2 12/3, 3 14/3, and 6 15/3.

African Thrush *Turdus pelios* (nominate) 1 16/3.

Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* 1 9/3. (nominate)

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* 2 14/3, and 1 Animalia Lodge 18/3.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* 1 12/3, 1 13/3, 10 14/3, and 5 15/3. (*leucoptera*)

White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis* 1 17/3.

Abyssinian Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis chocolatinus* 4 9/3. (nominate)

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides* 1 16/3. (*schistaceus*)

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus* 2 9/3, 2 11/3, 4 12/3, 3 13/3, common 14/3, and 15 15/3. (*pumilis*)

White-winged Cliff Chat *Monticola semirufus* 2 rd 9/3, and 1 17/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* 1 16/3.

Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* 1 rd 9/3. (*albiscapulata*)

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* 2 10/3, 10 11/3, 1 14/3, and 1 16/3. (nominate)

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* Fairly common 9-10/3, 5 12/3, 2 13/3, 10 14/3, 1 15/3, 5 16/3, 2 17/3, and 4 18/3.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* Totally 80 noted: 10 11/3, 20 12/3, 15 13/3, 10 14/3, 6 15/3, 10 16/3, 3 17/3, and 6 18/3.

Sombre Rock Chat *Oenanthe dubia* 1 near Lake Basaka 18/3. Endemic.

Blackstart *Oenanthe melanura* 2 near Laka Basaka 18/3. (*aussae*)



Sombre Rock Chat. (TC)

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis* 1 10/3, 1 12/3, 4 13/3, 1 14/3, and 1 15/3.

Nile Valley Sunbird *Hedydipna metallica* male and female at Animalia Lodge 17/3, and 1 female 18/3.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* 2 16/3, and 2 17/3. (*proteus*)

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri* 3 12/3, 2 13/3, 2 14/3, and 3 15/3.

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* 3 10/3, 1 11/3, and 5 16/3. (*osiris*)

Shining Sunbird *Cinnyris habessinicus* 4 10/3, and 1 16/3. (*alter*)

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* 6 12/3, 5 13/3, 10 14/3, and 5 15/3. (*albiventris*)

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* 5 9/3, 4 17/3, and 8 18/3.
(*melanorhynchus*)

Swainson's Sparrow *Passer swainsonii* Fairly common 9-10/3, 2 14/3, 10 15/3, c. 50 16/3,
common 17-18/3.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita* 2 11/3, 10 12/3, 6 13/3, 20 14/3, 20 15/3.
(nominate)

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* 4 11/3, 5 15/3, and noted 16-17/3. (*intermedius*)

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* Locally common and seen almost daily
9-18/3. (nominate)

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* 5 at the airport 9/3.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* 1 17/3. (*crocatus*)

Rüppell's Weaver *Ploceus galbula* 2 9/3.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei* 1 erer area 16/3.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* 25 9/3, 5 10/3, and noted 16-18/3. (*abyssinicus*)

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus* c. 50 10/3, c. 30 16/3, and c. 30 17/3. (nominate)

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* 15 10/3, common 11/3, c. 200 17/3, and c. 500 Aledoghi
Plains 18/3. (*aethiopia*)

Northern Red Bishop *Euplectes franciscanus* Noted 16-17/3. (nominate)

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* 5 9/3. (*laticauda*)

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* 2 11/3. (*alexanderi*)

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* 4 10/3, 10 16/3, and common 17/3. (ssp
rhodopsis in the lowlands, and ssp *brunneiceps* in the highlands above 1.000 m)

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* 5 16/3, and c. 20 17/3. (nominate)

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* 2 16/3.

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda chamosyna* 2 11/3. (nominate)

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* 1 10/3. (*ultramarina*)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* 15 17/3.

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* 1 9/3.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea* 15 11/3.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* 1 9/3, 1 16/3, and 1 18/3.

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* 1 18/3. Endemic subspecies. (nominate)

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* 5 10/3. (*annae*?)

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* 5 10/3.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* 1 11/3. (*saphiroi*)



Plain-backed Pipit. (TC)

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 1 9/3.

African Citril *Crithagra citrinelloides* 1 16/3, and 2 17/3. (nominate)

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi* 6 16/3, and 4 17/3.

Salvadori's Seedeater *Crithagra xantholaema* 3 Erer area 17/3. Endemic.

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata* 1 male 11/3, and 1 14/3. (*maculicollis*)

Northern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra donaldsoni* 1 14/3, and 2 15/3.

Brown-rumped Seedeater *Crithagra tristriata* 2 9/3.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 1 10/3.

Somali Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura* 1 10/3, and 1 11/3.

List of mammals; 25 species

Taxonomy mainly follows HMW (Handbook of the Mammals of the World).

The subspecies (in brackets) are in most cases assigned based on the above list rather than by morphological characters noted in the field.

African Golden Wolf *Canis anthus* 1 12/3, 2 13/3, 1 15/3, 1 17/3, and 3 18/3. According to new research this taxon differs from Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* 1 11/3, heard 12/3, and 1 15/3. (*schmidti*)

Wildcat *Felis silvestris* 1 near Animalia Lodge 17/3. (*ocreata*)



Wildcat seen during nightdriving near Animalia Lodge. (ED)

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* 2 15/3.

Common Slender Mongoose *Galerella sanguinea* 1 18/3.

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta* 8 dead along road 10/3, 1 dead 11/3, 2 heard 13-14/3, 11 Harar (fed by the “hyena man”), and 1 17/3.

Northern Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri* 10 11/3, 10 13/3, 5 14/3, and 1 18/3. (*sclateri*)

Salt’s Dik-dik *Madoqua saltiana* 3 17/3, and 2 18/3.

Silver Dik-dik *Madoqua piacentinii* 6 12/3, 4 13/3, 6 14/3, and 1 15/3. Until recently this species was not known from Ethiopia. According to HMW “This species is known from just a few localities on the C Somali coast.”



Northern Gerenuk. (TC)



Silver Dik-dik was recently discovered in Ethiopia; we found 17 of them. (JD)

Harar Dik-dik *Madoqua hararensis* 25 11/3, 25 12/3, 40 13/3, and noted as common 14-15/3. Endemic to Ethiopia and Somalia.

Guenther's Dik-dik *Madoqua guentheri* 50 12/3, 30 13/3, and noted as common 14-15/3. (*smithii*)



Harar Dik-dik, endemic in a relatively small area in Ethiopia and Somalia. (TC)



Guenther's Dik-dik. (TC)

Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii* 30 16/3, and 20 18/3.

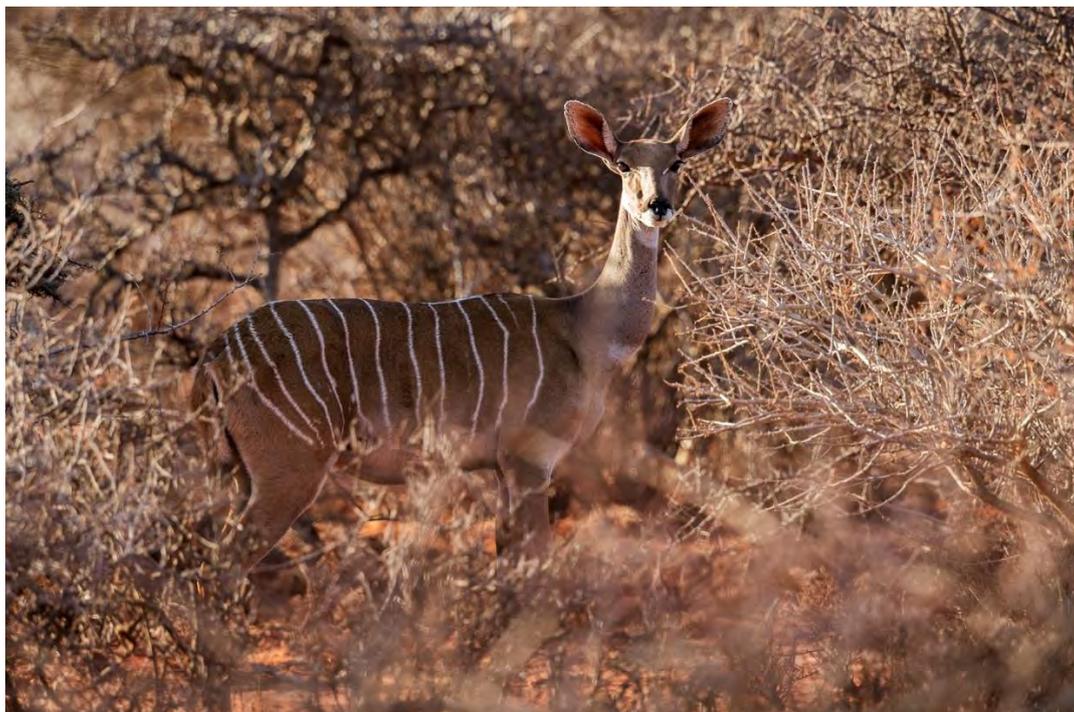
Dibatag *Ammodorcas clarkei* 1 12/3, 1-2 13/3, and 4 14/3.



Dibatag, female. (TC)

Beisa Oryx *Oryx beisa* 1 9/3, and 4 18/3.

Southern Lesser Kudu *Ammelaphus australis* 1 female 14/3.



Southern Lesser Kudu, female. (TC)

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* 3 17/3, and 6 18/3.

Desert Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* 4 11/3, and 2 15/3.

Abyssinian Hare *Lepus habessinicus* 1 12/3, 1 13/3, 6 14/3, 5 15/3, and 2 17/3.

Speke's Gundi *Pectinator spekei* 7 12/3, 1 13/3, and 10 14/10. Belong to the family Ctenodactylidae (Gundis). This species is endemic to the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia).



Speke's Gundi (right), and Rufous Elephant Shrew (left). (TC)

Grivet Monkey *Chlorocebus aethiops* 5 10/3.

Hamadryas Baboon *Papio hamadryas* 50 9/3 (+ hybrids), noted 17/3, and c. 30 18/3.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus* 10 11/3, 10 12/3, 10 13/3, 20 14/3, common 15-17/3.

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* c. 30 10/3, and c. 20 16/3.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* 2 11/3, and 1 15/3.



Yellow-winged Bat. (TC)

Rufous Elephant Shrew *Elephantulus rufescens* 2 seen well 13-14/3.



Rufous Elephant Shrew. (TC)

List of reptiles and frogs

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* 4 17/3.

Savannah Monitor *Varanus exanthematicus* 1 Gurdumi 12/3

Keller's Foam-nest Frog *Chiromantis kelleri* 1 at camp site 11/3, approx 11 cm.



Keller's Foam-nest Frog *Chiromantis kelleri*. (TC)