

East African Rarities Committee Report 2010–2013

The East African Rarities Committee assesses records of new and very rare birds occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This responsibility also includes assessing up to the fifth record of any species from each of the *five* countries. Therefore if you see a species for which there are fewer than five records in the country please submit full details to the EARC Secretary: Nigel Hunter, P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya; Email: nigelhunter@timbale.org

Please contact the Secretary if you are unsure whether your record requires a submission and for guidance on details to include in your submission. Past records of rare species are also sought in order to bring our database up to date. Since the Committee's last report in 2009 (*Scopus* 29: 23–26) the following records have been accepted:

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

First record for Kenya: Lake Baringo, 22 December 1994 (Brian Finch)

Humblot's Heron *Ardea humbloti*

First record for Tanzania and mainland Africa: adult present in the Selous GR 2007 (photographs from Pietro Luraschi and Mark Sheridan Johnson)

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*

First record for Tanzania: juvenile Arusha NP, 1 December 2010 (Tobie Muller, Niall Perrins and Valery Schollaert)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Third record for Tanzania: first winter female Kilimanjaro, 18 January 2011 (Stefan Ferger)

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

First record for Uganda: Murchison Falls NP, 15 December 2009 (Dick Forsman)

Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*

Third record for Kenya: juvenile Imenti Forest, Meru, 28 February 2013 (Darcy Ogada, Shiv Kapila, Peter Wairasho and Ben Mugambi). This is a second record from the Imenti Forest (see *Scopus* 29: 23 for details of the 2006 record)

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Adult 4 km east of Kajansi, near Kampala, 4 December 2003 (William Dunlop). This is the first record for Uganda since 1950

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

First record for Uganda: group of six birds in Queen Elizabeth NP, 15 February 2007 (Allan Kirby). For full details see Kirby (2008)

Forbes's Plover *Charadrius forbesi*

Fifth record for Uganda: Lake Nabugabo, 29 June 2011 (Roger Skeen)

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Second record for Uganda: Entebbe, 4 December 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

First record for Uganda and the East African region: Lutembe Bay, near Entebbe, 8 December 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Third record for Kenya: Nairobi NP, 7 April 2002 (Brian Finch). Fourth record for Kenya: Sabaki Estuary, 21 July 2011 (Ed Harper). First record for Tanzania: Ngorongoro Crater Lake, 14 March 2005. For details see Aeberhard (2013)

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus*

First records for Kenya: Lake Turkana, 18–21 December 1983 and 23–24 February 1985 (photographs from Barry Taylor). First record for Uganda: Lutembe Bay, near Entebbe, 22 November 2002 (Chris Sharpe and Malcolm Wilson)

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

First record for Uganda and the East African region: Murchison Falls NP, June 2011 (photograph from Jonathan Rossouw)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

First, second, third and fourth records for Tanzania: seven at Speke Bay, Lake Victoria, 28 February 2010; three Lake Manyara, 20–25 September 2010; two Lake Natron, 30 September 2010; and one Lake Eyasi 20 February 2012. For full details see Baker *et al.* (2013)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First record for Kenya: Sabaki Estuary, 6 July 2002 (Jan Bisschop). See also Bisschop (2002)

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

First record for Uganda: Queen Elizabeth NP, 8 December 2009 (Dick Forsman). Fourth record for Kenya: Lake Baringo, 18 April 2011 (Brian Finch)

Forbes-Watson's Swift *Apus berliozi*

First record for Tanzania: large flock near Dar es Salaam, 25 March 1996 (Brian Finch)

Racquet-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus*

First record for Kenya: Mara GR, 14 August 2011 (video and photograph supplied by Itai Shanni)

Shining Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadibrachys*

First record for Tanzania: Minziro Forest, 15 July 1987 (photographs by Neil & Liz Baker)

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*

Second record for Uganda: Kidepo Valley NP, 17 January 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

First record for Tanzania: Arusha NP, 11 January 2010 (photograph from Adam Scott Kennedy)

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus*

First record for Tanzania: Minziro Forest, 24 July 2000, with subsequent records during August and September 2000, and August 2006 (Neil & Liz Baker)

Coastal Black Boubou *Laniarius nigerrimus*

First Kenya records from Manda Island for nearly a century (Brian Finch and Nigel Hunter). For full details see Turner *et al.* (2011, 2013)

Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*

First documented record for Uganda: near Rhino Camp, West Nile District, 11 June 2009 (Guillaume Passavy)

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis*

Second record for Tanzania: six birds at Ihefu Swamp, Usangu Flats, southern Tanzania, 22 Sept 1997 (David Moyer). See also Moyer (1999)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica rufula*

First record of the Palaearctic race for Kenya: Ngulia Lodge, Tsavo West NP, 18 December 2009 (David Pearson). Second record for Kenya: Ngong Hills, 20 April 2013 (Brian Finch *et al.*)

Great Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Second record for Kenya: Solio Plains, Naro Moru, 28 November 2003 (Brian Finch). Third record for Kenya: Watamu, 5 November 2009 (Colin Jackson)

Boran Cisticola *Cisticola bodessa*

First record for Uganda: Mt Moroto foothills, 10 July 2011 (Sheila Taylor)

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica*

First record for Tanzania: Near Same, 11 December 2011 (Brian Finch)

Ansorge's Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*

First record for Uganda: Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest NP, 2 August 2001 (Nik Borrow). See also Borrow & Demey (2002)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

First record for Tanzania: Gibb's Farm, Karatu, near Ngorongoro Crater, April 2007 (Mikael Kall)

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammellaina*

First record for Uganda: Lake Mburo NP, 12 February 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

First record for Uganda: Queen Elizabeth NP, 10 March 2003 (photograph from Philip Palmer)

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Second record for Uganda: Kidepo Valley NP, 24-26 April 2011 (Roger Skeen)

Golden-naped Weaver *Ploceus aureonucha*

First record for Uganda and East Africa: Semliki NP, 1 August 2006 (Malcon Wilson). See Wilson *et al.* (2007)

Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi*

First record for Kenya: Sioport swamp, 25 October 2010 (photographs from Martin Odino)

Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*

First and second records for Tanzania: Speke Bay, Lake Victoria, 30 December 2012 (Elsle Rotenberg), and near Grumeti Camp, western Serengeti, 28 March 2013 (Joseph Openja)

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

First record for Uganda: Karamoja District, 4 September 2011 (Roger Skeen)

A number of records were rejected either due to misidentification or insufficient details to establish identification with certainty. These were:

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* Thika, Kenya, January 1985; Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis* Nyumba ya Mungu Reservoir, Tanzania, November 2007; Little Crake *Porzana parva* Thika, Kenya, January 1983, 1984 & 1985; Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* Lake Nabugabo, Uganda, 26 August 2010; Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* Lake Turkana, Kenya, October 1984; Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* Dandora Sewage Works, Nairobi, August 1985; Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* Watamu, Kenya, August 2010; Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* MacDonald's Bay, Entebbe, Uganda, January 2010; Little Gull *Larus minutus* Queen Elizabeth NP, Uganda, October 2008, and Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania, November 2011; Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* near Mombasa, April 1984; Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* Watamu, Kenya, August 2010; Black-billed Wood Dove *Turtur abyssinicus* Kerio Valley, Kenya, November 1995; White-thighed Hornbill *Bycanistes albotibialis* Minziro Forest, Tanzania, May 2010; Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus* near Moroto, Uganda, January 2012; White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis* in Tanzania at Kilombero Valley, July 2000; Eastern Bearded Greenbul *Criniger chloronotus*, Semliki NP, Uganda, January 2010; Northern Masked Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus* Lake Bunyoni, Uganda, June 2006; and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* near Sumbawanga, Tanzania, January 2011.

References

- Aeberhard, M. 2013. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. First record for Tanzania. *Scopus* 32: 54–55.
- Baker, N.E., Aeberhard, M., Carlson, J.C. & Kennedy, A.S. 2013. The first four records of Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* for Tanzania. *Scopus* 32: 42–43.
- Bisschop, J. 2002. Arctic Tern in Kenya in July 2002. *Kenya Birds* 10: 19.
- Borrow, N. & Demey, R. 2002. Anson's Greenbul *Andropadus ansoni*, new to Uganda. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 9: 140–141.
- Kirby, A. 2008. First record of Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* for Uganda. *Bulletin of the African Bird Club* 15: 98–99.
- Moyer, D.C. 1999. *Avian Biodiversity of Ihefu Swamp and floodplains in Usangu, Tanzania*. DFID Unpublished Report October 1999.
- Turner, D.A., Finch, B.W. & Hunter, N.D. 2011. Remarks concerning the all-black coastal boubous (*Laniarius spp.*) of Kenya and southern Somalia. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*. 131: 125–128.
- Turner, D.A., Finch, B.W. & Hunter, N.D. 2013. Remarks concerning the East African coastal form of the Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus sublacteus* (Cassin 1851) and its supposed black morph. *Scopus* 32: 47–49.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Don Turner for the real and valuable assistance he provided in compiling this report.

David Fisher

56 Western Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 1DU, England, United Kingdom

Nigel Hunter

P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya