

Review of Kenya bird records 2011–2014

Collated by David Pearson and Colin Jackson

From 1978 to 1998 notable records of birds in the three East African countries, checked and vetted by the Ornithological Sub-Committee (OS-C) of the EANHS, were published in a series of *Scopus* Reports. No equivalent system of record review has operated since, but reporting has continued to the present through various channels. For Kenya, a summary of records was given in each issue of *Kenya Birds* from 1992, and this was continued up to Vol. 10 (2002). Since then *Kenyabirdsnet* (kenyabirdsnet@yahoo.com) has provided a valuable new outlet for communicating observations on-line. Most of these remain unchecked although they are now increasingly accompanied by supporting digital images. For all three countries record summaries have appeared since 2003 under Recent Reports in each issue of the *Bulletin of the African Bird Club*.

The East African Rare Birds Committee (EARC) was set up in 1985 to assist the OS-C in assessing critical records for the three countries, and this currently scrutinizes and reports on birds known from less than five records in the country concerned. However, further records of scarce birds, reports indicating range extension or status change, and observations remarkable for example for the numbers or dates involved, remain essentially unchecked, and have become scattered through a variety of outlets, many of these difficult to trace. There is clearly a need for regular reviews to bring checked records together, and we intend to include such again in *Scopus*. The first of these covers Kenya and extends back over the past four years. In future issues we hope to deal with recent records in Tanzania and Uganda, and then produce updated, perhaps annual, reports for all three countries.

We have attempted to check the veracity of records as far as possible, examining photographs in many cases, and we have omitted some reports where details were unavailable or unconvincing. We were greatly assisted in this by Brian Finch, and received helpful views from Fleur Ng'weno, Simon Thomsett, Don Turner and Nigel Hunter.

The following list deals with records from 2011–2014. Those from 2015 will be covered in a future report. For ease of reference we have listed Palaearctic species separately from Afrotropical and Oceanic species. Nomenclature and order follows the *Checklist of the Birds of Kenya* (2009). The abbreviations NP and NR refer to National Park and National Reserve respectively. Atlas Square refers to the quarter square degree (QSD) square in Lewis & Pomeroy (1989).

Species with five or fewer Kenya records are designated A, those with more than five but less than about 20 records as X. Other designations indicating reason for record inclusion:

L: unusual Locality; extension of range

N: Numerical interest

D: unusual Date

B: Breeding interest

Afrotropical and Oceanic species**Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes***

L: Noted northwest edge of Dodori NR Nov 2013 and Apr 2014. At least one male and one female seen in mid Apr (FN, TM, JM).

Coqui Francolin *Francolinus coqui*

L: 1 Nairobi NP 18 Aug 2011 (BF) was the first record for the Nairobi area.

Red-winged Francolin *Francolinus levaillantii* X

2 Mara GR 25 Dec 2012 (SH) and 2 pairs there 29 Oct 2013 (NB).
There are very few recent records.

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

N: c. 40 Manguo Pond, Limuru 7 Apr 2013, and c. 80 there 12 Oct 2013 (BF).

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentotta*

N: c. 400 L. Nakuru 13 Jan 2013 (BF), a remarkably high count.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

N: 2000+ Lake Naivasha July 2012 was exceptional (DT).

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

A male with a large all-dark immature Manguo Ponds 27 June 2012 (FN).
3 Manguo Pond, Limuru 7 Apr 2013, and 2 there 12 Oct 2014 (BF).
Has become very scarce during this century.

Albatross *Thalassarche* sp.

1 Pemba Channel 4 Oct 2012 (P&MH).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

N: c. 5000 Lake Nakuru 10 Jan 2013 (BF, NH), a notable count.

African Open-billed Stork *Anastomus lamelligerus*

N: 1500+ Tana River Delta 9 Feb 2013 (CJ).

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

L: Individuals in riverside pools Dodori NR and adjacent Aweer Community Conservancy late Oct–early Nov 2013 and early Apr 2014 (FN, TM, JM). The first documented records between the Lower Tana and the Juba.

Little Bittern *Ixobrythys minutus*

B: 2 chicks Nairobi NP 6 June 2013 (KP, HE) (race *paysii*).

White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus* X

1 Nairobi NP throughout July 2013 (BF, KP, RW, FN).

Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae*

L: 1 Busia 22 July 2011 (BF); 1 Lake Kwena June 2013 (BF, RW).
Unusual in the west and in the southern rift.

Greater Frigatebird *Fregata minor* X

An adult female Watamu 25 Oct 2012 (MMw).

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* X

An exhausted sub-adult female beached at Diani 24 Mar 2011 (per CJ).

Frigatebird *Fregata* sp.

1 Pemba Channel 26 Nov 2012 was the first noted there for several years (P&MH).

N: 25 high above Watamu beach Dec 13 2011 and 8 low over the beach 20 Oct 2014 (JG).

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*

1 picked up exhausted Watamu 13 May 2012 (CJ).
Rarely recorded close inshore

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

N: c. 25,000 Lake Nakuru 10 Dec 2012 (BF *et al.*) was a remarkable concentration.
L: Several Dodori NR and adjacent Aweer Conservancy early Apr 2014 (FN, JM).
There seem to be no previous records between the Lower Tana and the Juba.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiacus*

L: Pair with nest and young Chebloch Gorge, Kerio Valley 1 Mar 2012 (JB).

African Cuckoo Hawk *Aviceda cucluloides*

L D: 1 Ngulia Lodge 30 Nov 2011 (DP, IK, CJ *et al.*). A new record for the site, and an interesting date.

African Swallow-tailed Kite *Chelictinia riocourii*

L: 2 Meru NP 26 Feb 2013 (DO). Unusual this far south.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

5 Tsavo East NP 20 Feb 2013 (VS); 2 Lake Kwenia 26 May 2013 (BF, RW).
1 Lobur Mission, Elemi triangle, 14 Aug 2014 (FN, SO). This formerly widespread species as become very scarce over the past 15 years.

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini* A

1 Nambale 27 Mar 2012 (2nd record for Kenya), and an adult plus dependent young here 22 Apr 2014 (first Kenya breeding record) (both BF).
1 Bunyala rice scheme 10 Apr 2013, and an immature photographed here 20 Mar 2014 (MO). All accepted by the EARC.

Southern Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus*

L: Several pairs calling and displaying Dodori NR and Aweer Conservancy late Oct–early Nov 2013 and early Apr 2014 (FN, TM, JM, DG).

Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*

L: 1 Ruma NP 22 Feb 2012 (JB); 1 Imenti Forest, Meru 10 Nov 2013 (BF).

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

1 Iten 18 Apr 2012 (BF); 1 Serena oxbows, Mara GR 23 Apr 2012 (BF).
This species has become very scarce in Kenya

Ovambo Sparrowhawk *Accipiter ovampensis*

A pair Sabaringo valley, Mara GR 26 June 2011 (BF); an immature Melepo, Kajiado 5 July 2011 (FR); 1 Bateleur Camp, Mara GR 7 Feb 2012 (BF); 1 Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza Nov 2014 (JB *et al.*).

Great Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucos*

L: 1 Aweer Conservancy, near Dodori NR early Nov 2013 (FN, TM).

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

L, D: 1 Ngong Hills 15 Sep 13 (BF, AK).
An unusual site and an unusually early date

Ayres's Hawk Eagle *Aquila ayresii*

L: Individuals seen Dodori NR and Aweer Conservancy late Oct–early Nov 2013 and

early Apr 2014 (FN, TM, JM). There are almost no previous records north of the Tana River.

Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus africanus* A

A juvenile photographed Imenti forest, Meru 28 Feb 13 (DO, PW, SK, BM). Accepted by the EARC as the 3rd record for Kenya. An adult was seen and photographed here in 2006.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoetus occipitalis*

B: A recently fledged juvenile Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza Jan 2011 (JB).

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami*

1 Solio plains, Laikipia 14 Nov 2011 (BF).
Local and uncommon with few recent records.

Heuglin's Bustard *Neotis heuglinii*

L: 1 Shaba GR 20 July 2012 (BF); 1 Aruba Dam, Tsavo East NP 5 Apr 2011 (BF). A rare bird this far south.

Hartlaub's Bustard *Lissotis hartlaubii*

L: 4 Sosian Ranch, Laikipia 22 Aug 11 (BF, NH).
Hitherto unrecorded in Laikipia but subsequently found to be widespread and commoner than Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* (BF).

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

L: 1 calling Kericho tea estate 12 Feb 12 (JB).
A new locality for the species.

Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans*

L: 1 calling at dusk Kalanga Spring, Ngulia 27 Nov 2011 (CJ *et al.*).
Also heard calling here in early Dec 2008.

African Crake *Crex egregia*

1 Nairobi NP 14 Nov 2011 (BF, RW).
An uncommon intra-African migrant

Striped Crake *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*

1 Naivasha 24 June 2013 (DT).
A scarce intra-African migrant.

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

N: c. 40 Nairobi NP 20 Oct 2012 (BF, FN, KP, MD).
c. 200 Brookside Dairies, Ruiru 29 Jan 2014 (FN).

Black Crowned Crane *Balearica pavonina*

40+ along road north of Todenyang 15 Aug 2014 (FN).
Extends south to the northern shores of Lake Turkana, but reports from this remote area are infrequent.

Long-toed Plover *Vanellus crassirostris*

A bird of the race *leucopterus* appeared Nairobi NP Nov–Dec 2014 (BF, NH), and has remained there since.

Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

L: 1 Silole, south of Nairobi NP 25 June 2013 (WK).
Infrequently recorded, mainly an intra-African migrant.

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis*

N: c. 2000 Moa, Tana River Delta 10 Apr 2011 (OH).

L: 2 Olbainita swamp, Kampi ya Moto 28 August 2011 (BF, NH); 20+ Bunyala rice scheme 17 Aug 2013 (MO); 1 Nairobi racecourse 22 Jun 2013 (NH).

Inland records have been rare.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

L: 1 Nairobi NP 11 Feb 2014 (BF, MD) was the first record for the park.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

N: 1000+ Lake Nakuru 10 Dec 2012 (BF).

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

N: 3000+ off Whale Is., Watamu 4 Dec 2011 (CJ).

Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris* X

c. 10 Kisite 2 Feb 2012 (JBa), and 1 there 6 Dec 2013 (WWac).

Rarely recorded, but probably overlooked.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides personatus*

L: 1 Oserian, Naivasha West 14 Oct 2013 (NC).

Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus rochii*

1 photographed Naivasha 6 Oct 2013 (BF).

Thick-billed Cuckoo *Pachyoccyx audeberti*

L: 1 calling and displaying Nakuru NP 25–26 Nov 2011 recorded on video (SE, BF), apparently the first Kenya record away from coastal areas.

L: 1 calling in wooded palm grasslands between Basuba and Kiangwe villages, north of Dodori NR 12 Apr 2014; a bird was seen and photographed later that morning (DN, JM).

The first record north of the Lower Tana.

Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aureus*

L: 1 Nairobi 28 Aug 2011 (ME).

An intra-African migrant from the south, rare away from coastal areas.

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*

B, L: A female on eggs Sosian, Laikipia 21 Aug 2011 (BF, AV).

Gabon Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*

L: A female photographed on nest Manda Is. 22 May 2011 (BF, FN, KP, MD, JK, JMw).

Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius*

1 Sosian Laikipia 20 Aug 2011 (AV).

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

L: 2+ Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza 21 Feb 2012 (JBr).

Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi*

L: Sightings of 2–3 birds Dodori NR early Apr 2014 (FN, JM, DN).

Mottled Spinetail *Telecanthura ussheri*

L: 2 over river pool Dodori NR early Apr 2014 (FN, JM, DN).

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

L: A pair nesting Ngulia Lodge Nov–Dec 2013 (CJ, DP *et al.*), a new breeding locality.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

L: 1 Lake Nakuru 10 Mar 2013 (BF).

Rare in the Rift Valley away from Lake Baringo.

Racquet-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus* X

1 Mara GR 14 Aug 2011 (photos and video supplied by IS).

Accepted by the EARC as the first Kenya record of this vagrant from the south.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Singles of the north tropical race *weibeli* Nairobi NP 10 Jun 13 and 25 Aug 2013 (BF *et al.*).ern

Abyssinian Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus abyssinicus*

L: 2 Alupe 25 Mar 2012 (BF, NH, FN, KP).

Hemprich's Hornbill *Tockus hemprichi*

L: 1 Nakuru 28 Aug 2011 (BF, NH).

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*

L: Small parties in riverine forest Anweer Conservancy, adjacent to Dodori NR Oct–Nov 2013 and Apr 2014 (FN, TM, JM, DN). There are no previous coastal records north of the Lower Tana.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

L: Recorded as common (race *fischeri*) in Witu Forest 21 May 2011 (BF, FN, KP, MD, JMw, JK).

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachylaemus purpuratus*

L: 1 Gwass Hills, South Nyanza 20 Apr 2012 (JBr *et al.*); 1 Eburru Forest 12 Mar 2012 (NC).

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

L: Established during 2014 as regular at Nairobi at both the Karen Blixen Museum and the Ngong Road Racecourse (FN, *et al.*).

African Pitta *Pitta angolensis*

D: 1 Arabuko-Sokoke Forest 7 Apr 2014 (JBa).

The first record for many years, and an early date.

Gorgeous Bush Shrike *Chlorophoneus viridis*

Heard calling southern edge of Boni NR early Nov 2013 and early Apr 2014. Two were caught and photographed (FN, TM, JM, DN).

Forest Batis *Batis mixta*

L: Found at several locations along southern edge of Boni NR and in adjacent Anweer Conservancy Oct–Nov 2013 and Apr 2014. Trapped and photographed (FN, TM, JM, DN). Not previously recorded north of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii*

L: A pair Karisia, W Laikipia 26 Oct 2011 (JC).

Friedmann's Lark *Mirafra pulpa* X

1 displaying Tsavo West NP 25 May 2013 (BF); 3 singing Maungu 1 Jan 2013 (ES); adults feeding pulli in a nest at Shaba GR mid Apr 2014 (CK).

Collared Lark *Mirafra collaris* X

A singing bird c. 15 km north of Garissa, and a further five found on the circuit Garissa

–Mado Gashi – 50 km east of Habaswein 16 Oct 2011 (BF *et al.*). The first reliable Kenya reports since a bird was noted north of Garissa in November 1974.

Tiny Greenbul *Phyllastrephus debilis*

L: Heard and seen in southern edge of Boni NR early Nov 2013, and again early Apr 2014 when 2 were also trapped and photographed near Busaba in the Aweer Conservancy (FN, TM, JM, DN). Apart from one historic record from the Lower Tana these are the first records north of Arabuko-Sokoke.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis*

Groups seen and recorded Kavirondo Escarpment (Atlas Square 60A) Jan–Feb 2012 in open woodland and ravine thicket (JB, DB).

Karamoja Apalis *Apalis karamojae*

A pair feeding juveniles Masai Mara 29 Jan 2011 (AK).
The first Kenya breeding record.

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

1 Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza 21 Feb 2012 (JB *et al.*)
A new locality in W Kenya.

Green-capped Eremomela *Sylvietta scotops*

L: A pair watched and photographed at 1400 m on the Nyarondo Escarpment (Atlas Square 60A) Feb 2012 (JB, DB).

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster*

A pair seen and photographed in open woodland at 1400 m on the Nyarondo Escarpment (Atlas Square 60A) 20 Jan 2011 (JB).

Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactyla*

L: Observed Nyarondo Escarpment (Atlas Square 60A) 20 Jan 2011 (JB)
A new locality in W Kenya.

Sharpe's Starling *Pholia sharpii*

L: 1 Nairobi NP 31 Oct 2011 (BF). A new species for the park.

Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglini*

L: 1 photographed at Buffalo Springs 7 Nov 2013 (BF).
There are few Kenya records away from northwest border areas.

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

An adult trapped and ringed Ngulia Lodge 20 Nov 2012 (CJ, MW *et al.*).
The few others trapped at Ngulia have all been juveniles.

Chapin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa chapini*

L: 5 birds including an immature South Nandi Forest 19–20 July 2011 (BF, FN, KP, MD).

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

L: 1 Nairobi NP 19 Dec 2012 (NH, BF). A new species for the park.

Violet-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris chalcomelas*

N: Hundreds at Sabaki mouth 4–10 Apr 2012 (BF)

Northern Masked Weaver *Ploceus taeniopterus*

Large flocks Omo mouth Jan 2012 (KA).

Clarke's Weaver *Ploceus golangi*

A colony of 400–500 nests active late March–early April 2013 in a small wetland in the northern part of the Dakatcha Woodlands, northwest of Malindi (FN, DWCG). The first breeding record of this species. See also *Scopus* 35.

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa* X

1 Sabuk, Laikipia 10 Sep 2011 (AK).

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia*

L: 1 Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza 21 Dec 2012 (JB).

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotus*

L: A pair Adungosi, Busia 22 Apr 2012 (BF).

Bush Pipit *Anthus caffer*

L: 1 Shaitani lava flow, Tsavo West NP 19 Nov 2011 (BF).

Orange-winged Pytilia *Pytilia afra* X

A pair Thika 8 April 2012 and 1 at same site 19 Jan 2013 (BF, NH). Rarely recorded in Kenya since 1960.

Western Citril *Crithagra frontalis* A

Recorded and photographed Gwasssi Hills, South Nyanza, where noted in forest edge and cultivated land Jan 2011, Feb 2012 and Nov 2014 (JB, TI, DB). These were accepted by the EARC as the first documented records for Kenya.

Brown-rumped Bunting *Emberiza affinis* A

1 Kongelai Escarpment 21 Mar 2012 (NH, MS). Accepted by the EARC as the 3rd record for Kenya.

Palearctic species**Gadwall *Anas strepera* X**

1 Marula Farm, Naivasha 30 Nov 2012 (KN); 1 Manguo ponds, Limuru also 30 Nov 2012 (BF, NH). Coincidentally seen on the same date. A rare migrant with fewer than five recent records.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

L: 2 Lake Nakuru 10 Dec 2012 (BF). Occasional on some of the Rift Valley lakes but rare at this site.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* X

1 Kisumu Ponds 23 Dec 2011 (PL); 1 Manguo ponds, Limuru throughout most of Dec 2013 (AK *et al.*). The first records since 2003.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

2 Dandora sewage ponds 24 Jan 2013 (PU). The first record for several years.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

D: 1 Nairobi NP 29 July 2013 and a sub-adult there 26 May 2014, both unusual dates (BF, FN, KP, MD).

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

N: c. 10,000 Onkolde, Tana River Delta 8 Apr 2011 (OH). 3500 flying east Shimba Hills, 5 Apr 2012 (JM). Scores moving through wooded palm grasslands near Dodori NR, early Apr 2014 with a flock of 100+ on 8th (FN, JM). Not previously recorded in such numbers during spring passage.

In autumn, 1000+ near Kamboyo, Tsavo West NP 25 Nov 2011 (DM, MC), 560 moving south past Ngulia Lodge next day, then 26,000 passing west along Ngulia ridge 27 Nov 2011 (CJ, DP, BA *et al.*); 500+ Nairobi, 30 Nov 2011 (SB). These numbers in 2011 were exceptional. 1500+ roosting Ngulia valley 1 Dec 2014.

L: 1 Sioport 26 Feb 2012 (JB); 17 Sangailu, NE Kenya 1 Apr 2014 and 57 between Ijara and Saigalu next day (MO); 5 Bura irrigation scheme, W Kenya 17–19 Dec 2014 (MO).

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

D: 1 Nairobi NP 21 May 12 (BF *et al.*)—a late date.

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides* X

1 Ngulia Lodge 18 Nov 2011 (CJ); 2 photographed there 25–27 Nov 2014 (AS, DP, IK *et al.*).

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

10 Kakamega 12 Oct 2011 (TI); 1 Thika 18 Mar 2013 (DO); 2 Ngulia 28 Nov 2013 (IK, DP, JH *et al.*) and 1 there 22–23 Nov 2014 (IK, AS, DP *et al.*). 1 Amboseli 31 Mar 2014 and 2 Tsavo West NP 1 Apr 2014 (MV, SK, PW). 1n South Nyanza, singles Gembe Hills Feb 2012 and Gwasssi Hills Nov 2014 (JB *et al.*).

Undoubtedly much under-recorded; all records received are included here.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* X

12 over rice fields between Kakamega and Kisumu 14 Nov 2011 (SB, Zoothera Birding); a juvenile Ngulia Lodge 14–15 Nov 2011 was trapped and ringed (BA, MW, NRG), and an adult male seen there 15 Nov 2011 (CJ); 1 Ngulia 15 Nov 2013 (DP, IK *et al.*).

Over 600 birds together Mara GR 23 Feb 2014 (MMo). This extraordinary gathering, with birds perched on bushes then taking off and soaring away northwards in ‘stacks’, was perhaps moving off from a migratory roost. Such a number is unprecedented anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa (see the Short Communication in this issue for more detail).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

At Ngulia Lodge 1–2 on several dates 20–30 Nov 2011 (photographed), and singles 23 Nov 2012, 7 Dec 2013 and 27 Nov 2014 (CJ, DP, IK *et al.*); 1 Kongelai 21 Mar 2012 (BF). There are still few Kenya records away from Ngulia.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

N: c. 800 Kakamega 12 Oct 2011 (TI); c. 500 Ewaso Nyiro, Narok 14 Oct 2011.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

1 Nairobi NP 14 May 2012 (BF, NH), 1 there 2 Feb 2013 (BF), 2 on 22 Apr and 5 May 2013 (BF, NH, KP, MD), a juvenile 20 Jan 2014 (BF, NH) and an adult 17 Feb 2014 (BF, FN, KP, MD). Photographs were received.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*

At Ngulia 1 photographed 15–16 Nov 2012 (CJ, DP *et al.*) and at least 1 passed south 26 Nov 2013 (IK, DP, JH *et al.*). 1 Nakuru 2010 Dec 12 (BF); an immature Nairobi NP 2 Dec 2013 (BF) and a juvenile there during Jan 2014 (both photographed, BF); a juv. photographed Naivasha 30 Nov 2014 (BF *et al.*).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

187 counted Tana River Delta 30 Jan 2012, 252 on 9 Feb 2013, c. 150 on 10 Jan 2014 (FN *et al.*) and c. 40 on 20 Mar 2014 (CJ *et al.*); c. 250 flew south over Watamu 25 Sep 2013 (CJ).

With near annual records over seven years, the Tana River Delta appears to be an important wintering site.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Many noted Turkwell Delta Jan 2012 (KA).
This is a known wintering area but seldom visited.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

L: Inland records: 1 Lake Nakuru 6 Nov 2011; 1 Dunga point, Kisumu 26 Mar 2012 (BF); 1 Nairobi NP 20 Sep 2014 (FN), the first record for the park.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

D: 1 Nairobi NP 10 June 2014 (BF), a highly unusual date.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

D: 1 Lake Nakuru 2 June 2013 (SH) was an overwintering bird at an unusual locality.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

L: inland: 1 Lake Magadi 17 Feb 2013 (JK).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

L: inland: 1 Lake Nakuru 10 Dec 2013 (BF, NH).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* A

1 Sabaki bridge 21 July 2011 (EH).
Accepted by the EARC as the 3rd Kenya record .

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

D: 1 Lake Nakuru 16 May 2012 (BF) was a late date for this species.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

L: inland: 1 Nairobi NP 30 Sep 2013 (BF, KP, MD).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Many reported Pemba Channel 11–18 Nov 2012 (P&MH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

L: An adult of the grey-backed race *tamyriensis* Lake Naivasha 16 May 2013 (AK).
Unusual for this race to occur inland.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

5 Lake Nakuru 6 Nov 2011 (BF, NH), 4 there 26 Nov 2012 and a 1st year bird 13 Jan 2013 (BF); 1 Amboseli NP 20 Nov 2013 (BF).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

L: 1 Lake Nakuru 6 Nov 2011 (BF). Inland records are unusual.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* A

A bird in non-breeding plumage Lake Baringo 18 Apr 2011 (BF).
Accepted by the EARC as the 4th record for Kenya.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* A

A dark immature photographed at Kisite 24 July 2013 (MMw).
The first record for Kenya since 1995, although a few other reports of dark *Skua sp.* have probably been this species.
Accepted by the EARC as the 5th record for Kenya.

Eurasian Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* X 1 Langata 3 Dec 2012 (DR).

There are no more than about 10 records for Kenya.

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*

1 ringed Ngulia Lodge 24 Nov 2011 (DP, NRG) and another 20 Nov 2012 (CJ, NRG) – both juvenile birds; another seen nearby at Ngulia 19 Dec 2012 (DP, PK, JV)

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*

1 photographed Kasarani, Nairobi 2 Nov 2013 (WWam).

Eurasian Swift *Apus apus*

N: 14,000 counted flying east Shimba Hills 5 Apr 2012 (JM).

Eurasian Roller *Coracias garrulus*

N: Large migratory flocks included 'a few thousands' Onkolde, Tana River Delta 8 Apr 2011 (OH); 500+ moving southeast Ngulia 30 Nov 2014 and 1500+ in rain storms next day (DP, IK, AS *et al.*).

D: 2 Nairobi NP June–July 2013 (KP, HE) were apparently overwintering; 1 there 4 Oct 2014 was an early date.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

A bird of the nominate race Athi River 15 Dec 2012 (BF, NH).

Palaeartic birds are only occasionally recorded in Kenya.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Records, all of single birds, Nairobi 21 Nov 2011 (BF), Kanyarkwat 22 Mar 2012 (BF), Kerio Valley 14 Nov 2013 (BF), Timau 5 Jan 2014 (NH), Mpala Ranch, Laikipia 17 Mar 2014 (TI) and Loldaiga hills 29 Nov 2014 (MR).

A late bird was photographed at Nguuni, Mombasa 20 April 2012 (DS).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

D: 1 Nairobi NP 18 Oct 2014 (BF). There are few autumn records from Kenya.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

2 (male and female) Alupe 25 Mar 2012 (BF, NH, FN, KP).

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica daurica* A

A bird of the nominate race Ngong Hills 20 Apr 2013 (BF, NH, SBa).

Accepted by the EARC as the 2nd Kenya record of this Palaeartic race.

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis*

LD: 6 individuals in wooded grasslands at Baure, northwest edge of Dodori NR 14 Apr 2014; another seen and photographed next day (EM, JM).

North of the known coastal Kenyan wintering area, and a late date.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

L: 1 examined in the hand Oloidien, Naivasha 28 Nov 2014 (DT).

There are very few records from the Rift Valley and the west.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Records, all of single birds, from Ngulia Lodge (trapped and ringed) 23 Nov 2011 (DP, NRG), and Nairobi NP 24 Mar 2014 (BF) (photographed), 20 Oct 2014 (BF) and 20 Dec 2014 (NH).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

1 in song Turi, Molo 7 Feb 2014 (CJ)

Not infrequent in highland forest sites in W Kenya.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

1 trapped and ringed Ngulia Lodge 2 Dec 2013 (KT, DP, NRG).

Irania *Irania gutturalis*

L: 1 west side of Lake Naivasha early Apr 2012 (TS).
Few rift valley records.

Rufous Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*

L: 1 Oloiden, Naivasha early Apr 2012, during extremely dry conditions (DT).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

L: 1 Boni NR early Nov 2013 (TM).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* X

1 Kerio Valley 4 Nov 2011 (SE); an adult male trapped Ngulia Lodge 21 Nov 2012 (CJ, MW, GB, NRG), the fourth record from this site and the second to be ringed.

There are still fewer than ten Kenya records.

Observers

BA Bernard Amakobe, KA Kieran Avery, GB Graeme Backhurst, JBa Jonathan Baya, JB James Bradley, DB David Bradley, SB Steve Bird, NB Nik Borrow, NC Nigel Carnelly, JC James Christian, MD Mike Davidson, DWCG Dakatcha Woodland Conservation Group, SE Steven Easley, HE Heather Elkins, BF Brian Finch, JG Jaap Gijbsbertsen, OH Olivier Hamerlynck, EH Ed Harper, SH Stratton Hatfield, JH Jan Heckmann, P&MH Pat and Maia Hemphill, NH Nigel Hunter, TI Titus Imboma, CJ Colin Jackson, SK Shiv Kapila, CK Chege Kariuki, AK Adam Kennedy, PK Peter Kennerley, IK Ian Kerton, JK Joshua Kiwa, WK Willie Knocker, PL Patrick Lhoir, EM Edson Mlamba, MMo Mike Mockler, BM Benson Mugambi, JM John Musina, JMw Jonathon Mwachongo, MMw Martin Mwema, TM Timothy Mwinami, KN Kariuki Ndang'ang'a, DN David Ngala, NRG Ngulia Ringing Group, FN Fleur Ngweno, DP David Pearson, KP Karen Plumbe, MO Martin Odino, DO Darcy Ogada, SO Sheena Orr, DR Dave Richards, FR Fiona Ried, MR Mike Roberts, ES Edwin Selemo, AS Attila Sandor, DS Doris Schaule, TS Tony Seth-Smith, IS Itai Shanni, MS Maurice Sinyerere, KT Kasper Thorup, DT Don Turner, PU Peter Usher, JV Joost Valkenburg, AV Albie Venter, MV Munir Virani, WWac Washington Wachira, PW Peter Wairisho, WWam Wanyoike Wamiti, RW Rupert Watson, MW Malcolm Wilson.

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Future Reports

We shall continue to review noteworthy Kenya bird records. Those for 2015 and 2016 can be submitted directly to scopus@naturekenya.org and a guide to the scarcer or endangered species that concern us was given on pp. 53–56 of *Scopus* 35. We also plan a report for Uganda for 2012–2015 to update the review of Skeen in *Scopus* 33. And we hope to be able to complete a similar report for recent years for Tanzania.