

East African Rarities Committee (EARC) Rarities Report

David Fisher (Chairman) and Nigel Hunter (Secretary) on behalf of the EARC

The East African Rarities Committee assesses records of new and very rare birds occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This includes up to the fifth record of any species from each of the five countries. Sightings of species for which there are fewer than five records for a country should be submitted to the EARC Secretary: Nigel Hunter, P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: nigelhunter@timbale.org. Please contact the Secretary to obtain clarification of whether a record requires a submission and for guidance on what details to include in the submission. Past records of rare species are also sought in order to bring the EARC database up to date.

1. Since the Committee's last report published in 2016 (*Scopus* 36(2): 57–64) the following records have been Accepted:

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Fourth record for Kenya. One adult female grounded at Kilifi on 6 October 2016 and photographed. Bird died the following day. Measurements of wing, culmen, tail and weight were taken and the specimen provided to the National Museums of Kenya (S. Alleyne and L. Kirau).

Lesser Frigatebird



Photo: S. Alleyne

Red-throated Bee-eater

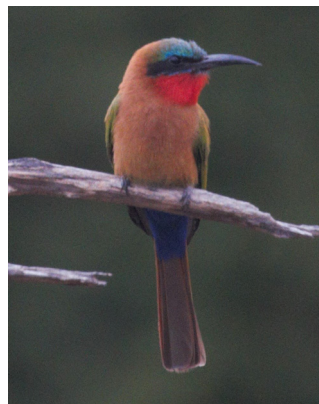


Photo: R. Schmitt & A. Nyambacha

Dusky Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx mechowii*

Third record for Tanzania but thought to be resident in Minziro Forest (north-western Tanzania). The bird was observed and photographed at Mwanza on 7 February 2016 (G. Long).

Red-throated Bee-eater *Merops bullocki*

First record for Tanzania. First observed on 7 August 2016 and then fairly regularly up to 17 August 2016 in the same location, which was 3.5 km south-southwest of

Fort Ikoma on the banks of the Grumeti River in Serengeti district. Good quality photographs were obtained during that period (A. Nyambacha and R. Schmitt).

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

First record for Tanzania. Observed and photographed in short grassland on the northeastern shore of Lake Eyasi (northern Tanzania) on 14 February 2016 (C. & N. Schemling).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Second record for Tanzania. Observed at Musoma Town, Mara Region on 28 November 2004. Good description provided (I. Shanni).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

First record for Kenya and the East African Region. Observed and photographed visiting a drinking point between 14:30 on 25 February and 08:00 on 26 February 2016 at the Turkana Basin Institute (4°17'N, 36°15'E), Ileret, northern Kenya (D. Burgas, M. Cabeza, S. Fraixedas, Á. Fernández-Llamazares).

Lesser Whitethroat



Photos: D. Burgas *et al.*

Chestnut-winged Starling *Onychognathus fulgidus*

First record for Tanzania. The report with relevant details of a small party in forest on Ukerere Island, Lake Victoria, Tanzania in May 1956 was accepted as new for Tanzania. This report was published by N.R. Fuggles-Couchman in *Scopus* in 1983, but had not been previously considered by the EARC.

Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*

First and second record for Rwanda. Bird photographed from the roadside near Ibanda-Makera Forest, Kirehe District, Eastern Province on 15 May 2016 and photographed from the roadside near Akagera National Park, Eastern Province on 3 and 5 June 2016; these were accepted as the first two records for Rwanda (J. Hogg, J. de Groot and S. Love).

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea*

Second record for Kenya. Given the ample proof provided in print (Payne *et al.* 1992) and on CD (Chappuis 2000) this species was accepted for inclusion on the Kenya list (EANHS 2009). On 1 March 2012, a male and several female birds were observed and photographed in the Kerio Valley. In addition, the male song was recorded and

sonograms prepared (J. & D. Bradley). The report was also reviewed and accepted by an independent expert familiar with indigobird species.

2. The following records were Rejected due to insufficient details to establish identification with certainty:

Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis nigriscapularis* at Akagera National Park, Rwanda on 14 June 2016.

Kretschmer's Longbill *Macrosphenus kretschmeri* at Gwasssi Hills, Western Kenya based on four visits between 2011 and 2015.

Yellow-vented Eremomela *Eremomela flavicrissalis* close to Ndutu Safari Lodge, Northern Tanzania on 3 October 2015.

References

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- EANHS 2009. *Checklist of the Birds of Kenya*. Nairobi: Bird Committee, East Africa Natural History Society. 4th Edition.
- FUGGLES-COUCHMAN, N.R. 1983. On the occurrence of *Onychognathus fulgidus* Chestnut-winged Starling in Tanzania. *Scopus* 7: 98–99
- PAYNE, R.B., PAYNE, L.L., NHLANE, M.E.D. & HUSTLER, K. 1993. Species status and distribution of the parasitic indigobirds *Vidua* in East and Southern Africa. *Proceedings of the VIII Pan-African Ornithological Congress, Bujumbura*, pp. 40–52.

Acknowledgements

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