

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* in Kenya

The range of the Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* is almost entirely east of the Rift Valley from the Ndotos and the Mathews Range, south through the Mt Kenya and Aberdare highlands to Thika, Nairobi, Kibwezi, Ol Donyo Orok (Namanga Hill), the Chyulus, and Taita-Taveta District, including the Taita Hills forests. It also occurs in coastal forests from the Arabuko-Sokoke and Gede forest reserves south to the Shimba Hills, Mrima Hill, and Shimoni forests. Meanwhile, wanderers from northern Tanzania appear seasonally in the Nguruman and Loliondo forests astride the Kenya-Tanzania border. It occurs alongside Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* in some inland areas and most coastal forests south of Malindi including the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve.

The lack of Kenya breeding records is due, at least in part, to paucity of suitable nesting sites, and it should be pointed out that all references to an October 1965 breeding record from Molo are unfortunate, as the record itself (Start & Start 1978) actually referred to the breeding of a pair of Black-and-white Casqued Hornbills *Bycanistes subcylindricus* that were resident on the Start property at that time. DAZ frequently visited the Start family at Molo during the 1960s, and he obtained several photographs of the hornbills there until the forest was destroyed in the 1970s.

While there have been a few breeding attempts in the Nairobi suburbs, to date none has been successful, and the only confirmed breeding record in Kenya would appear to be that documented by Guarnieri *et al.* (2018) from Nyeri District in central Kenya.

References

- GUARNIERI, D.P., WANJOHI, M., CARTER, S., MUGAMBI, B. & BRADLEY, J. 2018. A breeding record of the Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* in central Kenya. *Scopus* 38(2): 23–24.
- START, J., & START, H. 1978. Nesting record of the Silvery-cheeked Hornbill. *EANHS Bulletin* 1978: 125–127.

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