

East African Rarities Committee Report for 2019

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: nigelhunter74@gmail.com. The country lists with less than five records and the EARC rarity form are available as downloads from the EARC website (www.e rararities.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. Nomenclature follows the *Checklist of the Birds of Kenya* 5th edition (Bird Committee 2019) unless stated otherwise.

Since the Committee's last report published in 2019 (*Scopus* 39(2): 44–48) the following records have been accepted:

White-crested Turaco *Tauraco leucolophus*

New record for Rwanda. A single bird seen and photographed at Akagera National Park on 28 September 2019 (Dru and Cheryl Jarayane).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Fourth record for Uganda. A single bird seen and photographed at Queen Elizabeth National Park on 05 January 2019 (Tuhaise Brian Asaba).

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Second documented record for Uganda. A single bird seen and photographed at Kazinga Channel, Queen Elizabeth National Park on 02 December 2017 (Crammy Wanyama, Chris Sloan, Mike Todd, Gary Brunvoll, Terri Brunvoll, Dan Jacobson, Kathy Jacobson, Shannon Sloan, Kevin Calhoon).



Figure 1. Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* (photo: Chris Sloan).



Figure 2. Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (photo: Charles Francis).

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Fifth record for Kenya. A single bird was seen at Diani-Galu Beach, South Coast, on 9 December 2018 and again on 24 December 2018 with a description provided (Shiv Kapila).

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Second record for Kenya. A single adult was seen and photographed approximately 25 kilometres east of Lokichogio, northern Kenya on 29 January 2004 (Bill Clark and Itai Shanni). Further details of this record are provided in Clark *et al.* (2005).

Beaudouin's Snake Eagle *Circaetus beaudouini*

Third and Fourth record for Rwanda. The first sighting was a single bird observed and photographed at Akagera National Park on 10 December 2016 (Gaël Vande weghe). The second sighting was also observed and photographed at Akagera National Park but on 21 January 2019 (Shlomi Segall and Claudien Nsabagasani).

Congo Serpent Eagle *Circaetus (Dryotriorchis) spectabilis*

Third record for Uganda. A single bird was observed in response to playback, giving good flight views at Semliki National Park on 26 July 2019 with a description provided (David Hoddinott).

Cassin's Hawk Eagle *Aquila africana*

Fourth record for Kenya. A single bird was observed and photographed on the Chogoria route, eastern slopes of Mount Kenya on 4 August 2019 (Nick Trent). Further details of this record are provided in Trent (2019).

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Second record for Tanzania. A single bird was observed and photographed on the road between Lake Natron and Namanga on 20 February 2019 (Kevin Mlay and Charles Francis).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

First documented record for Rwanda. A single bird was observed and photographed at Akagera National Park on 3 December 2018 (Michelle Summers).

Steel-blue Whydah *Vidua hypocherina*

Fifth record for Uganda. One adult male in full breeding plumage was observed in Kidepo National Park on 23 July 2019 with a description provided (David Hoddinott).

Bush Petronia *Gymnoris dentata*

Fifth record for Uganda. Five birds including one male were observed in Kidepo National Park on 23 July 2019 with a description provided (David Hoddinott).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Second and third record for Tanzania. The first sighting was a single bird observed and photographed at Serengeti National Park on 11 October 2017 (Daryl Dell). The second sighting was again of a single bird observed and photographed at Lake Manyara National Park on 19 October 2017 (Daryl Dell).



Figure 3. Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (photo: Daryl Dell).



Figure 4. Dusky Lark *Pinarocorys nigricans* (photo: Rich Lindie).

Dusky Lark *Pinarocorys nigricans*

Second record for Uganda. Two birds were observed and photographed at Queen Elizabeth National Park on 4 July 2018 (Rich and Kim Lindie).

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

New record for Uganda. A single bird was observed calling and displaying and then photographed about 8 km from Moroto Town on the road to Kidepo on 21 July 2019 (David Hoddinott, C.J. and Angie Cederlund).



Figure 5. Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* (photo: Angie Cederlund).



Figure 6. Grey Ground Thrush *Geokichla princei* (photo: David Hoddinott).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

New record for Tanzania. A single adult was observed and photographed about 40km from Arusha on the road towards Tarangire National Park on 9 September 2019 (Kevin Mlay).

Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae*

Fourth record for Uganda. A single bird was observed and photographed at Kidepo National Park on 23 July 2019 (David Hoddinott).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Fifth record for Kenya. A single immature male was seen and photographed at National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi between 27 February 2019 and 6 March 2019 (Sidney Shema, Brian Finch and Kelvin Gichuki).

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

Fourth record for Rwanda. A single adult male was observed at Mount Rebero, Kigali on 18 March 2016 with a description provided (James Hogg).

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

New record for Rwanda. A single bird was observed and photographed at Akagera National Park on 23 December 2018 (Gaël and Jean Pierre Vande weghe).

Grey Ground Thrush *Geokichla princei*

Third record for Uganda. A single bird was observed and photographed whilst nest building at Semliki National Park on 27 July 2019 (David Hoddinott).

The following records were Rejected because the details provided were insufficient to establish the identification with certainty:

Somali Bee-eater *Merops revoilii* at Himo, Moshi District, Tanzania on 30 June 2019.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* at Mt Elgon, Trans Nzoia County, Kenya on 24 February 2019.

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