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A record of Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus nigriscapularis* in Tanzania

Recent opinion has varied as to the taxonomic rank that should be given to the Black-shouldered Nightjar *Caprimulgus (pectoralis) nigriscapularis*. It is recognized as a full species by, for example, Fry & Hargreaves 1988, Cleere 1998, Dickinson 2003 and Carswell *et al.* 2005, but is considered by others, for example Dowsett & Dowsett-Lemaire 1993, Zimmerman *et al.* 1996, and Dickinson & Remsen 2013, as best retained as a race of *C. pectoralis*. It is treated as a full species by the Tanzania Bird Atlas and is discussed as such here.

On the night of 9 February 2012 a nightjar was heard calling and recorded in an area of regenerating forest and grassland roughly 5 km south of Minziro town (1°02' S, 31°32' E). Based on the location of the observation, close to the Uganda border, this bird was deemed likely to be *C. nigriscapularis* rather than the race *shelleyi* of Fiery-necked Nightjar *C. pectoralis* which occurs further south in western Tanzania. Recordings on Xenocanto of *C. nigriscapularis* from Ghana seemed to further confirm this identity. However, because the calls of these taxa are so similar, the recording was forwarded to David Moyer for an expert opinion. The call was enhanced, and calls of *C. pectoralis* from Mahale National Park in western Tanzania and of *C. nigriscapularis* from Senegal (C. Chappuis) were spliced in for comparison. Moyer considered that the Minziro bird “is most probably *nigriscapularis*”. The recordings were sent to Françoise Dowsett-Lemaire who also suggested that the Minziro bird was most likely *nigriscapularis*, stating that “the first part of the (Minziro bird) song is rather flat as in *nigriscapularis*, it does not have the dip in frequency of *pectoralis*.”

This record appears to represent an extension of *nigriscapularis* from nearby south-west Uganda, and is the best evidence for its occurrence in Tanzania. Stevenson & Fanshawe (2003) show its range to include north-west Tanzania, and BirdLife International (2012) includes the Kigoma area of western Tanzania within the “probable range” but seemingly with little or no empirical evidence. The Tanzania Bird Atlas has no confirmed records for *C. nigriscapularis*, although a single report from Rumanyika Game Reserve by M. Baker is assumed to refer to this species. This appears to be the first confirmation of its occurrence in Tanzania.

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The genus *Phoeniculus* in eastern and north-eastern Africa, with remarks concerning the *Phoeniculus purpureus* superspecies

The genus *Phoeniculus* Jarocki 1821 currently comprises five species, all confined to sub-Saharan Africa (Fry 1988). Two (*castaneiceps* and *bollei*) are forest specialists, while the remaining three (*purpureus*, *damarensis* and *somaliensis*) make up a superspecies of wooded savanna species, and form the basis of this note.

Traditionally wood-hoopoes and scimitarbills have comprised the Afrotropical family Phoeniculidae Bonaparte 1831. Peters (1945) recognized two genera (*Phoeniculus* and *Rhinopomastus*) while White (1965) placed all in *Phoeniculus*. The single genus arrangement (*Phoeniculus*) was also preferred by Davidson (1976) and Fry (1988), while Sibley & Ahlquist (1985) recommended separate family status for wood-hoopoes (*Phoeniculidae*) and scimitarbills (*Rhinopomastidae*).

Within the genus *Phoeniculus*, the *P. purpureus* superspecies, occurring in all