East African Rarities Committee Report 2010–2013

The East African Rarities Committee assesses records of new and very rare birds occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This responsibility also includes assessing up to the fifth record of any species from each of the five countries. Therefore if you see a species for which there are fewer than five records in the country please submit full details to the EARC Secretary: Nigel Hunter, P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya; Email: nigelhunter@timbale.org

Please contact the Secretary if you are unsure whether your record requires a submission and for guidance on details to include in your submission. Past records of rare species are also sought in order to bring our database up to date. Since the Committee’s last report in 2009 (Scopus 29: 23–26) the following records have been accepted:

**Great Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*
First record for Kenya: Lake Baringo, 22 December 1994 (Brian Finch)

**Humblot’s Heron** *Ardea humbloti*
First record for Tanzania and mainland Africa: adult present in the Selous GR 2007 (photographs from Pietro Luraschi and Mark Sheridan Johnson)

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*
First record for Tanzania: juvenile Arusha NP, 1 December 2010 (Tobie Muller, Niall Perrins and Valery Schollaert)

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
Third record for Tanzania: first winter female Kilimanjaro, 18 January 2011 (Stefan Ferger)

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*
First record for Tanzania: Murchison Falls NP, 15 December 2009 (Dick Forsman)

**Cassin’s Hawk Eagle** *Spizaetus africanus*
Third record for Kenya: juvenile Imenti Forest, Meru, 28 February 2013 (Darcy Ogada, Shiv Kapila, Peter Wairasho and Ben Mugambi). This is a second record from the Imenti Forest (see *Scopus* 29: 23 for details of the 2006 record)

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*
Adult 4 km east of Kajansi, near Kampala, 4 December 2003 (William Dunlop). This is the first record for Uganda since 1950

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*
First record for Uganda: group of six birds in Queen Elizabeth NP, 15 February 2007 (Allan Kirby). For full details see Kirby (2008)

**Forbes’s Plover** *Charadrius forbesi*
Fifth record for Uganda: Lake Nabugabo, 29 June 2011 (Roger Skeen)

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Second record for Uganda: Entebbe, 4 December 2010 (Roger Skeen)
Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
First record for Uganda and the East African region: Lutembe Bay, near Entebbe, 8 December 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

White-eyed Gull *Larus leucophthalmus*

Franklin’s Gull *Larus pipixcan*
First record for Uganda and the East African region: Murchison Falls NP, June 2011 (photograph from Jonathan Rossouw)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*
First, second, third and fourth records for Tanzania: seven at Speke Bay, Lake Victoria, 28 February 2010; three Lake Manyara, 20–25 September 2010; two Lake Natron, 30 September 2010; and one Lake Eyasi 20 February 2012. For full details see Baker *et al.* (2013)

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
First record for Uganda: Queen Elizabeth NP, 8 December 2009 (Dick Forsman). Fourth record for Kenya: Lake Baringo, 18 April 2011 (Brian Finch)

Forbes-Watson’s Swift *Apus berliozi*
First record for Tanzania: large flock near Dar es Salaam, 25 March 1996 (Brian Finch)

Racquet-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus*
First record for Kenya: Mara GR, 14 August 2011 (video and photograph supplied by Itai Shanni)

Shining Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo quadribrachys*

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanoccephala*
Second record for Uganda: Kidepo Valley NP, 17 January 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
First record for Tanzania: Arusha NP, 11 January 2010 (photograph from Adam Scott Kennedy)

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Dendropicos xantholophus*
Coastal Black Boubou *Laniarius nigerrimus*
First Kenya records from Manda Island for nearly a century (Brian Finch and Nigel Hunter). For full details see Turner *et al.* (2011, 2013)

Yellow Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus parvulus*
First documented record for Uganda: near Rhino Camp, West Nile District, 11 June 2009 (Guillaume Passavy)

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albicularis*
Second record for Tanzania: six birds at Ilhefu Swamp, Usangu Flats, southern Tanzania, 22 Sept 1997 (David Moyer). See also Moyer (1999)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica rufula*

Greated Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Boran Cisticola *Cisticola bodessa*
First record for Uganda: Mt Moroto foothills, 10 July 2011 (Sheila Taylor)

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica*
First record for Tanzania: Near Same, 11 December 2011 (Brian Finch)

Ansorge’s Greenbul *Andropadus ansorgei*
First record for Uganda: Bwindi-Impenetrable Forest NP, 2 August 2001 (Nik Borrow). See also Borrow & Demey (2002)

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
First record for Tanzania: Gibb’s Farm, Karatu, near Ngorongoro Crater, April 2007 (Mikael Kall)

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*
First record for Uganda: Lake Mburo NP, 12 February 2010 (Roger Skeen)

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*
First record for Uganda: Queen Elizabeth NP, 10 March 2003 (photograph from Philip Palmer)

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*
Second record for Uganda: Kidepo Valley NP, 24-26 April 2011 (Roger Skeen)

Golden-naped Weaver *Ploceus aureonucha*

Weyns’s Weaver *Ploceus weynsi*
First record for Kenya: Sioport swamp, 25 October 2010 (photographs from Martin Odino)
Black-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda troglodytes*
First and second records for Tanzania: Speke Bay, Lake Victoria, 30 December 2012 (Elsle Rotenberg), and near Grumeti Camp, western Serengeti, 28 March 2013 (Joseph Openja)

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
First record for Uganda: Karamoja District, 4 September 2011 (Roger Skeen)

A number of records were rejected either due to misidentification or insufficient details to establish identification with certainty. These were:


References
Acknowledgements
We are very grateful to Don Turner for the real and valuable assistance he provided in compiling this report.

David Fisher
56 Western Way, Sandy, Bedforshire SG19 IDU, England, United Kingdom

Nigel Hunter
P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya