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A Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus* ring recovery from Tanzania

Considered by some to be a discrete population and named the Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus* (Olsen & Larsson 2003) the Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus fuscus* is well known to winter in East Africa with 10 ringing recoveries prior to 1980: Backhurst 1970 (four recoveries), 1972 (three), 1973 (one), and 1977 (two). It can be quite common on Lake Victoria and along the NE coast of Africa, scarce south of East Africa and an irregular visitor to southern Africa (Hockey *et al.* 2005). Dowsett *et al.* (2008) mention that as many as 16 individuals have been seen on Lake Tanganyika, the only annual wintering

area known from Zambia. Although there are 264 Tanzania records of this bird in the Tanzanian Atlas database (www.tanzaniabirdatlas.com) only three of these are from Lake Tanganyika which is a poorly documented lake on the Tanzanian shoreline (N. Baker & L. Baker *unpubl. data*).

On 2 February 2006 a dying bird identified only as *bata* (Swahili for duck) was found at Ikola, Karema (30.25E, 6.48S) on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika and reported to the Veterinary Investigation Centre in Iringa. The bird carried a Darvic ring KJH1 (NB: Darvics are numbered plastic rings meant to be readable in the field; Darvic PVC sheeting is used to make the rings) and a metal ring ES008872 MOSKVA. It had been ringed on 16 July 2005 as a late fledgling from a secondary nest in a colony of about 300 pairs on the breeding island of Rombak in Karelia, Russia at (35.03E, 65.02N) by Risto Juvaste. Related to this, the Finnish Museum of Natural History based at the University of Helsinki also provides useful data on the ring recoveries of Finnish-ringed *L. fuscus* and other species (e.g., Valkama 2003).

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