

scheme implies that this artificial wetland is becoming increasingly important for waterbirds (see also Nachuha 2006; Nachuha & Byaruhanga 2009). In addition, water levels at Kibimba are shallow, and the pH of the water is slightly alkaline (pH 8) (Nachuha & Byaruhanga 2009) creating favourable conditions for this species.

The Greater Flamingo was classified as Least Concern under the 2009 IUCN Red List because it has a very large range with a large population that appears to be increasing (BirdLife International 2009). In East Africa it is common in Kenya, frequent in Tanzania and rare in Western Uganda (Van Perlo 1995). This record now adds eastern Uganda as part of its known range. Considering that this species is prone to irregular (nomadic or partially migratory) movements throughout its range (BirdLife International 2009), it is likely that this single bird came from other parts of East Africa.

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First record of Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* in Sudan

The Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* is a Palearctic, Indo-malayan, marginally Afro-tropical species that is considered local and uncommon across its range, mostly scarce to rare, and generally declining (Fergusson-Lees & Christie 2001). In Africa it is distributed mainly in the Atlas Mountains and Cyrenaica, on the territories of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya (Fergusson-Lees & Christie 2001). Further east in northern Africa, it breeds in the Red Sea Mountains of Egypt, where it is uncommon to rare, particularly in Wadi el-Gemal, Bir Arbaq, Gebel Garf, Gebel Hamata and Gebel Elba (Goodman & Meininger 1989, Baha el Din 2000, Baha el Din, *in litt.*). It is not known to occur in Ethiopia and Eritrea (Ash & Atkins 2009), but is known to breed in Djibouti (Welch & Welch 1988, Redman *et al.* 2009).

The Bonelli's Eagle is not included in the atlas of the birds in Sudan (Nikolaus 1987) or in the checklist of the birds of Sudan (ABC & Dowsett 2010). To our knowledge, the only quite probable record of the species in Sudan is from the Red Sea Hills where "one individual raptor seen from the car in mountainous terrain resembled this species, and could not be identified to a species known to inhabit this region" (Bird *et al.* 2010).

On 30 September 2010 in the Red Sea Hills of Sudan, under a powerline near Port Sudan, we found one electrocuted adult Bonelli's Eagle (Fig. 1). The bird had probably died several weeks before we saw it, but its corpse was still well preserved and not eaten by scavengers. Later on the same day, at about 17:40, 10 km west from this site we observed two adult Bonelli's Eagles in suitable breeding habitat. One of the birds was observed for most of the time, mainly soaring on about 100 m above the highest part of the cliffs and on three occasions steeply diving behind them then reappearing and gaining height again. The second adult was observed only briefly, gliding low over the cliffs and hiding behind, whilst the other individual soared about 50 m above it. After inspection of the cliffs with binoculars and a telescope (Swarovski 20-60x60), two very large stick nests were seen in crevices on the high vertical cliffs (Fig. 2). One of them was estimated to be about 100 cm in height and width. Taking into consideration the resident occurrence and highly territorial behaviour of the Bonelli's Eagle (Fergusson-Lees & Christie 2001) and the observation of two adults in close proximity to the nests, breeding of this species in this part of Sudan was probable although we could not entirely confirm this.



Figure 1.
Electrocuted adult
Bonelli's Eagle
Aquila fasciatus in
the Red Sea Hills of
Sudan.



Figure 2: Potential nest of Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciatus* in the Red Sea Hills area of Sudan

We recommend urgent measures for insulating the dangerous powerlines in the area that are also known to persistently kill big numbers of Egyptian Vultures *Neophron percnopterus* (at least 72 recorded electrocuted to date) and other raptors (Nikolaus 1984, 2006, Angelov & Hashim, unpub. data). In the long term, efforts should be initiated to convince the electricity company to build powerlines that are safe for the birds (e.g., Smallie & Virani 2010).

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Pelicans transporting fish between Rift Valley Lakes

Cichlid fishes of the tilapia genus *Oreochromis* and their close relatives are widespread in Africa and occur in many lakes and in all rivers that flow into the Indian Ocean (Trewavas 1983). Widely used in aquaculture, a striking feature of the genus is how readily many species hybridise. Given the large area in which oreochromids occur, together with the lack of variation in breeding behaviours hints that evolutionary divergence resulting from isolation may have been ameliorated by periodic interchange between geographically separate gene pools.

Many oreochromids are euryhaline (Trewavas 1983) and the sea would permit such interchange between rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean at least episodically (as in floods). This might account for the similarity of *Oreochromis* species in Indian Ocean drainages, but it would not explain similarities between these rivers and the north-flowing Nile drainage. This note records