

# Notes on some Afrotropical migrants in East Africa with special reference to those recorded at the Ngulia Safari Lodge, Tsavo West National Park, Kenya

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## Summary

Sixty-four species of Afrotropical birds that migrate within East Africa are treated, with emphasis on those found at Ngulia Safari Lodge, Tsavo West NP, southeastern Kenya during the long-running (1969–2019) ringing programme which concentrates on Palaearctic species. At Ngulia, the striking fact to emerge is the relative paucity of Afrotropical migrants, at least in the period October to April, compared to those from the Palaearctic.

**Keywords** Afrotropical migrant, East Africa, Ngulia, Tsavo West National Park

Chapin (1932), Moreau (1966), Elgood *et al.* (1973), and Dowsett (1988) have all discussed migrants within the Ethiopian (Afrotropical) Region, while Backhurst & Pearson (1977) gave details of a wide variety of Afrotropical species encountered at night or at dawn during ringing operations between late October and early February at Ngulia Safari Lodge in Tsavo West National Park, southeastern Kenya. The ringing programme at Ngulia (1969–2019), while primarily concentrating on Palaearctic migrants, has at the same time continued to record several known Afrotropical migrants, details of which are included here. Meanwhile in Tanzania, Moreau (1937) discussed long-distance African migrants occurring in Tanganyika, and later Beakbane & Boswall (1986) gave details of Afrotropical migrants appearing at lights in the Mufindi area of southern Tanzania during March, April and May 1982–1984.

Nomenclature and order of species follow the *Checklist of the Birds of Kenya*, 5th Edition (Bird Committee 2019).

## **Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Although widespread, most birds may simply be non-breeding migrants from the Southern Tropics, with movements linked to seasonal November to April rains. While often in small flocks, gatherings of up to 50 are quite frequent, although 700 or more at Ahero Rice Scheme in February 1983 was exceptional. Meanwhile, several thousand are regularly reported during May to September on the Usangu floodplains in southern Tanzania, and several birds ringed in Zimbabwe have reached Shinyanga in northern Tanzania, and also to the DR Congo and the Sudan.

## **Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*

*Netta erythrophthalma brunnea* (Eyton 1838). Type locality South Africa.

Formerly fairly common and widespread, but with populations declining everywhere; in recent years it has largely become an uncommon non-breeding intra-African migrant (June through to October) to highland lakes in Kenya and Tanzania, while counts of over 2000 at Nakuru in October 1983, at Naivasha in January 2003 and July 2012, were unprecedented. One ringed at Benoni, South Africa in December 1953 was recovered at Lake Naivasha the following November. In Uganda, the very few 1985–2006 records contrast sharply with historical reports of large numbers on lakes in Kigezi and Ankole districts during the 1930s. No recent records.

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Locally common on many inland wetlands but it is generally scarce in coastal areas. In Tanzania, two South African-ringed birds have been recovered near Mbeya, southern Tanzania, and the 20000 or so on Lake Singida in December 1993 may have involved some southern African breeding birds. In Uganda, an uncommon intra-African migrant and wanderer to Lake Munyanyange, Queen Elizabeth NP and nearby southwestern wetlands; however, the few recent records suggest a decline in recent years.

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei*

A 'rains' migrant in all areas and subject to large scale, erratic movements. A common 'night migrant' at Ngulia during November and December, where 2169 have been ringed to date, almost all caught at night, with one reported recovery to Soroti in eastern Uganda. Breeds opportunistically when suitable conditions occur, and generally following locally good rains.

**Southern Yellowbill** *Ceuthmochares australis*

Wide ranging throughout most Tanzania coastal forests (including Mafia, Zanzibar, and Pemba) north to the Pugu Hills and Dar es Salaam, also through the Eastern Arc mountains north to the Ngurus, East Usambaras, Arusha National Park and forests south of Moshi. In Kenya, while formerly resident in the Kitovu Forest near Taveta, elsewhere it is largely an intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics from May to November, occurring north to Kibwezi and the Tsavo region (including Ngulia where to date five have been caught and ringed at night), and in coastal woodlands from the Shimba Hills north to the Arabuko-Sokoke-Dakatcha woodlands, the Lower Tana and the Boni-Dodori National Reserves. Elsewhere, vagrants have been recorded north to the central highlands in the Kikuyu Escarpment forests and some Nairobi suburbs, and on occasions further north to Samburu and the Mathews Range.

**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*

*Clamator jacobinus pica* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg 1833). Type locality Sudan.

A widespread migrant from the Northern Tropics during November and December, returning north late February to May, with over 500 ringed at Ngulia to date. Elsewhere, there have been a few sporadic and largely opportunistic 'breeding' records between February and July.

*Clamator jacobinus serratus* (Sparman 1786). Type locality South Africa.

A widespread migrant from southern Africa, April to October, north to around the Equator.

[The nominate form is reportedly an annual migrant from India to southeastern Africa November to April (Clancey 1980, Irwin 1981), but movements through eastern Kenya and Tanzania remain unclear because of the presence of *C. j. pica* in many areas. However, birds with wing measurements fitting those of the nominate race have been ringed at Ngulia during the southward passage period.]

#### **Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii*

A widespread and highly seasonal 'rains' migrant in virtually all regions, which may involve a single population undertaking a year-round movement coinciding with movements of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) and all regional rainy seasons: southeastern and southern Tanzania (November to April); western and north-west Tanzania (October to June); southwestern and western Uganda (December to May), the Lake Victoria basin, western Kenya, Elgeyu, Laikipia and the central Rift Valley (April to September). Meanwhile, the origin of birds occasionally recorded at Ngulia and elsewhere in southeastern Kenya during the November to December 'short rains' remains unclear but may refer to birds moving south with the southward moving (ITCZ) rain belt.

#### **Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

*Clamator glandarius glandarius* (Linn. 1758) Type locality Gibraltar.

Migrant from the Northern Tropics October to April when present in varying numbers in Uganda, Kenya and northern Tanzania. Movements and opportunistic breeding coincide with periods of heavy rain (November and December in southeastern Kenya and northern Tanzania, and January and February in the Serengeti region of Tanzania). It is unclear if Palaeartic birds reach East Africa.

*Clamator glandarius choragium* Clancey 1951. Type locality Natal, South Africa.

Records during the period May to September largely belong here, as may some July records in Uganda and southern Tanzania together with those of birds observed moving south in September. Meanwhile, there are several (racially unassigned) June and July historical specimens from Teso District (Uganda) and Kavirondo (Lake Victoria basin), and two June to August breeding records from the central Rift Valley in Kenya that may be attributable to this southern form.

#### **Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*

While most equatorial populations are largely sedentary, many southern and northern breeding birds appear to move in tandem twice a year, resulting in some southern African birds spending their non-breeding period (April to September) alongside northern breeding populations, and some birds from the Northern Tropics doing likewise (November to February) alongside some southern breeding birds (Clancey 1990). Long-winged birds from the Southern Tropics are known to winter as far north as DR Congo and the Sudan, which presupposes that some non-breeding birds in eastern Africa may originate from both north or south of our region. Large numbers (possibly including some birds from the Northern Tropics) are present in the Tsavo region of southeast Kenya (342 ringed at Ngulia to date) November to January, while influxes to the Baringo area during the July to August rains may include some southern breeding birds. Present year-round in Uganda, but with a marked increase in calling birds February to mid-May, which may include some long-distance migrants.

**Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius***

Although largely absent from the coastal lowlands, it is an intra-African migrant between November and March to much of Tanzania north to the Ngara and Kagera regions, also in southwest Uganda and the Serengeti-Mara region. Meanwhile, it is very much a 'rains migrant' (November to February) to the Rukwa Valley, Katavi, Ruaha, Mikumi, Tarangire, Manyara and Mkomazi National Parks and the greater Tsavo region (including Ngulia), and while birds occurring in southern and south-eastern coastal Tanzania (October to April), including the Selous Game Reserve refer to migrants from the Southern Tropics, this may also account for records during this period from Dar es Salaam north to some Kenya coastal areas.

**Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus***

Two populations: one a widespread intra-African migrant from southern Africa (October to April) occurring largely east of 35°E in acacia woodlands, bush and cultivation; the second (including birds referred to as *C. c. jacksoni*), is an itinerant 'rains migrant' over much of Uganda, western and southwestern Kenya east to acacia woodlands in Laikipia and the central Rift Valley, with sporadic records south to Mtito Andei and Naberera (November, December) and Muheza (April). Five have been ringed at Ngulia, including birds caught at night in November and December.

**African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis***

A widespread yet uncommon intra-African migrant, but with few dated breeding records. While movements remain largely unclear, it is very much a 'rains migrant' to most areas, generally coinciding with movements of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) and all regional rainy seasons. Vocal birds, generally arriving in areas during or following periods of heavy rain, recorded from the Kerio and Rift valleys (March to June), Baringo (August and September), the Tsavo region including Ngulia (November and December), *miombo* woodlands in interior Tanzania (October to December), and the Maswa-Serengeti region (December to March).

**Nubian Nightjar *Caprimulgus nubicus***

Wide ranging in dry bush country north and east of the Kenya highlands, but with so few birds handled and critically examined, its status as a breeding resident or a largely non-breeding intra-African migrant (November to March) remains unclear. Dated records range from January and early February at Lake Turkana, July and early August at Lodwar and Lokichoggio, November and December at Ngulia (35 birds ringed to date), and in the southeast Taru steppe country. Bearing in mind the numbers passing through Ngulia during the November-December rains, plus the fact that the type of *taruensis* was collected so close to the Tanzania border, it is generally assumed that the range of *taruensis*-type birds at least, extends further south, although there are no confirmed records from northern Tanzania as yet.

**Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus***

A little known intra-African migrant October to April, and birds breeding in SW Saudi Arabia and Yemen also winter in Africa (Vaurie 1965). Regular southward passage occurs through the Rift Valley and eastern Kenya October to December, south at least to the Lake Manyara and Mkomazi NPs, and the eastern Tanzania lowlands; 492 birds have been ringed at Ngulia to date. Elsewhere, an extremely fat bird at Olorgesailie in April, and several collected in the Tana Delta area in mid-March 1973 were

most probably long-distance migrants returning north. Elsewhere there are February to March specimens from Tanga and Dar es Salaam.

**Standard-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx longipennis***

A locally common dry season (December to March) intra-African migrant across northern Uganda and northwestern Kenya, south to Murchison Falls National Park, Gulu, Soroti, Karamoja, and West Pokot districts, with vagrants reported south to Lake Baringo in January 1979, 1984, and November 1990.

**Pennant-winged Nightjar *Macrodipteryx vexillarius***

A trans-Equatorial and intra-African migrant moving to and from breeding grounds in the miombo woodlands of the Southern Tropics. Heavy southward passage takes place through Uganda, the Lake Victoria basin and western Tanzania during July and August to breeding grounds in miombo woodlands in Tanzania south of 6°S. Elsewhere, smaller numbers are recorded annually in western and southwestern Kenya, with occasional vagrants reported from Laikipia and the central highlands. The return journey to the Northern Tropics takes place during February and March.

**Forbes-Watson's Swift *Apus berliozi***

A little-known species which is an intra-African migrant occurring in coastal lowlands November to February, south at least to the Lower Tana, Malindi and Kilifi districts, with occasional (unsubstantiated) reports from Shimba Hills and elsewhere south of Mombasa. A large flock reported near Dar es Salaam in March 1996 remains the only confirmed record from Tanzania.

**African Crane *Crex egregia***

Largely an intra-African 'rains' migrant from the Southern Tropics typically occurring between November and April in southern and southwestern Tanzania, and April to October elsewhere. Some populations, notably in Tanzania, may simply follow the rains north and south, while others will remain after breeding if suitable conditions allow. In Kenya, it is largely reported from inundated grasslands in the Mara Game Reserve and Lake Victoria basin, also in Thika District, at Lake Baringo and in coastal lowlands north to the Tana Delta and Lamu District. Nocturnal movements reported from Nairobi, Ngulia (two caught and ringed at night, November 1979) and at Mufindi in the Iringa Highlands, southern Tanzania.

**Striped Crane *Amaurornis marginalis***

A scarce and local intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics May to November, north in coastal lowlands to Zanzibar, Mombasa and Tana River District, inland to the Mara Game Reserve, Nairobi, Thika, Naivasha, Baringo and Mt Kenya, with night migrants recorded in May at Nairobi and at Mufindi, near Iringa.

**Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni***

A local and uncommon resident and migrant, with resident populations augmented by intra-African migrants from the Southern Tropics May to September, resulting in seasonal concentrations occurring from the Rukwa, Usangu and Kilombero wetlands north to Tarangire National Park, lakes Kalemawe, Jipe, Naivasha and Baringo, and in coastal lowlands north to Mombasa and the Tana Delta. Breeding reported from southwestern Tanzania during December and January, on Pemba and Zanzibar in

July and August, the Tana Delta in January, and at Lake Baringo in June and July. In Uganda it is a widespread intra-African migrant with numbers reported from May to July at Kibimba Rice Scheme, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Teso and Lango districts and in Kidepo Valley National Park.

#### **Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata***

An intra-African migrant and opportunistic breeder from the Southern Tropics, mainly April to August, when during seasons of high rainfall it is locally common in wetland areas north to the Kagera Valley swamps, the Lake Victoria basin, Rift Valley lakes, Nairobi and Thika districts; also in coastal lowlands including the Lower Tana where it becomes locally abundant and it breeds during periods of extensive flooding. Elsewhere, nocturnal movements have been noted during the November-December rains with birds attracted to lights at the Ngulia where five have been caught and ringed at night; also, during April and May at Mufindi, near Iringa. See also Benson & Irwin (1965).

#### **Streaky-breasted Flufftail *Sarothrura boehmi***

A scarce migrant from the Southern Tropics, May to August, with many attracted to lights in the Mufindi Highlands, southern Tanzania during its northward passage. Elsewhere, several were reported calling in flooded grassland in Nairobi National Park during May 1988, also in the Grumeti area of Serengeti National Park in early May 2018. Occasional opportunistic breeding suspected in some areas of central Kenya, while elsewhere there are historical records from Trans-Nzoia, Kisumu, and Machakos.

#### **Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis***

Widespread in permanent swamps from sea level to 2000m with considerable yet poorly understood local movements. Seasonal in many areas with influxes coinciding with periods of high rainfall, and five ringed at Ngulia in December 1996 suggest that some may be intra-African migrants.

#### **Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus***

Locally common in short grassland areas particularly during the rains, from northern border areas south to the Turkwell and central rift valleys, Samburu, Laikipia and Isiolo districts, the Northern Uaso Nyiro, Meru and Kora National Parks, Galana Ranch, the Tsavo, Mkomazi and Tarangire National Parks, while a regular nocturnal migrant at Ngulia during the November-December rains with 79 ringed there to date. Generally uncommon in coastal lowlands from Lamu District south to the Tana and Sabaki estuaries, and while formerly reported common on Zanzibar, its current status there and on Pemba Island requires clarification. Elsewhere it is largely a rains migrant from the Mara-Serengeti grasslands south to the Wembere floodplains, Tabora Region, the Rukwa Valley, Ruaha National Park, Selous Game Reserve, Njombe and Songea districts.

#### **Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilos chalcopterus***

An uncommon yet widespread intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics from May to November when it occurs across much of southern Tanzania, north to the Tabora Region, Serengeti, Manyara, Tarangire and Arusha National Parks, southern and southeastern Kenya including at Ngulia and the coastal lowlands, with

wanderers recorded north to the Mara Game Reserve, also Nairobi and Meru National Parks and the Lower Tana. In Uganda scattered June to November records from Queen Elizabeth and Lake Mburo National Parks north to Mbarara, Kampala and Teso districts would appear to refer to intra-African migrants.

### **Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

*Glareola pratincola fuelleborni* Neumann 1910. Type locality Lake Rukwa, southwestern Tanzania.

Widespread in low rainfall areas, being locally common seasonally at several Rift Valley lakes from Turkana south to Baringo, also from Magadi, Natron and Manyara south to the Wembere, Katavi and Ruaha National Parks, the Usangu wetlands and Lake Rukwa. Elsewhere, subject to erratic influxes to Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks, and Lake Jipe; an immature bird was caught and ringed at dawn at Ngulia on 16 November 1993. In Uganda, it is locally common from April to September around lakes Edward and George (Queen Elizabeth National Park), and large numbers along the Albert Nile (Murchison Falls National Park) in early October 1970 and January 2018 may have originated from outside Uganda.

### **African Open-billed Stork *Anastomus leucorhynchus***

A widespread and locally common resident and intra African migrant. Subject to extensive local movements as indicated by the often large, non-breeding flocks that occur periodically in Uganda (October–March), at Lake Turkana (November–December), and other Rift Valley lakes as well as in southeastern Kenya and northeastern Tanzania. Large numbers (often up to 10 000 to 12 000 birds) can be present with other storks, ibises, herons and egrets in the Tana Delta; breeding recorded at the Garsen and Wembere heronries whenever suitable conditions exist. Elsewhere, it is locally abundant in the Kagera Valley swamps, and large flocks are regularly reported between November and March in the Kilombero and Ruaha–Usangu wetlands of southern Tanzania.

### **Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii***

A trans-Equatorial and intra-African migrant from the Northern Tropics late October to April, whose movements are timed to coincide with the rains and subsequent emergent insect infestations. As a passage migrant October to December and February to April, the bulk of the movement is centred around the Lake Victoria basin with the vast majority of birds wintering south of our region. Meanwhile, sporadic opportunistic breeding records have been recorded in Uganda and western Kenya.

### **Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus***

Locally abundant on many Rift Valley lakes, and although movements between lakes in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania are not clearly defined, it does breed erratically on undisturbed alkaline lakes south to Lake Rukwa, and two ringed in 1973–1974 at Lake Shalla in Ethiopia were later recovered at Lake Nakuru and Gilgil, and one Israeli-ringed bird reached Lake Naivasha on 20 July 2013. In Uganda, it is always present around lakes Edward, George and Albert, but is subject to erratic movements with peak numbers in May and fewest in December and January. Meanwhile, birds recorded in the Nile Valley and northwestern Uganda may be wanderers from the Sudd wintering grounds of Palaearctic birds.

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus***

*Ixobrychus minutus payesii* (Hartlaub 1858). Type locality Senegal.

Widespread resident augmented by intra-African migrants from the Southern Tropics May to September. Owing to its skulking habits, it is almost certainly commoner than the current data suggest. Single birds ringed at Ngulia in 1978, 1979, and 1989, were all caught at night.

**Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmi***

Widespread 'rains migrant' augmented by intra-African migrants during April–August and November–December, with periodic concentrations reported in the Selous Game Reserve and the Tana Delta. Frequently attracted to the lights at Ngulia with four ringed there to date. See also Benson & Irwin (1966).

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

Common and widespread throughout much of our region, with every indication that all populations are increasing. Large numbers breed with other herons, egrets, storks and ibises in the Lower Tana and Wembere heronries, and around 10 000 pairs were estimated breeding on the Wembere flood plains in April 1962. Elsewhere, it frequently breeds and roosts in or close to major cities, towns and highways (5000 roosting near Kampala in 2000 increased to over 15 000 by mid-2016), and the total East African population is estimated to be well in excess of a million birds. Meanwhile, although only two birds have been ringed at night at Ngulia, four South African ringed birds have been recovered in Tanzania and three in Uganda, and a juvenile bird ringed near the Caspian Sea in July 1980 was recovered in October of that year in Ethiopia.

**Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi***

Predominantly an intra-tropical migrant with most birds occurring between August and April, though some in the Lake Victoria basin and southern Tanzania may be present all year round. Birds from the Northern Tropics move south during July and August to breeding grounds south of the Equator, returning north during March and April. All migratory movements appear based on rainfall patterns with birds present during the rains in both northern and southern parts of their ranges when they can best exploit seasonally abundant food supplies. Several major flyways are used during migration time, most notably along the Albertine Rift from Lake Albert south to lakes Edward, Kivu, and Tanganyika, and along the Kagera River Valley. See also Meyburg *et al.* (1995).

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

*Milvus migrans parasitus* (Daudin 1800). Type locality the Cape, South Africa.

'Yellow-billed Kite' In many areas it is the commonest, boldest, most ubiquitous, and the most adaptable large raptor in Africa, being a widespread resident as well as a common intra-African migrant, with birds from both the Northern and Southern Tropics reaching our area. Influxes of non-breeding birds from the south occur during May and June north possibly to around the Equator, while birds from the Northern Tropics move south into Uganda and northern Kenya at the same time (September and October) that nominate birds are also arriving, and when southern breeding *parasitus* are themselves returning south (late July to September), with a

marked passage along Lake Tanganyika during August and early September.

### **Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis***

A wide-ranging migrant from the Northern Tropics, November to April across much of northern and central Uganda, while somewhat erratically from northern, eastern and southeastern Kenya south to central, north-eastern and eastern Tanzania. Elsewhere, August records from Kidepo Valley National Park (1966), Nakuru (1979) and Lockichoggio (2001) were exceptional and possibly suggestive of an early southward movement. Will often congregate at grass fires to feed on grasshoppers and other large insects. Meanwhile numbers in East Africa appear to be declining in recent years because of, in part, to habitat loss in the Sahel regions, also possibly to a lack of large insect infestations as a result of intensive aerial spraying.

### **White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis***

Common intra-African migrant from the Northern Tropics September to April with large numbers 'wintering' in coastal lowlands from southern Somalia south to the Tana and Rufiji Deltas and inland to the Selous Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park. In Uganda, it is a widespread post-breeding migrant south to lakes Victoria, George, and Edward. Small numbers breed annually at Lake Turkana, also in the semi-arid areas of the southern Rift Valley at Olorgesailie (near Magadi), and the Lake Natron basin.

### **Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus***

Primarily a post-breeding intra-African migrant September to March from the Northern Tropics when it is common along the Nile Valley, northwestern Uganda, and locally abundant in coastal mangroves from the Somali border south to the Tana and Rufiji deltas, and Lindi District, with occasional wanderers inland to the Selous Game Reserve, Ruaha National Park and the Tsavo region. Elsewhere, small numbers breed erratically in Turkana District, northwestern Kenya March to June.

### **Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides***

Migrant from Southern Tropics May-August, ranging north through western Tanzania to Ngara and Biharamulo districts, also to Katavi, Mahale and Ruaha National Parks, while in Uganda there are records from Lake Mburo National Park in July 1998, Murchison Falls National Park July 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2015. In Kenya it is known only from Lake Kanyaboli in June 1972 and the Kedong Valley in July 1977.

### **Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius***

*Coracias naevius naevius* Daudin 1800. Type locality Senegal.

Uncommon intra-African migrant occurring in interior Kenya and northern Tanzania, with smaller numbers recorded south to Tabora, Dodoma and Iringa districts, Ruaha and Mikumi National Parks and the northern Selous, but with numbers fluctuating considerably from year to year. While birds appear to be present in the central Kenya Rift Valley between April and October, and occur annually in Tsavo East National Park from March to July, the very few breeding records suggest that most birds may be post-breeding migrants. Meanwhile in Uganda (with no breeding records), all records from northern and northeastern areas are mainly between November and March.

**Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus***

*Coracias caudatus lorti* Shelley 1885. Type locality Somaliland.

Largely a non-breeding intra-African migrant between December and March to northeastern and eastern Kenya from Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa districts south to the Lower Tana and on occasions to Galana Ranch and the Tsavo region (including Ngulia where two birds of this race have been ringed). There is some seasonal overlap with nominate birds along the Lower Tana from Garsen to Garissa.

**Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus***

*Eurystomus glaucurus suahelicus* Neumann 1905. Type locality Lower Tana River, Kenya.

Many birds along the Galana and Athi rivers, and from the Lower Tana north to Meru National Park and the northern Uaso Nyiro are largely a widespread intra-African 'rains' migrant (October to April) south to Tsavo, Taita-Taveta, Moshi and Arusha districts and through interior Tanzania, with some post-breeding concentrations often evident in southern Tanzania during February and March. Elsewhere many coastal populations in the Boni-Dodori NRs, the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Shimba Hills, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, and Mikindani districts appear to be resident year-round.

**African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta***

*Ispidina picta picta* (Boddaert 1783). Type locality Senegal.

Widespread in bushed and wooded habitats throughout much of Uganda east to western and southwestern Kenya, Elgon, Lake Turkana, the South Kerio, and Baringo districts, and south to Tanzania border areas in the Kagera Region and the Grumeti riverine area of the western Serengeti National Park. Elsewhere, records from Thika District, Meru, Nairobi, Tsavo East and Arusha National Parks, Ngulia, and Pemba Island undoubtedly refer to migrants, but just how many November to February records of nominate *picta* actually refer to migratory birds from the Northern Tropics is unclear.

*Ispidina picta natalensis* (A. Smith 1832). Type locality Natal, South Africa.

Resident and non-breeding migrant from the Southern Tropics April to September, ranging north to northwest Tanzania, southern and western Uganda, central and southeast Kenya, and in coastal lowlands (including Mafia, Zanzibar and Pemba) north to the Shimba Hills, Arabuko-Sokoke and Lower Tana River forests. See also Benson (1964).

**Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala***

*Halcyon leucocephala leucocephala* (Muller 1776). Type locality Senegal.

Widespread resident and wanderer, also a migrant from the Northern Tropics November to March, south at least to the Lake Victoria Basin, Ngara and Tabora districts, Lake Manyara, Amboseli, Tsavo, Mkomazi and Tarangire National Parks. To date, 99 presumed migrants have been ringed at Ngulia during November and December, and two Ethiopian-ringed birds have been recovered at Kisumu and near Mombasa

*Halcyon leucocephala semicaerulea* (Gmelin 1788). Type locality Yemen.

Migrant from the Northern Tropics November to March south at least to Nairobi and the Lower Tana River.

*Halcyon leucocephala pallidiventris* Cabanis 1880. Type locality Angola.

Inter-tropical migrant from the Southern Tropics April to September, ranging north through Tanzania to western and southern Uganda, also to Nyanza and Nandi districts of western Kenya. Some individuals may breed along the Ruvuma River and in Songea District, October to December. Elsewhere, a Malawi bird ringed on 8 December 1981 was killed to the northwest in the DR Congo on 26 May 1982 (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett 2006).

**Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis***

*Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca* (Vieillot 1818). Type locality Angola.

Largely a non-breeding migrant from the Southern Tropics, May to August, north to the Lake Victoria basin, the Mara Game Reserve and at some Rift Valley lakes from Manyara north to Naivasha and Baringo.

**Mangrove Kingfisher *Halcyon senegaloides***

Largely an intra-African migrant April to mid-November to coastal estuaries and mangroves north to Mombasa, Kilifi and Lamu districts, and the Boni-Dodori National Reserves, and inland along the Lower Tana to Garsen. One ringed at Ngulia on 1 December 2003 was exceptional, and the first record for Tsavo West National Park.

**African Pitta *Pitta angolensis***

Wide ranging intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics April to October when it is often attracted to the lights of cities and rural buildings, as highlighted by the numbers caught and ringed at a Mufindi tea factory in the Iringa Highlands between March and May 1982–1984. Formerly reported annually in Kenya coastal forests north to Gede and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserves, but few recent records. Meanwhile, small numbers breed December to April in dense deciduous thickets in southern and southeastern Tanzania and in the Kiwengoma Forest Reserve on the Matumbi Massif south of the Rufiji River. In Uganda, there are fewer than 25 vagrancy records, with very few in recent years. See also Benson & Irwin (1964).

**Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava***

A widespread intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics April to November, including throughout the coastal lowlands; 29 have been ringed at Ngulia, almost all having been caught at night. Elsewhere, small numbers may possibly be resident and breeding in some *miombo* woodlands in Tanzania. September to March, while sporadic breeding records have also been recorded in some highland areas of Kenya and northern Tanzania. See also Britton (1973).

**Red-shouldered Cuckooshrike *Campephaga phoenicea***

Primarily an intra-African migrant from the Northern Tropics November to April, though small numbers may be resident and breeding in southern Uganda between March and June. In Kenya, records from Ukwala, Kisumu, Busia, Mumias, Kakamega, and Nandi districts are mainly from January to April, though its movements and its current status throughout remains largely unclear.

**African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus***

An intra-African migrant from both the Northern and Southern Tropics.

*Oriolus auratus auratus* Vieillot 1817. Type locality Africa = Ghana.

Uncommon migrant from the Northern Tropics to northern Uganda June to February, with records south to Toro, Lango and Teso districts, and in northwestern Kenya at Elgon. Elsewhere, late May and October records from the South Kerio Valley and Baringo District may belong here.

*Oriolus auratus notatus* Peters 1868. Type locality Tete, Mozambique.

A common migrant from the Southern Tropics April to October; many breed in southern Tanzania *miombo* woodlands. It occurs throughout the year at Dar es Salaam, and in Kenya it is a common migrant throughout the coastal lowlands, north to the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, the Lower Tana, and Lamu District. Elsewhere it is scarce inland, north to Ankole District, the Lake Victoria basin, South Nyanza, the Serengeti-Mara woodlands, Arusha National Park and some central Kenya areas including Nairobi National Park.

### **White-crested Helmet-shrike *Prionops plumatus***

*Prionops plumatus poliocephalus* (Stanley 1814). Type locality northern Mozambique.

Largely a wide-ranging, post-breeding migrant from the Southern Tropics May to September, north to around the Equator, though some populations may be breeding residents in some lowland areas of interior southern Tanzania, including the Rukwa Valley, Ruaha NP and the Selous GR.

### **African Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis***

*Terpsiphone viridis plumbeiceps* Reichenow 1898. Type locality Angola.

Largely an intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics October to February, north to Kigoma, the Rukwa Valley and Kilosa District, also in coastal lowlands north to Mafia, Zanzibar and Pemba islands, Mombasa, Malindi and Tana River districts. [Although 109 individuals have been ringed, mostly caught at night, at Ngulia to date, none has been racially assigned.]

### **Pygmy Sunbird *Hedydipna platyura***

A seasonally common intra-African migrant (November to March) from the Northern Tropics to northern Uganda and West Nile District. Elsewhere, scattered records from Kidepo National Park south to South Karamoja, with periodic influxes to northwestern Kenya, South Turkana, the Kerio Valley, and Baringo District.

### **Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus***

A widespread 'rains migrant' in eastern and northeast Uganda (largely in Karamoja District), northern and eastern Kenya south through Laikipia, Samburu and Shaba National Reserves, Meru National Park and the eastern plateau country to Machakos and Kitui districts and the greater Tsavo region, also in the southern Rift Valley from Olorgesailie to Magadi and Lake Natron, and from Monduli District east to the Arusha lowlands, Tarangire and Mkomazi National Parks, and south through Masailand and the dry interior to Singida and Dodoma districts and Ruaha National Park. With the exception of the Laikipia Plateau, it is largely absent from all highland areas above 1700m, the Lake Victoria basin and the coastal lowlands. At Ngulia, numbers vary greatly from year to year and 1147 have been ringed to date with one recovered 210 km northwest in 1975.

### **Golden Pipit *Tmetothylacus tenellus***

With widespread seasonal influxes during the November and December rains, coupled with extensive northerly and southerly movements in both southeastern Ethiopia and Somalia, the large numbers encountered at Ngulia during the night and immediately after dawn suggest that many of the 107 birds ringed there to date may have originated from Somalia and/or Ethiopia where it is largely absent during this period (Ash & Miskell 1998, Ash & Atkins (2009)

### **Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans***

*Mirafra cantillans marginata* Hawker 1898. Type locality eastern Ethiopia.

Subject to extensive movements during or following periods of high rainfall, with northern birds appearing to move south with the November–December rains, through Turkana and Marsabit districts to Shaba Game Reserve and the eastern plateau country, also to southern Kenya/northern Tanzania border areas from Naman-ga, Longido and Monduli District east to the Mt Meru and Kilimanjaro lowlands and the Tsavo-Mkomazi grasslands. Twenty have been ringed at night at Ngulia to date. Elsewhere, large numbers, including juveniles, were present on the Aruba plains, Tsavo East National Park during August 1988 and August 1990, and several were reported in the central Rift Valley (Baringo and the Kedong Valley) in June and July 1988, and around Lockichoggio in July 2001 and April 2003. In Uganda, it is known only from South Sudan border areas, Soroti District April 1913 and November 1917, Kidepo Valley National Park July and August 1966, 2006, 2017 and 2019, and at Arua, West Nile District in July 1969.

### **Friedmann's Lark *Mirafra pulpa***

A scarce and little-known intra-African migrant/nomad, subject to almost annual influxes to the Tsavo and Mkomazi grasslands, generally appearing with the November–December rains when often highly vocal. Four birds have been ringed at Ngulia to date. Breeding has been suspected but never confirmed. Elsewhere, also recorded from Kiboko in early April 1965, and in Shaba Game Reserve in November 2008, May 2010 and April 2014.

### **African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus***

*Acrocephalus baeticatus cinnamomeus* Nocturnal movements through Ngulia in south-east Kenya during November and December, and two birds caught at Mt Marsabit in early March 2000, thought at the time to be on passage, are all suggestive of some long-distance movements. The nominate race is a known migrant in southern Africa (Kennerley & Pearson 2010).

### **Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga***

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga griseopyga* (Sundevall 1850). Type locality Gabon. Numbers fluctuate considerably, probably due to the presence of intra-African migrants from both the Northern and Southern Tropics.

- i). A population possibly originating from the Northern Tropics that is seasonal in Kenya, Uganda, northwestern and northern Tanzania from February and March through to September and October, the period when it is absent from Ethiopia and Sudan. The range is largely in and west of the Rift Valley from Elgon and Trans-Nzoia, south to the Lake Victoria basin, the central Rift Val-

ley, Narok District and the Loita Plains, the Mara-Serengeti grasslands, the Crater Highlands and the Ardai Plains. It is also seasonal in northwestern Tanzania, south to Ngara and Kibondo districts between June and August. Elsewhere, periodic records at Lake Turkana and Marsabit may refer to birds on passage to and from the Ethiopian highlands. Otherwise, it is locally common in the Lake Victoria basin from February to October with numbers peaking between March and August.

- ii). A population that may include birds the Southern Tropics that are seasonally present from November through to April and May, a wet period when it is largely absent from Malawi and Zambia. Wide ranging in the Southern Tanzania highlands from Songea, Njombe, Mbeya and the Ufipa Plateau north to the Wembere floodplains, Iringa District and the Kilombero Valley, and including Ruaha and Mikumi National Parks and the Selous Game Reserve.

### **Blue Swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea***

Intra-African migrant from the Southern Tropics April to September when all records are centred around the Lake Victoria basin and peripheral areas, notably the Serengeti-Mara grasslands and Ruma National Park. A count of 630 birds between Sango Bay and Mabamba in August 2001 was the largest number recorded for many years. Elsewhere there are small breeding populations in the montane grasslands of the Iringa, Ukinga, Kipengere, Njombe and Mbeya highlands of southern Tanzania.

### **Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster***

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster leucogaster* (Boddaert 1783). Type locality Benin.

An uncommon intra-African migrant November-February from the Northern Tropics to northwest Uganda and south to Bunyoro and Lango districts. Breeding records (March) from Murchison Falls National Park and Acholi District. Meanwhile all movements are ill-defined and not fully understood. Elsewhere, periodic reports of birds from northwest Kenya and at Lake Turkana may belong here.

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster verreauxi* (Bocage 1870). Type locality Angola.

Widespread migrant from the Southern Tropics March to September throughout Tanzania north through southwestern and southern Uganda, and from the Lake Victoria basin to Toro, Mengo, Teso and Karamoja districts; in Kenya, north to Elgon and Saiwa National Parks, Trans-Nzoia, Elgeyu-Marakwet, Baringo, Laikipia, Maralal and Samburu districts, also to Mt Kenya, the Nyambenis and Meru National Park, with sporadic breeding records recorded from the Mara Game Reserve, Nairobi, Saiwa National Park, Elgeyu, Eldama Ravine, and Laikipia. Elsewhere, large flocks are frequently recorded in the coastal lowlands (including on Mafia, Zanzibar and Pemba) north to the Shimba Hills, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu districts. Several populations may be resident year-round in some southern and south-western Tanzania forests. See also Traylor (1971).

### **Gambaga Flycatcher *Muscicapa gambagae***

Several instances of night passage (including 16 birds ringed) have been noted at Ngulia, suggesting that it may be a migrant from the Northern Tropics from October to April.

### Red-capped Robin Chat *Cossypha natalensis*

*Cossypha natalensis intensa* Mearns 1913. Type locality Taveta, southeastern Kenya.

Resident and intra-African migrant. Locally abundant in Kenya coastal forests May to October, but largely absent between December and April, yet populations on Zanzibar, in the Pugu Hills, and throughout the Eastern Arc Mountains and in southeastern Tanzania appear to be, at least in part, sedentary. Also belonging here may be the several resident inland Kenya populations from the Gwasssi Hills, Rapogi and Lolgorien east to the Siria (Olololoo) Escarpment, northwest Mara Game Reserve and the Ngurumans, together with those east of the Rift Valley in the Mathews Range, at Mts Urageess and Endau, the Upper Tana, Meru and Ol Doinyo Sabuk National Parks, and in Taita-Taveta District, while the 21 birds ringed at Ngulia during the November–December rains may also belong here. See also Britton (1971).

### Heuglin's Wheatear *Oenanthe heuglinii*

A little known intra-African migrant April to September. In Kenya, records are from north-western border areas at Todenyang and Lockichoggio, south and east to the Lake Turkana basin where it is largely a seasonal visitor to short grass areas particularly after periods of heavy rainfall. Elsewhere, vagrants reported south to Kisumu (July 1917) and Buffalo Springs Game Reserve (November 2013). Probably a regular migrant to Karamoja District, where reportedly seasonally common in moist grasslands in Kidepo Valley National Park.

### Spotted Ground Thrush *Zoothera guttata*

*Zoothera guttata fischeri* (Hellmayr 1901). Type locality near Pangani, coastal Tanzania. Scarce intra-African migrant April to October from the Southern Tropics, typically in lowland coastal forests north to Lamu District, with most records from the Gede and Arabuko-Sokoke forests. Breeding grounds largely unknown but has it has bred in November–December in the Rondo Forest Reserve, south-eastern Tanzania, also in Malawi and South Africa. One ringed at Rondo Forest Reserve in February 1996 was found dead near Diani, south of Mombasa in early June 2003. Meanwhile, numbers reported from Kenya coastal forests appear to have declined in recent years. See also Holsten *et al.* (1991) and Ndang'ang'a *et al.* (2008).

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