

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops kikuyuensis* in Nairobi

The little known Kenya endemic race *kikuyuensis* of the Green-capped Eremomela was collected by van Someren in November 1916 (believed to have been from the western Nairobi suburbs), but was not described until 1931 (van Someren 1931). Today, it remains extremely localized in the Meru, Embu, Thika, Kiambu and Nairobi districts, but records from Nairobi are both sparse and poorly documented in the last twenty or even thirty years, with the only known dated records being one from east of Kabete in January 1982 (J. Bradley, pers. comm.) and three or four sightings near the Main and Langata Gates of Nairobi National Park between 1997 and 1999 (S. Easley pers. comm.).

On the morning of 5 March 2017, I was birding along the Mbagathi River/Ololua Forest edge below Mbagathi Ridge. Quite unexpectedly, I got a very good view of a Green-capped Eremomela feeding in a *Newtonia* tree. I noted the yellow underparts becoming pale yellow on the lower half, and in particular I was able to see the black line running from the base of the bill to the darkish eye and the bright yellow supercilium.

Given that this species seems to be a rarity now in Nairobi, I hope that this note will encourage others to record the date and location of any sighting of this species. It should also prompt us all to keep an eye on the status of Ololua Forest and the Mbagathi River and encourage their continued protection.

Reference

VAN SOMEREN, V.G.L. 1931. New races of birds from Eastern Africa. *Journal of the East Africa & Uganda Natural History Society* 9 (37): 193–197.

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