

## East African Rarities Committee Report for 2021

The East African Rarities Committee assesses records of new and very rare birds occurring in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This includes up to the fifth record of any species from each of the five countries. Membership of the committee in 2021 comprised Washington Wachira (Chairman), Neil Baker, Nik Borrow, Brian Finch, Colin Jackson, Johnnie Kamugisha, David Moyer, Nigel Redman, Itai Shanni, Roger Skeen, Terry Stevenson and Don Turner. We are grateful to Dick Forsman, Per Alström, Martin Miske and James Bradley for their help with the assessment of some of these records.

Sightings of species for which there are fewer than five records for a country should be submitted to Nigel Hunter, EARC Secretary, P.O. Box 24803, Karen 00502, Nairobi, Kenya; Email: nigelhunter74@gmail.com. Lists of species with fewer than five records for each country and the EARC rarity form are available as downloads from the EARC website ([www.eararities.org](http://www.eararities.org)). Please contact the Secretary to obtain clarification of whether a record requires a submission and for guidance on what details to include in the submission. Past records of rare species are also sought in order to bring the EARC database up to date.

### *Category A: Fully accepted Species*

#### **African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense*

Second to fifth records for Rwanda. Four individual birds were either seen, heard or photographed (Fig. 1) in Akagera National Park on 26 July 2021 (D. Bantlin and L. Abbot).

#### **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*

Third record for Uganda. A single bird was seen and heard on Ishasha Road, Queen Elizabeth National Park on 1 July 2021 (B. Finch and P. Tamwenya).

#### **Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*

Fifth record for Uganda. Two adult birds and a young bird were seen, heard and photographed in Lake Mburu National Park on 8 July 2021 (B. Finch).

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

Third record for Rwanda. A single bird was seen and photographed in Akagera National Park on 28 November 2020 (M. Veysal and J-M. Bournazaud).

#### **Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni*

First record for Uganda. A single bird was seen and photographed (Fig. 1) in Murchison Falls National Park on 13 May 2018 (H. Byaruhanga and B. Tuhaise).



**Figure 1.** African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* (left: Drew Bantlin) and Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni* (right: Herbert Byaruhanga).

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

Third record for Uganda. Seven birds were seen and photographed (Fig. 2) 30 km before Pakwach (Amuru District) on 26 February 2021 (C. Wanyama).

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

Fourth record for Rwanda. A single bird was seen and photographed at Fazenda (Kigale) at the end of December 2020 (M. Muyenzi).

**Willard's Boubou** *Laniarius willardi*

Fifth record for Uganda. A single bird was seen, heard and filmed in Bwindi-Impenetrable National Park, Buhoma on 3 July 2021 (B. Finch and P. Tamwenya).

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

Second record for Rwanda. A single bird was seen and well described at Ntongwe on 3 March 2005 (R. Fleming).

**Piapiac** *Ptilostomus afer*

First record for Rwanda. A single bird was seen and photographed on Muhana Plains (Akagera National Park) on 2 May 2021 (L. Abbot).

**Broad-ringed (Kilimanjaro) White-eye** *Zosterops eurycricotus*

First record for Kenya. Six birds were seen, heard and photographed (Fig. 2) in Oloitokitok Forest (Loitokitok District, Kajiado County) between 12 and 29 May 2021 (I. Kilisu, T. Davis, J. Lairumbe and E. Lairumbe). The taxonomy of white-eyes has recently undergone a significant revision. The taxonomy used here follows that outlined in Pearson & Turner (2017), based on the phylogeny of Cox *et al.* (2014). More detailed information with regard to this species and its occurrence at Oloitokitok can be found in Bradley *et al.* (2022).

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus*

Second record for Kenya. A single bird in immature plumage was seen and photographed (Fig. 3) in Nairobi National Park on 9 October 2021 (A. Scott Kennedy, B. Finch and N. Hunter).



**Figure 2.** Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (left: Crammy Wanyama) and Broad-ringed White-eye *Zosterops eurycricotus* (right: Tyler Davis).

**Miombo Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis elisabeth*

Fifth record for Kenya. Several birds, including immatures, were seen and photographed in mixed woodland in Kilifi County on 18 June 2021 (J. Mwambire and F. Ng'weno). There are at least four traceable specimens of this species from Kenya — all collected between 1910 and 1959. This is therefore the first documented record for 62 years. This taxon was formerly treated as a subspecies of Lesser Blue-eared Starling *L. chloropterus*.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

Third record for Uganda. A single bird was seen and photographed (Fig. 3) in Queen Elizabeth National Park on 3 January 2021 (B. Arshley).

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

Fifth record for Kenya. A single bird was seen and very well described (including the characteristic all-black distal half of the tail) at Kensalt Saltworks, Gongoni (Kilifi County) on 26 January 2021 (C. Jackson, A. Omenya and D. Kazungu).



**Figure 3.** Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (left: Adam Scott Kennedy) and Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* (right: Brian Arshley).

*Category D: Identification accepted but provenance uncertain*

The following record could not be confirmed as new for Uganda as it was not possible to establish that the bird was not an escape from captivity:

**Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii*

A single bird was seen and photographed at Rwakobo Rock, Lake Mburo, Uganda on 11 April 2021.

*Records not proven*

The following records were not accepted because the details provided were insufficient to establish the identification with certainty:

**Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Singles at Nguuni Nature Sanctuary, Mombasa County on 30 January 2021, and at Vipingo Quarry, Mombasa County on 1 February 2021. Photographs confirmed that the birds were different individuals, but in both cases it was not possible to determine whether they were pure Crested or hybrid Crested x European Honey Buzzard *P. apivorus*.

**References**

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- PEARSON, D.J. & TURNER, D.A. 2017. A taxonomic review of the genus *Zosterops* in East Africa, with a revised list of species occurring in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. *Scopus* 37(1): 1–13.

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*Scopus* 42(2): 64–66, July 2022

Received 3 March 2022