

# JOURNAL OF THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND NATIONAL MUSEUM

---

12th April 1973

No. 140

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## THE LESS COMMON PALAEARCTIC MIGRANT BIRDS OF KENYA AND TANZANIA

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### INTRODUCTION

The three East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are justly famous for their rich avifauna which includes approximately 150 species which visit the area from the Palaearctic Region as well as a large and varied Ethiopian element. The ornithological literature pertaining to the area is surprisingly sparse; the present paper is an attempt to clarify the distributional knowledge of the less common Palaearctic migrants.

The most widely used reference work covering the three countries is that of Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957, 1960) although this book deals with several extra-limital territories as well as East Africa proper. A serious limitation of Mackworth-Praed & Grant is that very few definitive records are given. The most useful reference dealing with Kenya and Uganda is Jackson (1938); Jackson's distributional notes are based upon recorded specimens which, although not usually dated precisely, can frequently be located in the earlier literature or in museums. Tanganyika (mainland Tanzania) and Zanzibar were excluded from Jackson's work although Moreau produced a most excellent account of all the migrants to Tanzania at about the same time (Moreau 1937). Definitive records for the three countries were brought up to date therefore, to just before the Second World War. Since that time the birds of East Africa have been poorly documented, in marked contrast to those of Zambia which have received detailed attention by several workers, especially by C. W. Benson.

The two field guides by Williams (1967, 1969) contain many interesting distributional data which are not given by earlier authors. He gives no definitive records in these books (they would be out of place in field guides) but some have been supplied to us subsequently (Williams *in litt.*). Some too are to be found in the literature which appeared after Mackworth-Praed & Grant (*op. cit.*) was compiled.

## PLAN AND SCOPE

We are unable to give a precise definition of a "less common Palaearctic migrant" as our choice has been made on the basis of personal experience, mainly in Kenya. For example, although a bird may be called "regular to East Africa" in the standard works we have obtained few, sometimes no, personal records during the last eight years; such a species will be included. Some species included may be regular or even common in areas which we have seldom or never visited, in particular Lake Rudolf, Marsabit and Ol Bolossat, all in Kenya. Identification difficulties are probably less important nowadays because mist-nets are used widely, and are especially useful for species with skulking habits.

Originally we had intended to cover all three East African countries, although our personal experience of Tanzania is slight, and only C. F. M. has any substantial knowledge of Uganda. As Mann (1971b) has already published his more interesting Uganda records and D. J. Pearson (pers. comm.) is preparing a paper on Palaearctic migrants to Uganda, data from that country are mentioned only when they are especially significant. Despite our lack of personal experience of Tanzania, and the inevitable Kenya bias, we have attempted as much as possible to give equal weight to the two countries in this paper. Tanzania lies directly to the south of Kenya, so that Palaearctic birds recorded in Tanzania will, in most (but not all) cases, have passed through or over Kenya. That part of Kenya in the northern hemisphere is comparatively neglected ornithologically, whereas most of Uganda lies north of the equator, so that extralimital species stand more chance of being noticed in Uganda. Nevertheless, only three Palaearctic species *Porzana parva* (Scopoli), *Larus ichthyaetus* Pallas and *Apus pallidus* (Shelley), have been recorded in Uganda but not from Kenya or Tanzania (White, Jackson 1938, Mann 1971b, Pearson 1971).

Each entry in the systematic list is usually arranged as follows: a brief statement giving the distribution according to Vaurie (1959, 1965) and White (1960, 1961a, b, 1962, 1963, 1965) followed by a more detailed appraisal of the species' status with definitive records known to us. (To save constant repetition, dates of publication are not given for references to Vaurie and White (*op. cit.*) in the text.) In addition to searching the literature we have examined material in the National Museum, Nairobi and the British Museum (Natural History), excepting the raptors in the latter collection which were not available to G.C.B. in the summer of 1971. We also asked for unpublished records from ornithologists by advertising in the *East Africa Natural History Society Newsletter* (later renamed *Bulletin*) and we are grateful to those people who responded (see Acknowledgements section). It is well known that many collections of Kenya birds have been made in the last decade or so which have not always been written up. We have not attempted to contact the various institutions in which these collections are housed but it is our hope that any especially interesting specimens of Palaearctic birds in this category will be published by others in the future, even though these may alter some of our conclusions. When no definitive record is available to substantiate a published account of the occurrence of a species, the name is put in square brackets. It may be that the relevant specimen is housed somewhere, but until the details are published, or further records become available, these species cannot be admitted, in our opinion, to the avifauna of Kenya or Tanzania. Likewise a few sight records with insufficient documentation. Nomenclature follows White whereas order follows Backhurst & Backhurst (1970). Names of the seasons are used in the north temperate sense as we are dealing with birds which breed in that area. Records are usually listed in the order autumn-winter-spring.

No "official" up-to-date list of East African birds exists. Future list compilers will, we hope make use of this paper as a basis for evaluating the less common Palaearctic species. It should be noted that the records quoted by us belong to several different categories, namely: specimens which can still be examined; specimens which can no

longer be traced; photographs of birds in the field or in the hand; fully documented sight records (including birds handled for ringing but not photographed); sight records without full details. In our search of the literature, and in the replies received to our requests for records, we have come across a number which are a mere statement that the bird was seen. In most cases these records have been listed here. It is appreciated however that many readers will find them unacceptable but, in the circumstances, we feel that we have no alternative but to publish them. We would like to make some recommendations for the future publication of unusual records: observers are urged to publish their observations as soon as possible, giving full details of plumage, calls (if any), date and place; comparisons with other species present should also be given. The *East Africa Natural History Society Bulletin* is a suitable place for reporting most records although the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* may be considered more appropriate for 'first' records or for when photographs are to be included. We would deplore the publication of unusual records with no descriptive details, but often with the phrase appended 'the observer is familiar with the species in Europe'; such records cannot be assessed at a later date without giving offence to the observer. This criticism is true of some records supplied to us *in litt*; sometimes we have been able to obtain additional information from the observer but in other cases this has not been possible.

In our view, the idea that a national list should be based *only* on collected specimens is wrong, but we feel that some form of evidence, preferably photographic, should always be supplied.

Birds recorded after the 1970-1971 wintering 'season' are excluded, so that this paper includes no records after 30 June 1971.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

### *HYDROBATES LEUCORHOA* (Vieillot) Leach's Petrel

Vaurie and White both mention its occurrence off the coast of West Africa but that there are no records from the eastern seaboard. White states that Red Sea records require confirmation.

There is only one record from our area, a bird found dead at Tiwi River mouth, south Kenya coast, on 8 February 1969 (Parsons 1969). Very few species of pelagic birds have been recorded from the East African coast and it is likely that this species is nothing more than a very rare vagrant. It would seem probable that hitherto unrecorded pelagics will be found in the future. The other Palaearctic *Hydrobates*, *H. pelagicus* (Linn.) may well occur extralimally in East African waters as suggested by Mackworth Praed & Grant (1957). Pakenham (1939) has pointed out that despite the claims of earlier authors, there is no good record from Tanzanian seas.

### [*BOTAURUS STELLARIS STELLARIS* (Linn.) Bittern

This race is not recognised by Vaurie although White admits it; both authors state that Palaearctic birds winter to the northern tropics, rarely to the Congo Basin.

We have no records from Kenya or Tanzania but the sight record by Schwarz (1948) from Laropi, West Nile Province, Uganda on 24 April 1948 may be mentioned; the bird was recorded as a "Common European Bittern (*Botaurus s. stellaris*)" with no details except that it was seen in reeds. We know of no way of distinguishing the Palaearctic form from that of southern Africa (*capensis* Schlegel) in the field although, according to White, *capensis* occurs no further north than south-western Tanzania. We consider Schwarz's record unsatisfactory because a) he has made no attempt to explain his reasons for calling it the nominate form, and b) he gives no details of the bird whatsoever. There seems no reason, however, why this species should *not* occur occasionally in northern East Africa, especially as Urban & Brown (1971) record it as a rare visitor throughout Ethiopia. It may be mentioned that the closely related American Bittern *B. lentiginosus* Montagu has wandered to western Europe on a number of occasions so that vagrancy may be a regular trait in the genus. Vesey-FitzGerald & Beesley (1960) record the species as a Palaearctic migrant to the Rukwa, south-western Tanzania, but add that it possibly breeds, having heard booming in February and March. Clearly this refers to *capensis*. Thus the European Bittern has not been recorded from Kenya or Tanzania.]

### *IXOBRYCHUS MINUTUS MINUTUS* (Linn.) Little Bittern

Recorded by Vaurie and White as wintering in tropical Africa, especially in the east, south to eastern Cape Province.

Jackson (1938) was able to give only one record of one obtained (others seen) at Witu, Kenya coast on 12 May. Van Someren (1932) stated that "the typical race occurs as a migrant" but gave no details. There are five specimens in the National Museum:

25 December 1970, ♂ Nairobi February 1946, ♀ Lake Magadi  
 28 December 1959, juv. ♂ Nairobi February 1953, ♀ Dodoma, Tanzania  
 9 January 1963, ♀ Nairobi

In addition, one was ringed (P.L.B.) on 21 November 1969 at Ukwala, Central Nyanza, Kenya, weight 91g, wing 150 mm.

The dates of the above birds suggest that it is a winter visitor rather than a passage migrant in our area. Probably the European Little Bittern is often overlooked due to confusion with the local race *payesii* (Hartlaub) and because of the difficulty in seeing birds in dense marshland vegetation.

#### *CICONIA NIGRA* (Linn.) Black Stork

Vaurie states that the species winters south to 15°S. whereas White is more cautious, giving the wintering range of the Palaearctic birds as south to Uganda. The Black Stork breeds south of our area in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa where it is apparently resident.

Benson *et al.* (1970) have shown that it is a regular migrant to Kenya in very small numbers between November and early April. This statement is based on nine sight records supplied by the late M. E. W. North, and our more extensive data confirm this view. We have details of 41 sightings between 1 September and 6 April of which all but two are from Nairobi and east of Nairobi. Most are from Nairobi National Park and Tsavo East National Park. J. G. Williams informs us (*in litt.*) that the mounted display specimen in the National Museum was collected by R. Glen at Kibwezi. Jackson (1938) was able to cite only two recorded localities in Kenya, both west of Nairobi and both on the authority of van Someren, implying that he (Jackson) had never seen the bird himself. This lack of records of such a conspicuous bird suggests that the Black Stork is more common now than it was in the early part of the century. Apart from van Someren's (1922) "large flock", the largest party is of twelve birds seen by Mrs. Lise Campbell in Nairobi National Park on 29 November 1970.

Sight records from Tanzania are: six at Rukwa in January (Vesey-Fitzgerald & Beesley 1960) and one annually in the Arusha National Park from 1965, to at least 1969, between October and March (Beesley 1971a). The only earlier references to this species from Tanzania are by Moreau. In the first (Moreau 1937), he makes a most uncharacteristic statement that it is "a winter visitor and passage migrant in much smaller numbers than the White Stork" with no details of specimens obtained or dates of sightings. Later (Moreau 1941), when listing ringed *Ciconia* spp. recovered in Tanzania, he mentions one which, according to the description given him, might have been *C. nigra*. We have been unable to locate details of this ringing recovery.

The Black Stork is thus a regular winter visitor to central and south-east Kenya in very small numbers; in Tanzania it occurs regularly, but in even smaller numbers.

#### *PLATALEA LEUCORODIA LEUCORODIA* Linn. European Spoonbill

Vaurie and White give the species' distribution as south to Uganda and Kenya with no indication as to its abundance.

Van Someren (1922) listed one specimen, a male taken on 15 February 1918 at Lake Naivasha, but then went on to say that "large numbers winter on the larger lakes", a statement which is quite unacceptable in view of subsequent knowledge. Jackson (1938) considered it (geographically) probable that the bird was an example of the small Red Sea race *archeri* Neumann. White does not admit *archeri* as a valid race although the bill measurements he gives (147-189 mm for *archeri* and 183-223 mm for *leucorodia*) indicate that most specimens could be separated. All records to date are from inland, and since we consider it rather unlikely that Red Sea birds would wander to inland East Africa (as far west as near Lake Albert in Uganda, Keith 1968), we prefer to regard these birds as Palaearctic.

The specimen recorded by Loveridge (1923) from Kilosa, Tanzania was later rejected by Friedmann & Loveridge (1937) as having been incorrectly identified. In addition there are four modern sight records:

April 1956, several, Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf (J. G. Williams *in litt.*)  
 28 August 1964, 1, Lake Naivasha (A.D. Forbes-Watson *in litt.*)  
 29 August 1967, 1, Lake Nakuru (A.D. Forbes-Watson *in litt.*)  
 23 March 1969, 1, Central Island, Lake Rudolf (D.A. Turner *in litt.*)

The European Spoonbill is clearly no more than a very rare vagrant to Kenya. Confusion with the local *P. alba* Scopoli is, however, possible.

#### [*ANAS ANGUSTIROSTRIS* Ménétries Marbled Teal

This species is included as it is mentioned by Lynn-Allen (1951). He says that "two were supposed to have been shot in the Kisumu area in 1941" and "In 1932, we shot an unrecognised duck on a swamp at Uplands, outside Nairobi, which might possibly have been of this variety". It has not been recorded in Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971) but Vaurie records it as occasional to Lake Chad. We cannot admit this species to the Kenya list on the present evidence.]

*ANAS CRECCA CRECCA* Linn. Teal

Vaurie and White record this species south to northern Tanzania with no indication as to its abundance.

Jackson (1938), on the authority of van Someren, records it from Lakes Elmenteita, Naivasha and Nakuru, and from Solai. Van Someren (1932) gives the first East African record as 1 January 1919 from Lake Naivasha, and then from April 1923 "every winter", presumably until about 1931. G. R. Cunningham-van Someren (*in litt.*) states that he has shot Teal several times on Lake Naivasha and at Ol Bolossat between December and February from 1935 to 1955. In addition, Lynn-Allen (1942) obtained two on 22-26 December 1941 at Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf. Moreau (1937) gives van Someren's (1931) Tanzania records as being from Lakes Natron, Manyara and Eyasi.

The National Museum contains five specimens, all collected between January and March; four are from Naivasha and Rumuruti, the fifth, an adult male date 27 January 1961, is from Itumba, Tanzania. We know of only five sight records from Kenya, between November and March, and one from Tanzania, namely three birds at the Ngorongoro Crater Lake on 14 February 1967. (D. A. Turner *in litt.*).

The Teal is thus a scarce but perhaps regular migrant to Kenya with an odd bird straggling to Tanzania.

*ANAS PENELOPE* Linn. Wigeon

Vaurie gives its winter range as south to about the equator while White records it to northern Tanzania.

The distribution of the Wigeon in Kenya and Tanzania is very similar to that of the Teal except that the present species appears to be slightly more numerous. There are five specimens from Kenya in the National Museum taken between 10 December and 24 February at Naivasha (three), Njoro and Taveta. We have five personal sight records (all G.C.B.), four from the Kenya Meat Commission pools at Athi River between 6 February and 11 April, and another record of c. 20 on 25 January 1970 in the north-eastern corner of Lake Nakuru. A. J. Deane (*in litt.*) saw and photographed one at the end of November 1970, also at Lake Nakuru.

The party of 25 between 2 February and 7 March 1943, 40 km south-west of Mt. Meru, Tanzania in Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott (1946) is larger than any recorded in Kenya. The only other Tanzania records are those of J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) from Arusha National Park, where he has observed them regularly during the winter on a small dam between January 1965 and 12 April 1971; the largest party was 15 birds on 12 February 1966. Moreau (1937) omits the Wigeon from his list of migrants to Tanzania and Grote (1930) gives the Sudan and Ethiopia as its southern limit, however it is clearly a regular visitor to northern Tanzania.

*ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS* Linn. Mallard

Vaurie records the species south to Ethiopia and White adds that records from further south than northern Sudan are doubtful.

Some doubt must surround the status of the Mallard in East Africa. Sharpe (1930b) recorded the species from Marsabit but merely wrote "I think I am the first to record it from Marsabit in Kenya Colony" that is, he omitted to give any details of his record(s) at all. Van Someren, in his 1930 paper dealing with ducks makes the following statement: "Sharpe writes 'I shot a male on Marsabit Lake in February 1928. Both males and females at the end of January and in February 1929. One male in full plumage; young males and females, shot on different occasions and observed at other times'". Van Someren also mentions that the species has been shot by Sharpe on Koronli Water WNW of Marsabit and goes on to say that Sharpe, being unaware that the Mallard was previously unrecorded in Kenya, did not retain any skins. Later, van Someren (1932) appeared sceptical, saying that "the record should be substantiated by a specimen". Grote (1931) quoted Sharpe's record without comment. Lynn-Allen (1951) mentions a drake (from a pair) shot on Lake Naivasha by Major Allan North on 26 December 1938 "destined for the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi, but unfortunately miscarried".

A number of Mallard have been introduced on private waters in Kenya (Lynn-Allen 1951 and personal observations) and J. G. Williams (*in litt.*) tells us that the late Raymond Hook released some at Nanyuki.

The Mallard occurs rarely throughout Ethiopia above 1500 m (Urban & Brown 1971) so it may be expected again in the north of Kenya. There are no records from Tanzania. The inclusion of the Mallard in the avifauna of Kenya thus rests on the specimens obtained by Sharpe and North, none of which is extant; the species should be watched for especially in the north of Kenya.

*ANAS STREPERA STREPERA* Linn. Gadwall

Recorded by Vaurie and White as south to Kenya. The Gadwall was not included by Jackson (1938) and it appears that the first Kenya specimen was obtained at Soy in December 1937 (van Someren 1943) followed by another in January 1938 from south Kavirondo (van Someren *op. cit.*). Copley (1942) records a female shot on 19 February 1940 at Kisumu and this specimen is still in the National Museum. Leakey (1943b) mentions three Gadwall specimens received by the National

Museum between December 1942 and January 1943 and one, a female, 9 January 1943 Lake Nakuru, still in the Museum, is probably one of these. In the extreme north of Kenya at Todanyang one was obtained from a party of four on 10 January 1942 (Lynn-Allen 1942). We have no personal sight records from Kenya but G. R. Cunningham-van Someren tells us (*in litt.*) of one which was present on a dam at Karen from December 1960 until January 1961. The sole record from Tanzania is of three seen (C.F.M.) on 18 December 1964 on Ngorongoro Crater Lake.

The above records show that the Gadwall is an extremely scarce bird in Kenya and Tanzania, however, it should be remembered that the bird may appear rather drab and inconspicuous in the field so that it may be more common than the records suggest.

*AYTHYA FERINA* (Linn.) Pochard

Vaurie and White give the winter range as south to the Sudan and Ethiopia. We have only one record of this species, a male seen and photographed between 2 January and 8 February 1971 on a dam in Arusha National Park, Tanzania (Beesley 1971b). There are no Kenya records but M.P.L. Fogden informs us (*in litt.*) that he has recent records for the Queen Elizabeth Park, Uganda.

The Pochard is thus a very rare visitor to our area, at present unrecorded in Kenya.

*AYTHYA FULIGULA* (Linn.) Tufted Duck

Recorded by Vaurie as occasionally to northern Tanzania and by White as a vagrant to northern Malawi.

Although Vaurie and White make no mention of the numbers involved our findings are otherwise in agreement with theirs: the first record is of one obtained on 21 November 1913 at the Yala River Swamp (van Someren 1922). By 1932 van Someren had six specimens from Lakes Naivasha, Elmenteita and Nakuru, and mentioned that A. Turner had noted them as regular on the Kinangop dams (van Someren 1932). Although we have no personal sight records of this conspicuous bird from Kenya, we can supply five by other observers: Marsabit Lake between November and March (H. B. Sharpe in van Someren 1930); Lake Nakuru, 11 December 1970 (A. J. Deane *in litt.*); Ol Donyo Sabuk, 5 January 1967 (MS in E.A.N.H.S. file); Lake Naivasha, 1 March 1970 (G. R. Cunningham-van Someren *in litt.*); Lake Naivasha, 19 March 1950 (Guggisburg 1950). Further, Cunningham-van Someren tells us (*in litt.*) that he has seen Tufted Duck in odd years on Lake Naivasha and Ol Bolossat between 1934 and 1965.

The only records from Tanzania are sightings from the north of the country: Ngorongoro Crater, 7 March (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946); Arusha National Park (J. S. S. Beesley *in litt.*) from 24 April to 1 June 1969 (male), 18-24 January 1970 (male), and from 19 December 1970 to 2 March 1971 (3 males, 2 females).

The Tufted Duck can be no more than a very scarce winter visitor to our area.

*AYTHYA NYROCA* (Güldenstädt) White-eyed Pochard or Ferruginous Duck

Both Vaurie and White record the species as migrating south to Kenya but with no indication of its frequency or abundance.

Jackson (1938) gave no records from Kenya although van Someren (1930) had recorded two (presumably obtained), both in January 1920 from Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru; later van Someren records two more, a female in February 1925 and one (no sex given) in January 1930, both from Lake Naivasha. The only recent specimen is of one shot on 8 February 1970 at Endebess (R. C. Boy *in litt.*) and we know of only one sight record, on the rather early date of 6 September 1958 at Ol Joro Orok (Bednall 1959). We have no personal records of this species and know of none from Tanzania.

The White-eyed Pochard is a very rare vagrant to Kenya although it may be overlooked to some extent.

*TADORNA FERRUGINEA* (Pallas) Ruddy Shelduck

Vaurie gives the winter range in Africa as south to the northern Sudan and White adds that it is a vagrant to Eritrea. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) mention Kenya as the southerly limit of the non-breeding range and this is repeated by Bauer & Glutz von Blotzheim (1968).

The only record from our area is of one seen north of Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf in the late 1950s (J. G. Williams pers. comm.).

*ACCIPITER BREVIPES* (Severtzov) Levant Sparrow Hawk

White gives but two records for the whole of the Ethiopian Region, one from south Sudan and another from Busenga in Tanzania. Although collected by C. F. M. Swynnerton on 1 December 1921 the Tanzania specimen was not included by Moreau (1937) as it was not correctly identified until examined by Morrison (1955). There is only one other record from the Ethiopian Region (Gangala na Bodio, Uele, Zaire, 3° 41' N., 29° 08' E., Wattel (1966)) so that, on present evidence, the Levant Sparrow Hawk can be regarded as an exceptionally rare visitor to the Ethiopian Region; it appears that its winter quarters are unknown (Vaurie).

*ACCIPITER NISUS NISUS* (Linn.) European Sparrow Hawk

While Vaurie gives its winter range as south to the Sudan and Ethiopia, White mentions that it occurs sparingly to Kenya and northern Tanzania.

On the records available to us the European Sparrow Hawk is clearly a rare bird in our area although it must be mentioned that *Accipiter* species are notoriously difficult to see, let alone identify. Jackson (1938) gives one record from the Lower Molo River on 2 February 1911 and there is an immature male in the National Museum, collected on 4 December 1928 on the Kinangop, 2440m a.s.l. which was reported by Leakey (1943a). Owre & Paulson (1968) collected a female near Loiengalani, Lake Rudolf; the authors omit to mention the date of collection but state that the specimen was assigned to the nominate race by Vaurie. The remaining Kenya records are sightings by L. H. Brown (*in litt.*) of three together on 21/22 January 1952 at Ishiara and of one on 23 January 1953 at Ruiru. The sole record for Tanzania is the female collected in November between Mts. Meru and Kilimanjaro quoted by Grote (1930).

**Eagles of the genus *Aquila*:** The following three species, together with the Steppe Eagle *Aquila rapax orientalis* Cabanis, form a notoriously difficult group of birds to identify in the field. Thus, with the comparative lack of collecting in our area in modern times, we can add few definitive records. As Mann (1971b) has pointed out, the Steppe Eagle is a common visitor to Kenya, so that the bulk of Palearctic *Aquila* seen are probably this species. We are unable to evaluate the true status of these species in East Africa; in our opinion *some* specimens are required. A number of observers in Europe are attacking the problems of bird of prey identification with great thoroughness (see, for example, Flight identification of European raptors, Parts 1 and 2 by S. Christensen, B.P. Nielsen, R. F. Porter & I. Willis *Br. Birds* 64: 247-266 and 435-455); in future, when the effects of their studies become known, more acceptable sight records may be reported. It is distasteful to most people to collect birds of prey, especially now that many species are declining in numbers, so that any birds found dead should be taken for specimens or, if this is not possible, photographs and/or notes should be made so that the bird is not wasted.

#### *AQUILA CLANGA* Pallas Greater Spotted Eagle

Vaurie and White record it south to Eritrea; an old record from Natal is doubted by White. Urban & Brown (1971) describe it as "frequent to common" in the western highlands of Ethiopia, but add the remark "numbers and status rather obscure because of confusion with *A. rapax*."

Owre & Paulson (1968) collected an immature female at El Molo Bay, Lake Rudolf on 19 October 1958, the identification was confirmed by Stresemann and Vaurie. A. D. Forbes-Watson (*pers. comm.*) tells us of a bird which he saw at Ngulia in Tsavo West National Park on 3 December 1969. He showed his description to L. H. Brown who agreed that the bird was *A. clanga*. A. J. Deane (*in litt.*) has seen and photographed this species on three occasions at Lake Nakuru (20 November 1970, 5 and 7 December 1970). Finally, Bednall (1959) claimed a "possible" on 10 November 1958 in Nairobi National Park; J. G. Williams is quoted as agreeing that it was probably this species. The Greater Spotted Eagle is unrecorded from Tanzania.

#### *AQUILA HELIACA HELIACA* Savigny Imperial Eagle

Both Vaurie and White record the nominate eastern race of the Imperial Eagle south to the Sudan. Urban & Brown (1971) describe it as uncommon in the western highlands of Ethiopia, but add the remark "no recent records; status rather obscure".

There are two Kenya sight records. The first was seen by G. H. H. Brown on the Yatta Plains in February or March 1962 (Brown 1963). The author omitted to mention exactly where or when he saw the bird but his brother, L. H. Brown, has supplied us (*pers. comm.*) with the information given above. A second bird was seen by A. D. Forbes-Watson on 4 December 1969 at Ngulia where he had seen a Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga* only the day before. As with this earlier bird, the description was shown to L. H. Brown who agreed with the identification (A. D. Forbes-Watson *pers. comm.*).

#### *AQUILA POMARINA* Brehm Lesser Spotted Eagle

Vaurie and White record this species as a non-breeding migrant to our area and south to Rhodesia and South West Africa. White remarks that it is evidently overlooked here as it is common in Rhodesia.

The Lesser Spotted Eagle is uncommon in the northern Sudan (Cave & Macdonald 1955) but it has never certainly been recorded from Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971), so that it probably passes mainly west of our area. There is still, as far as we know, no record from Uganda or Zaïre; Jackson (1938) gave only one from Kenya, the bird collected by Mackworth-Praed (1917) in the Ithanga Hills north of Nairobi on 29 September. Lynes (1934) collected a female on 14 March 1932 at Iringa and saw 30, 150 and 100 passing north on 12th, 13th and 14th of that month. A bird ringed in Estonia was killed in Geita District, Tanzania in March 1955 (Jogi 1957). There is no specimen in the National Museum, and the only recent record is that of Bowles (1967) of thousands of eagles near Sultan Hamud, Kenya on 11 November 1966 which L. H. Brown thought *might* have been this species.

The route taken by this species to its winter quarters remains, to some extent, a mystery. Brown & Amadon (1970) note that most enter Africa at Suez to spend the winter in savannas south of the equator. Their map 66 shows the main wintering area as eastern Africa between about 5°S. and 20°S. Certainly it is regular in some numbers in Rhodesia and Zambia (White,

Benson *et al.* 1971) but is hardly known in our area; from the wintering range given by Brown & Amadon (*op. cit.*) there should be records from southern Tanzania more recent than those of Lynes (*op. cit.*) in 1932, but this lack of modern records may simply reflect the absence of bird watchers there at the right time of year. The most obvious gap in our understanding of this species' movements is the route taken between the southern tropics and the northern Sudan. It no doubt passes regularly *over* our area, as discussed in Brown (1970), coming to ground only exceptionally. Properly identified birds are so few that we are unable to discern any clear pattern or route.

**BUTEO RUFINUS RUFINUS** (Cretzschmar) Long-legged Buzzard

Vaurie and White record this species south to northern Sudan, and occasionally to northern Somalia and Zambia (Kasama). Benson (1948) first reported the Kasama bird, a male collected by E. L. Button on 21 November 1938. Button presented the bird to the British Museum but Benson (*in litt.*) informs us that it disappeared soon afterwards, and that it has still (1971) to be located. Benson (*in litt.*) considers his earlier identification entirely correct. Although not included for Ethiopia by White, Smith (1957) had recorded it earlier from the extreme north (Eritrea), and Urban & Brown (1971) mention sight records and a specimen from elsewhere in Ethiopia; they record it as uncommon throughout the country. There are only two records from our area: Owre & Paulson (1968) collected a male near Loiengalani in northern Kenya on 6 November 1958, and L. H. Brown (*in litt.*) informs us that he saw one on 23 November 1966 at Block's Farm, near Longonot. The Long-legged Buzzard may be regular in small numbers in the north of our area. At 10°S., the Kasama record is some 1700 km south of any other record; it can be no more than a very rare vagrant south of northern Kenya, and, as yet, is unrecorded from Tanzania.

**CIRCAETUS GALLICUS** (Gmelin) Short-toed Harrier Eagle

White states that it has occurred once on Mt. Elgon but he omits to say in which country the bird was found (the Kenya—Uganda border bisects the mountain). The only record definitely from our area is the female collected near Loiengalani in northern Kenya on 27 October 1958 (Owre & Paulson 1968), so the species may well be regular in small numbers in the extreme north of Kenya. Urban & Brown (1971) record this species throughout Ethiopia from October to March but add (by using a question mark) that the status is uncertain.

**HIERAETUS PENNATUS** (Gmelin) Booted Eagle

Although this species migrates as far south as Cape Province (Vaurie and White) it is nevertheless a rarely observed bird and is, therefore, included in this paper.

Broekhuysen (1971) was able to give only three sightings for South Africa for the seventeen years 1950-1966, but all in 1961. It is known from Malawi and there are four sight records from Zambia (Benson *et al.* 1971). A full list of Kenya records is given indicating the colour phase of the bird, where known. W. Leuthold supplied his records *in litt.*, mainly from Tsavo East National Park.

28 July 1970, 1 seen Lessos, C.F.M.

18 November 1963, ♂ dark Rongai, National Museum

February, Ol Donyo Sabuk, Grote (1930)

16 February 1971, 1 light seen Manyani, W. Leuthold

7 March 1971, 1 light seen 8 km north of Eldoret, P.L.B., C.F.M.

12 March 1971, 1 light seen Tsavo Gate, W. Leuthold

17 April 1926, ♂ Mt. Elgon, Granvik (1934)

24 April 1971, 1 dark seen Shimba Hills, C.F.M.

Further records will show whether 1971 was an exceptionally good year for Booted Eagles and whether the pattern of occurrence, with most records in the south-east and most in spring, is merely coincidence. The only Tanzanian records are of one collected at Amani on 26 January 1930 (Sclater & Moreau 1932) and one seen by J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) at Tarangire in October 1966.

**PERNIS APIVORUS** (Linn.) Honey Buzzard

Vaurie and White give its winter range as south to Angola, the Transvaal and Natal.

Moreau (1937) comments that the Honey Buzzard is not uncommon and that it occurs at Amani, Tanzania each year in February and March, and J. G. Williams (*in litt.*) states that it passes through Kilifi, Kenya coast in small numbers every spring, normally in late March and early April. In contrast to these views L. H. Brown (*in litt.*) has seen this bird only once in Africa (and that in 1971 after over 30 years residence) while we have but two personal sightings (see below). Jackson (1938) also found the bird scarce with no records from Kenya and only one from Uganda, although van Someren (1922) had recorded it earlier from the Yala River and Nairobi. We are aware of only fifteen definitive Kenya records:

29 October 1970, 1 seen Kapsabet, C.F.M.

31 October 1947, 1 seen near Elmenteita, Leakey (1947)

2 February 1954, ♂ near Nairobi, National Museum

7 March 1966, ♀ Lower Kabete, Nairobi, National Museum

14 March 1964, ♀ Langata, Nairobi, National Museum

28 March 1971, 1 seen Lower Kabete, J. S. Karmali and S. Keith (*in litt.*)

April 1938, Kabete, Leakey (1943)

1 April 1963, ♀ Nairobi, National Museum

4 April 1971, 1 seen Karen, Nairobi, L. H. Brown (*in litt.*)

11 April 1959, 1 seen Mtito Andei, J. G. Williams in Bednall (1959)

25 April 1970, 1 seen Thika, C.F.M.

4 June 1932, ♀ Ruaraka, Voous (1948)

10 June 1963, immature Ruiru, National Museum

19 June 1930, ♀ Nairobi, Voous (1948)

2 July 1944, 1 seen Indarugu River, Blom-Bjorner (1945)

28 August 1954, ♂ Kiambu, National Museum

We have details of five records from Tanzania:

8 November 1921, ♂ Ulugu, Ushora, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)

29 December 1939, 1 seen Mwanza, Meiklejohn (1940)

23 February 1918, ♀ Morogoro, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)

24 February 1934, ♀ Amani, National Museum

1 April 1918, ♀ Morogoro, Friedman (1922)

Moreau (1937) did not give any precise records although he collected the Amani bird; as mentioned above, he stated that it was not uncommon there each year in February and March.

The Honey Buzzard appears to be a scarce migrant, mainly on spring passage, with an unusual number of summer records.

#### *FALCO AMURENSIS* Radde Eastern Red-footed Falcon

Considerable confusion surrounds the status of this species in the literature: Vaurie and White give its *winter* range (our italics) as Kenya and the Congo (Katanga) south to Cape Province in the east and northern South-West Africa in the west. The Eastern Red-footed Falcon is an east Siberian breeding bird extending as far west as Lake Baikal (104°-110°E.), yet it winters exclusively in Africa (Vaurie). South of our area in Malawi, Zambia, Rhodesia and South Africa it is a common winter visitor and passage migrant, e.g. Benson (1951) recorded thousands going to roost in Malawi and Benson *et al.* (1971) mention 10000 or more together around Salisbury, Rhodesia. From the above records and from the paucity of records from our area (see below) and from the complete lack of records from the Sudan, Ethiopia and ex-British Somaliland (Cave & Macdonald 1955, Brown & Amadon 1970, Archer & Godman 1937) it seems clear that this gregarious species does not migrate overland from Siberia to Central and Southern Africa; moreover, the statement in Brown & Amadon (*op. cit.*) that it "possibly crosses the Indian Ocean from north-west India to about Cape Guardafui" must also be erroneous. Brown (1970) modifies his earlier ideas (with Amadon) by saying that "One must assume that they cross the Indian Ocean from North-East to South-West, arriving on the African coast at some part south of the Equator, when the rains are about to start or have started". From the evidence presented below we would agree with this statement except to add that the majority must enter Africa south of Tanzania, i.e. at more than 10°S., although in spring some *F. amurensis* are noted on passage in southern Tanzania. All our records except those from southern Tanzania must surely refer to stragglers.

We have been able to locate only six dated autumn records from the whole of our area (lending weight to the theory that the arriving flocks enter Africa south of 10°S.):

19 November 1961, 1 c.100 km from Arusha, northern Tanzania, National Museum

23 November 1966, ♂ seen Block's Farm, Longonot, L. H. Brown (*in litt.*)

24 November 1966, several ♂♂ seen, as above; no ♀♀ observed, L. H. Brown (*in litt.*)

25 November 1937, Pemba Island, Tanzania, Pakenham (1939)

25 and 26 November 1965, ♀ seen Lelan Downs, Cherangani Hills, L. H. Brown (*in litt.*)

2 December 1947, Karema, Lake Tanganyika, National Museum

In addition, Sessions (1967) considers it an uncommon passage migrant at Mau Narok (0°30'S.) in November and December.

We have rather more spring records:

24 February, specimen Mtito Andei, Jackson (1938)

26 March 1933, Manda, Lake Malawi, Tanzania, Sassi & Zimmer (1941)

27 March 1930, ♂ Koroli, near Marsabit, Oberholser (1945)

30 March, seen Amani, Tanzania, Moreau (1937)

March and April, frequently seen Rukwa, Tanzania, Vesey-Fitzgerald & Beesley (1960)

5 April, specimen Kikuyu Forest, Jackson (1938)

5 April 1971, c. 10 (at least 2 ♀♀) seen hunting flying termites after heavy rain, near Voi (in Tsavo East National Park) W. Leuthold (*in litt.*)

7 April 1971, 2 ♂♂ seen Kandere, Tsavo East National Park, C. Smeenk (*in litt.*)

24 April 1959, ♂ collected Kilifi, J. G. Williams in Bednall (1959b)

6 and 14 May 1968, ♀ seen Lower Kabete, Miss D. Angwin (*in litt.*)

Van Someren (1932) records it from Kikuyu and Loita without giving dates and Sessions (1967) calls it an uncommon passage migrant at Mau Narok in April. It is significant that Reynolds (1969) failed to record it in seven years residence at Tabora.

**FALCO CHERRUG CHERRUG** Gray Saker

White records the Saker south to Kenya but Vaurie gives only northern Sudan and Ethiopia. There is no mention of it in van Someren (1922), Grote (1930), Moreau (1937) or Jackson (1938); Mackworth-Præd & Grant (1957) give Kenya as the southern limit and Williams (1969) gives it as an uncommon winter visitor to north-eastern Africa without specifying the countries in which it has occurred.

The first East African record is of one obtained by M. G. K. Collins in Nairobi on 29 November 1948 (Williams 1948) and now in the National Museum. We know of a few Kenya sight records: 1 seen on 23 November 1966 at Lake Nakuru, A. D. Forbes-Watson & D. A. Turner *in litt.*; up to five together seen at Kabarnet from 7 November 1969 to the end of the month (C.F.M.); 1 seen at Kabarnet on 19 March 1970 and 27 April 1970 (C.F.M.).

Mann's records from Kabarnet in the Kenya Rift are especially interesting and suggest that it may have been overlooked elsewhere. He was resident there off and on for the whole of the 1969-70 wintering season so that their apparent absence from December to mid March may be real. All the records to date are in November, March and April, indicating a passage. In any event it can be no more than a very scarce visitor to Kenya, and it is still unrecorded from Tanzania.

**FALCO CONCOLOR** Temminck Sooty Falcon

We do not quote Vaurie and White for this species as Moreau (1969) has written an excellent review of its status, both as a breeding bird in north Africa and Arabia, and as a winterer in Madagascar and the eastern littoral of Africa from Kenya to Natal. He rejects Meinertzhagen's (1930) record of regular breeding in the Old Fort at Mombasa as "now generally disbelieved but . . . . may all be based on wintering birds". His supporting evidence for stating that it winters in Kenya is the three specimens in the National Museum from Nairobi, Naivasha and Sabaki River, an undated specimen in Jackson (1938), and information supplied by L. H. Brown and I.S.C. Parker. Parker collected the Sabaki River bird on 20 November and considers it "a regular passage migrant in some numbers" through eastern Kenya. Brown has records from the lower Athi River and Lake Nakuru. In addition, D. A. Turner (*in litt.*) saw it near Suswa on 23 February 1969, and there is an immature female in the National Museum collected in the Lali Hills on 20 November 1960 not considered by Moreau. The only Tanzania records given by Moreau are Dar es Salaam (24 March 1894) and Ukerewe Island, Lake Victoria (undated). In his recent review, Moreau has ignored his own sight records from Tanzania between 26 October and 3 March which were doubted by Sclater (in Sclater & Moreau 1932); it may be that Moreau accepted Sclater's judgement as it is uncharacteristic of him to ignore such a relevant reference.

**FALCO ELEONORAE** Géné Eleonora's Falcon

This species breeds in the eastern Mediterranean and migrates through the Red Sea to winter in Madagascar and Réunion (Vaurie and White). Vaurie states that it *winters* in Somalia although White describes it as only a non-breeding migrant. More precisely, these authors refer to *ex-British* Somaliland which is the part of modern Somalia north of about 8°N.; likewise, Ethiopian records are from Eritrea in the north-east (Urban & Brown 1971).

There are no specimens of this falcon from our area but several recent sight records are given in full as a basis for considering any future records. There are no records in the literature for Kenya or Tanzania up to and including Mackworth-Præd & Grant (1957).

1. "Recorded in recent years as a passage migrant in the Ruaha National Park Tanzania" (Williams 1967).
2. "John Savidge, warden at Ruaha N. P. informs me this species is an annual visitor during December" (D. A. Turner *in litt.*).
3. "A 'certain' bird, perched at close quarters, seen near Manyara turn-off, south of Arusha (Tanzania), January 1971. Larger than a Hobby [*Falco subbuteo* Linn.] and bill and feet massive. Perched on small dead tree—long tail." (J. G. Williams *in litt.*).
4. At noon on 2 May 1971 at Naivasha, after heavy rain, G.C.B. observed three falcons which may have been Eleonora's, feeding at about 30-room altitude on flying insects, probably termites. The most noticeable field character was their extremely graceful sweeping flight recalling large swifts (e.g. *Apus melba* (Linn.)). The only hovering performed was when they ate an insect which was held in the claws, as soon as this was done the majestic sweeping flight was resumed. The birds appeared like large Hobbies (not present for comparison) but with proportionately longer tails. The upperparts were slate-grey, underparts streaked, but with no rufous on 'thighs' or under the tail. There was no terminal bar on the tail and no 'moustache' was seen. The feet were yellow.
5. "At about 10.30h on 3 May 1971 a dark falcon, about Hobby size and shape but with proportionately longer tail, was seen flying steadily north along the western shore of Lake Nakuru. The underparts were rather dark, streaked black, and a 'moustache' was visible on the grey or whitish face. Cap and upperparts dark blackish." (D. J. Pearson *in litt.*). The observer feels that this may have been *eleonorae*.

The bulk of the population of this falcon must pass to the east of our area on their way to and from their known wintering grounds in Madagascar but a few may pass along the Rift Valley in Kenya and Tanzania.

**FALCO PELEGRINOIDES PELEGRINOIDES** Temminck Barbary Falcon

White treats *pelegrinoides* as a full species whereas most authors (e.g. Brown & Amadon 1970) treat it as a form of *Falco peregrinus* Tunstall, from which it cannot be certainly distinguished in the field. According to Brown & Amadon (*op. cit.*) it breeds in Nubia and North Africa as far west as southern Morocco, thus it does not certainly breed in the Ethiopian Region. Clapham (1964) believed that the birds which he saw breeding on the Dahlac Islands in the southern Red Sea were *pelegrinoides*, but for no reason except geography. He may well have been influenced by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) wherein the map for this form indicates that it breeds to south of the Red Sea; these authors add, however, that "It has not yet been discovered nesting in our area". White records it to northern Sudan, northern Somalia and northern Ethiopia, "probably as a non-breeding migrant from the Palearctic but may breed". We include it in this review since there is still no concrete evidence that it breeds outside the Palearctic Region. Owre & Paulson (1968) collected a female from two birds seen near Loiengalani in northern Kenya on 4 November 1958; the identification was confirmed by Vaurie. This is the only record from our area and may well remain so for a long time in view of the impossibility of recognising it adequately in the field.

**FALCO VESPERTINUS** Linn. Red-footed Falcon

Vaurie gives the winter range as from the equator south to Cape Province. White is more explicit, stating that it occurs south to Cape Province but "apparently not known from Eastern Africa from Ethiopia to Malawi". It is interesting that it should apparently by-pass eastern Africa on its way south when, although breeding as far west as Hungary, most of the population breeds to the north or north-east of our area. *Glareola nordmanni* Fischer takes a similar westerly route (see below).

To our west and south there is only one record from Uganda, at Moroto (Mann 1971b); no record in Zaire east of 28°E. (Chapin 1932); no record in Rhodesia east of 30°E. (Smithers *et al.* 1957); apart from the Nyika Plateau sight records, which also constitute the only Malawi records, it is unknown from Zambia east of Lusaka (Benson *et al.* 1971).

The sole record for Kenya is the male seen by D. A. Turner (*in litt.*) perched, and later flying at Elmenteita on 12 October 1968. In Tanzania, Vesey-Fitzgerald & Beesley (1960) consider it "rare" at Rukwa in the south-west, however, J. S. S. Beesley has told us (*in litt.*) that his only record for Rukwa (and for Tanzania) was of one female seen in mid April 1955 near Milepa Village.

Thus there are but two sight records of the western Red-footed Falcon from the whole of our area. The statement in Glutz von Blotzheim *et al.* (1971) that *vespertinus* is the dominant Red-footed Falcon from Kenya to South West Africa is, therefore, inaccurate.

**COTURNIX COTURNIX COTURNIX** (Linn.) European Quail

Vaurie gives its range as south to about the equator whereas White says that some also reach Natal and Cape Province. In a recent review, Benson & Irwin (1966) have rejected these southern African records so that they agree with Vaurie that it occurs south to about the equator.

Jackson (1938) records it from Kisumu, Athi, Loita, Ngong Road (Nairobi) and Mbuyuni near Taveta in Kenya. Benson & Irwin (*op. cit.*) mention specimens from Entebbe (Uganda) and Kisumu, both more or less on the equator, as the most southerly records. It is likely that Jackson's birds were correctly raced so that it probably wanders occasionally south of the equator to about 3°S. There is also the possibility that the migratory habits of the European Quail have changed since Jackson's day. Mrs. B. P. Hall (*in litt.*) tells us that most of Jackson's specimens are in the United States so that they would not have been included in Benson & Irwin's review (except for the Kisumu bird). It has not been recorded in Tanzania.

The identification of this Palearctic race of the Quail is impossible in the field because of confusion with *C. c. africana* Temminck & Schlegel; we are aware of no modern records. As far as we know there is no Quail shooting nowadays in East Africa; Quail catching continues in Nyanza, western Kenya, but all birds caught are (in P.L.B.'s experience) Harlequin Quail *C. delegorguei* Delegorgue, and the catching season is from about June to September. There are no specimens of the European Quail from our area in either the National or British Museums.

**CREX CREX** (Linn.) Corncrake

The Corncrake may not be a 'less common' visitor to our area but we include it because it is so rarely observed, indeed the only observations (as distinct from specimens) we can trace are those of Beesley and Reynolds (see below). Vaurie and White give its winter range as south to eastern Cape Province.

Van Someren (1922) had specimens from Nairobi, Kisumu, Kiambu and Simba in December and April, and Jackson (1938) mentions a late bird obtained by Hinde in Nairobi on 2 June. For Tanzania, Moreau (1937) makes the broad statement that the Corncrake is "apparently known only from around the Great Lakes", but he gives no details of specimens or observations. We have listed all the Kenya specimens known to us (as mentioned above, we know of no sightings from Kenya), which show that the majority, if not all, occur at migration times, indicating that the Corncrake is not a winter visitor.

7 October 1960, ♂ Nairobi, National Museum  
15 November 1948, Nairobi, Natrass (1948)

- 16 November 1948, ♂ Kabete, National Museum  
 20 November 1962, ♂ Nairobi, National Museum  
 15 March 1940, ♂ Emali Hills, National Museum  
 22 March 1957, ♂ Thika, National Museum  
 29 March 1940, ♂ Garabani (=Emali), National Museum  
 April 1950, ♀ Nairobi, National Museum  
 15 April 1919, ♂ Nairobi, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)  
 16 April 1956, ♂ Lumbwa, National Museum  
 18 April 1952, ♀ Limuru, National Museum  
 23 April 1948, ♂ Nairobi, National Museum  
 26 April 1967, one much decomposed, Kabete, G.C.B.  
 27 April 1956, ♀ East Aberdares at 2700 m a.s.l., National Museum  
 29 April 1957, ♀ Nairobi, National Museum  
 early May 1916, "collected" Nairobi, Loveridge (1922)  
 2 June, "obtained" Nairobi, Jackson (1938)

There are two specimens (male and female) from Sanya, Tanzania in the British Museum collected by H. F. I. Elliott on 22 April 1946. Reynolds (1969) records it from the Ugalla River Game Reserve without details but he informs us (*in litt.*) that "Corncrakes seemed rather common judging from the number flushed by the car driving through . . . high grass"; this was in mid February. Reynolds has also told us that he has a few records of single birds seen from Iringa in March and early April. J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) noted the species from 1 February until mid April in the Rukwa with up to four being seen in one day. He has also given us a record of one seen on 8 April near Lake Manyara.

We have been unable to throw much light on the question of the abundance or otherwise of the Corncrake in Kenya and Tanzania; it is a very secretive bird which is observed rarely, except when breeding. It is probably a regular migrant, occurring most frequently in spring. The high percentage of specimens from Nairobi and the Highlands of Kenya suggests that it favours the grass country of that area, but it may simply reflect the distribution of people interested enough to report a bird which has perished on migration.

[*FULICA ATRA* Linn. European Coot

We are grateful to C. W. Benson and R. J. Dowsett for drawing our attention to a note by Dathe & Faust (1965) where they claim to have seen this species in Tanzania; the following is a translation from the German: "During a safari . . . to East Africa we saw, on 18 February 1965, independently of one another . . . several hundred *F. atra* on the lake in the floor of Ngorongoro Crater. In spite of our special efforts we saw no *F. cristata*. Our wives witnessed our observations. Only when we looked at the literature and went through our notes at home did we see in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) that *F. atra* only occurs in winter . . . to the area of Khartoum." We are unable to accept this record: the knobs on the head of *F. cristata* Gmelin are rarely noticeable except at very close range. We think that the plate of *F. cristata* in the European Field Guide (Peterson *et al.* 1966) would suggest to observers from Europe that the projections on the head would be visible (if only in silhouette) at great range; in Africa this is not so: the coots which occur in thousands on, for example, Lake Naivasha look, *en masse*, just like the *F. atra* of Europe and, in any case, not all individuals have knobs on the head.

Urban & Brown (1971) consider it "frequent to locally common" in the Rift Valley and western highlands of Ethiopia, thus extending its known winter range considerably south of that given by White (northern Sudan and Senegal), however J. S. Ash tells us (*in litt.*) that "There must be an element of doubt about the Ethiopian Coots until I collect a specimen." The European Coot is a long distance migrant in parts of its range so that it may be proved to occur in the future in East Africa but, at present, we prefer to omit it from the avifauna of our area.]

*PORZANA PORZANA* (Linn.) Spotted Crake

The Spotted Crake is, like the Corncrake *Crex crex*, a highly secretive migrant recorded by Vaurie and White south to Lesotho.

Van Someren (1922) listed two adults, from Nairobi (April) and Londiani. We have seen the Londiani bird, a male, still in the National Museum and collected on 22 February 1913. Jackson (1938) mentions specimens from the Uasin Gishu Plateau and Kitui but gives no dates. A further specimen was obtained at Lake Elmenteita in November or December 1951 (Ridley & Percy 1953) and, more recently, one was trapped and ringed by D. J. Pearson at Athi River on 21 February 1971. The only Tanzanian records are from Kilosa on 14 April (Friedmann & Loveridge 1937) and Zanzibar (Grote 1930). Moreau (1937) summed up the situation by saying "almost certainly a passage migrant in some numbers and probably a winter visitor also", however the only specimen known to him from Tanganyika was the Kilosa bird mentioned above. The only East African specimen in the British Museum is an unsexed bird collected by Swynnerton on 22 April 1922 in Tanganyika (no locality). In contrast to the paucity of records from our area, Benson (1953) gives 28 specimens from Malawi, eleven of these in the British Museum were collected in February by Benson himself. It is recorded from six localities in Zambia (Benson *et al.* 1971). Chapin (1939) had no Zaire records but in his fourth volume (Chapin 1954) he mentions four specimens collected in that country by others.

It is not possible to evaluate the abundance of the Spotted Crake in Africa since it is so secretive and since it is likely to occur in swampy areas difficult of access. From the few records available it is likely that some winter in our area while others pass on further south.

#### *BURHINUS OEDICNEMUS* Linn. Stone Curlew

According to Vaurie and White, both nominate *oedicnemus* and *saharae* Reichenow occur as migrants south to Kenya; *saharae* has a partly African distribution in the breeding season, however it does not breed in the Ethiopian Region. The two races cannot be certainly distinguished in the field and, as sight records are likely to provide most future records, we have treated the species binomially.

Meinertzhagen (1922) obtained one at Kisumu on 15 January 1917 while van Someren (1921) collected two males at Meuressi, Turkana in January 1918, and in 1922 described it as a regular (but not common) winter visitor to East Africa, mentioning records from Kiambu and Lake Elmenteita in October and January, the latter possibly Meinertzhagen's bird. Stoneham (1930) noted the arrival of migrants at Rumuruti on 25 October and 20 December 1925 and 12 October 1928. Jackson (1938) recorded it from Elmenteita (van Someren), South Uaso Nyiru, Kerio River and Kisumu. The only modern records known to us are c. 10 at Eliye Point, Lake Rudolf on 29 March 1970 (C.F.M.) and of one seen at Lake Nakuru on 14 November 1970 (A. J. Deane *in litt.*).

There are thus rather few data available to assess its status but it is probably regular as a winter visitor to north-west Kenya. It has never been recorded in Tanzania or further south, and never *certainly* in Kenya south or east of Kiambu; the South Uaso Nyiro River flows south to Lake Natron on the Tanzania border at 2°S. but enters suitable country for this species at about 1°S. Although readily distinguished from the three Ethiopian *Burhinus* which occur in Kenya it is probably often passed off as one of these.

#### [*CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS ALEXANDRINUS* Linn. Kentish Plover

A great deal of confusion surrounds the published winter range of this species. Vaurie records it south to tropical Africa and Angola, whereas White gives the southern limit as Avakubi in Zaire; neither writer specifically mentions Kenya or Tanzania although Vaurie's statement *could* include our area. According to Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) the Kentish Plover occurs throughout Africa in the non-breeding season but in a later paragraph the range in eastern Africa is given as "as far south as Tanganyika". Later they add that the bird is a rare visitor to the larger lakes of eastern African as well as to the coast. Williams (1969) describes it as a very uncommon non-breeding visitor to the East African coast.

Loveridge (1922) records this species from Dar es Salaam on 13 January 1919 but with no comment; we know of no other author who cites a precise date for this species, all make woolly statements not supported by published facts. Since Loveridge (*op. cit.*) made no comment at all about his Dar bird and since no one has ever published a definitive record of the Kentish Plover for East Africa (or even quoted Loveridge's record) we prefer to exclude the species from the avifauna of Kenya and Tanzania.]

#### *CHARADRIUS DUBIUS CURONICUS* (Gmelin) Little Ringed Plover

White records this bird south to the equator and central Tanzania and our records support this view.

The Little Ringed Plover is a scarce, somewhat unobtrusive wader in Kenya and Tanzania mainly to inland areas; it calls less often than the Ringed Plover *C. hiaticula* Linn. in our experience and thus some may escape notice. Jackson (1938) gave no Kenya records although van Someren (1922) had recorded it from Kisumu and south-west Lake Rudolf. Later, van Someren (1933) claimed that the bird was common on Lake Rudolf and that it also congregated in numbers on the sea coast from Lamu to Kismayu (Kismayu is now in Somalia). Moreau (1937) lends support to this view describing it as "widespread . . . inland as well as on the coast". Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) indicate that it is mainly a freshwater bird but that it is "common on the Great Lakes and Lake Rudolf". Finally Williams (1969) gives it as an uncommon winter visitor to inland waters and with this view we would concur. We have never found the Little Ringed Plover to be common although it must be admitted that none of us knows Lake Rudolf well.

There are only two specimens in the National Museum although nineteen have been ringed in Kenya (at Naivasha and Nakuru). Available Kenya records fall between 3 October and 31 March. There are two dated records for Tanzania, five on Masanji Island, Lake Victoria, 9 February 1940 (Meiklejohn 1940) and of between three and five watched on salt pans near Dar es Salaam from 15 December 1970 to 25 January 1971 (W. G. Harvey *in litt.*).

#### *PLUVIALIS DOMINICUS FULVUS* (Gmelin) Eastern Golden Plover

White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) both mention its occurrence in Tanzania as a vagrant, and there is a male in the British Museum collected by Swynnerton on 20 October 1922 at Ndundu, Rufiji, Tanzania—no doubt the basis for these statements. No specimens exist for Kenya but there are sight records of one at the end of 1961 "immediately south of Mombasa" (Lee 1962) and one from late December 1969 to early January 1970 at Malindi (C.F.M.).

This species is known to be a great wanderer and has occurred in Somalia (Archer & Godman 1937) and South Africa (McLachlan & Liversidge 1957) as well as in many other places throughout the world far from its normal wintering area in the Pacific. It is quite likely therefore to occur from time to time on our coasts.

**[VANELLUS LEUCURUS (Lichtenstein) White-tailed Plover**

Vaurie and White record this southern Palearctic species south to the northern Sudan; it is unrecorded from Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971).

We include the White-tailed Plover here in square brackets since Lee (1962) recorded having seen a possible example on the shore south of Mombasa on 27 December 1961. In his note he mentions having heard of another possible Kenya record at Lake Rudolf but we have no knowledge of this ourselves.]

**GLAREOLA NORDMANNI Fischer Black-winged Pratincole**

Vaurie makes the misleading statement that the Black-winged Pratincole winters from Somalia to Cape Province whereas White states that records are lacking from East Africa between Kenya, Katanga and the Zambezi. The majority of these birds migrate from eastern Europe and Asia to their wintering area in southern Africa via Zaire (Chapin 1939). South of Zaire in Zambia it is only known from the extreme west where it may be regular in large numbers in autumn (Benson *et al.* 1970) so that the bulk of the population crosses central Africa far to the west in Angola. This western route by-passes our area completely (cf. *Falco vespertinus* above) and Jackson (1938) had no records for Kenya or Uganda. Seth-Smith's specimens and sight records from Gondokoro, northern Uganda (in van Someren 1922) are from a place which is now in the Sudan. The only record from our area is of a bird picked up dead on the road near Lessos, western Kenya on 12 October 1969 (Mann 1971a).

**HAEMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS OSTRALEGUS Linn. Oystercatcher**

Both Vaurie and White include the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania within the winter range of this species.

The Oystercatcher may well be less common now than formerly and we certainly cannot agree that it is "common on the coast of Kenya" (van Someren 1932) since we know of hardly any modern records. Meinertzhagen (1922), although saying it was not common anywhere, had seen it at Mombasa between November and May and at Tanga (November) and Mafia Island (March) in Tanzania; also Loveridge (1922) often saw it at Dar es Salaam during 1918. Smart (1949) saw two at Kiunga on 12 August 1949, Fogden (1963) saw up to two near Kiunga between 4 August and 17 September 1961, and D. A. Turner (*in litt.*) saw one at Bamburi on 7 September 1962. The next record for the Kenya coast is of one seen flying south on 13 April 1971 c. 8km off Watamu (L. H. Brown *in litt.*). R. Lowis saw one on 19 July 1966 at Lake Rudolf and R. Gregory saw another at Eliye springs, Lake Rudolf in February 1970 (both records *per* D. A. Turner *in litt.*).

Zanzibar and Pemba are (or at least were) favourite localities for the Oystercatcher in East Africa as both Vaughan (1930) and Pakenham (1936, 1939) record parties of up to twenty birds, including several in July. The only other record for Tanzania (apart from those of Meinertzhagen and Loveridge mentioned above) is of one seen on 4 May 1969 at Dar es Salaam (J. F. Reynolds *in litt.*).

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from the above data except that most sightings are on very early dates (July to September) and that the Zanzibar and Pemba flocks presumably arrived via Kenya. It is reasonable to assume that they follow (or followed) the Kenya coast some distance off-shore so that they are generally overlooked. The islands about Kiunga near the Somali border may well be a favourite feeding area but none was seen by P.L.B. and L. H. Brown on short visits in late August 1970 and late August—early September 1971 (the latter visit with G. S. Keith.).

**LARUS ARGENTATUS Pontoppidan Herring Gull**

Neither White nor Vaurie record the Herring Gull as far south as Kenya. The only records from our area are given by Elliott (1964). In his note Elliott gives the impression that he saw Herring Gulls at Mombasa, Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, however he has told us (*in litt.*) that this impression was not intended: he only saw *L. argentatus* in Dar es Salaam harbour mouth between December and February 1958/59 and/or 1959/60; unfortunately Sir Hugh's field notes covering this period were all destroyed by fire.

There are no records of the Herring Gull from Kenya and only one record from Uganda, two seen between 6 August and 29 November 1950 by Eggeling (Anon. 1950). As we have pointed out elsewhere in this paper, there is very little bird watching done on the East African coast and it is quite likely that the Herring Gull and other rarely recorded birds are more frequent than the sparse records would lead one to believe.

**LARUS BRUNNICEPHALUS Jerdon Brown-headed Gull**

This central Asian species, which winters south to Ceylon, is not recorded from East Africa by Vaurie, White or any other author of a standard work.

The sole record from our area is of two seen and photographed on 21 February 1969 in Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania (van der Lee 1971). The six colour transparencies taken of the birds were examined by K. H. Voous who "concluded that these birds most definitely are specimens of *Larus brunnicephalus* Jerdon, Brown-headed Gull, a new species for this part of East-Africa."

*LARUS GENEI* Brème Slender-billed Gull

The sole record for our area is the sighting by Watson (1971) of a single bird on 28 March 1971 at Lake Manyara, northern Tanzania.

Vaurie and White record the species as south to Eritrea and Urban & Brown (1971) give one inland record for Ethiopia at Lake Basaaka, 8° 53' N.

*LARUS RIDIBUNDUS* Linn. Black-headed Gull

Since Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) do not include the Black-headed Gull from our area, the following sight records from Kenya extend the species' range considerably south of the Ethiopian lakes mentioned by White:

11-12 August 1967, 11 September 1967, 17 September 1967, adult in full plumage seen at Lake Nakuru (L. H. Brown, D. J. Pearson and D. A. Turner, all *in litt.*)

9-18 December 1950, 1 seen Malindi, (Smart 1952).

late December 1969—early January 1970, three seen together Malindi (C. F. M.)

March 1949, 1 seen Malindi (Smart 1952).

14 March 1970, 1 seen and photographed Lake Nakuru (Deane 1971b).

April 1956, adult in full plumage seen Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf (J. G. Williams *in litt.*)

The Black-headed Gull is thus an irregular winter visitor to the Rift Valley lakes and the coast and should be looked for in the future. It has yet to be recorded in Tanzania.

[*STERNA ALBIFRONS ALIFRONS* Pallas Little Tern

Vaurie gives the winter range as from "the Mediterranean south to Cape Province and from the Persian Gulf to western India", this could be taken to exclude the eastern seaboard of Africa. McLachlan & Liversidge (1957) only record it to Port Elizabeth (33° 58'S.) on the east coast. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) state that it occurs throughout eastern Africa in the non-breeding season and also, in their southern Handbook (1962), that it occurs throughout southern Africa as well. Williams (1967) records the species from "coastal and inland waters" but does not say whether the nominate race is included in this statement.

We know of no records from our area and therefore concur with the implication of Vaurie's statement that it is absent from the eastern seaboard of Africa; this is also implied by White.]

*STERNA HIRUNDO HIRUNDO* Linn. Common Tern

Vaurie and White give the range of this species as the coasts of Africa south to the Cape of Good Hope White adds that it is a vagrant inland although Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) make no mention of this.

The Common Tern is a bird which is probably overlooked on the East African coast, and indeed could be confused with local species, including the Roseate Tern *S. dougallii* Montague. Pakenham (1936) records collecting two males from a flock of 200 terns on 23 July near Nungwi, Zanzibar and there is one labelled 'female' collected by him from the same locality on the same day in the British Museum. Jackson (1938) obtained the species and recorded it as "not uncommon" at Kanamai in September 1902. There are two modern sightings on the Kenya coast and one ringing recovery to Tanzania: two on 13 August and three on 22 August 1961 at Kiunga (Fogden 1963); three or four on 4 December 1960 at Kikambala (D. A. Turner, MS in EANHS file); a Common Tern ringed as a pullus in eastern Austria was found dead at Maziwi, Tanga on 21 April 1970 (Backhurst 1971b).

The sole inland record we can trace is of an immature trapped and ringed at Lake Nakuru on 26 September 1970 by G.C.B., P.L.B. and M.St.J. Sugg. Detailed photographs taken of this bird were shown to Miss Mary LeCroy of the American Museum of Natural History who kindly confirmed the identification. It is of interest that earlier on the same day a flock of c. 30 medium-sized terns with strongly forked tails was seen in the catching area. Unfortunately these could not be studied but it seems likely that they were Common Terns. The only other species which occur commonly at Lake Nakuru are the Gull-billed *S. nilotica* Gmelin and the White-winged Black Tern *S. leucoptera* Temminck.

The Common Tern may well be a regular visitor to the coasts of East Africa but the scarcity of observers there and the difficulty of field identification probably accounts for the small number of records. It can be no more than a rare vagrant inland.

*STERNA NIGRA NIGRA* Linn. Black Tern

The only documented record of a specimen of this species from our area is of a female obtained by Meinertzhagen on 30 April 1916 at Kisumu (Jackson 1938). Jackson (*op. cit.*), White, Vaurie and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) all mention its occurrence in Tanzania, but while Jackson (*op. cit.*) cautiously writes "is stated to occur in Tanganyika" the other authors record it definitely from this country. We have no records at all of the Black Tern for Kenya and Tanzania although

vast flocks of the similar *S. leucoptera* Temminck occur, especially on inland waters. It should be remembered that few observers would attempt to 'pick out' a Black Tern when confronted with a wheeling flock of several hundred White-winged Black Terns. Over 200 'black' Terns have been ringed in Kenya and all have been *leucoptera*.

The admission of the Black Tern therefore rests solely on Meinertzhagen's Kisumu specimen yet it seems quite feasible that the species may be recorded in future since its breeding range overlaps that of *leucoptera*.

#### *PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS* (Linn.) Grey Phalarope

Neither Vaurie nor White record the Grey Phalarope from our area and its inclusion here rests on the following three published sight records, all from Kenya: two at Lake Nakuru on 15 February 1959 (Lee 1959); one at Lake Elmenteita on 17 February 1953 (Ridley 1953); and one at Lake Nakuru on 28 March 1959 (Lee 1959).

It is quite possible that examples of this oceanic species will be recorded in the future since it is often blown off course by gales.

#### *PHALAROPUS LOBATUS* (Linn.) Red-necked Phalarope

Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) have no records of the Red-necked Phalarope from our area.

The first East African record appears to be the bird seen and photographed in October 1959 at Lake Nakuru by E. S. Skinner. The photographs were submitted to J. G. Williams who wrote (*in litt.* to E. S. Skinner) "There can be no doubt that the bird photographed is indeed a Red-necked Phalarope and your photographs constitute the first confirmed record". Save for one at Diani Beach on 25 December 1966 (D. J. Pearson pers. comm.) all subsequent Kenya records are also from Lake Nakuru. One was seen on 10 January 1967 by D. J. Pearson (pers. comm.). Several were seen in early October 1970 of which two were eventually ringed and photographed on 11 October (G.C.B., C.F.M., A.D. Forbes-Watson); initially there were two on 3 October, increasing to three the next day, five on 10 October and six on 11 October. More recently, C. Smeenk (*in litt.*) saw three on 20 March 1971 and five the next day. In addition, another phalarope seen and photographed by G.C.B. at Lake Nakuru on 5 April 1970 is considered by most people who have seen the photographs to have been *lobatus*. Having seen and handled the October birds the observer is confident of the identification but I. J. Ferguson-Lees and two other unidentified British ornithologists considered that it was actually *fulicarius* (Ferguson-Lees *in litt.*).

The sole Tanzanian record is of one seen and photographed at Kazima Dam near Iringa on 10 October 1962 (Reynolds 1965).

As with the Grey Phalarope, the present species can be expected in East Africa from time to time.

#### *CALIDRIS ALPINA* ssp. (Linn.) Dunlin

A great deal of confusion surrounds the records of this species in East Africa. Reichenow (1894) writing on Tanzania, stated that it was a winter visitor to the coast but gave no precise details, nor does he record it from our area in his later work (Reichenow 1900-03). Vaurie implies that it is regular as far south as the equator and occasional to Zanzibar; White calls it casual to Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar, while Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) state that it occurs inland and on the coast "usually in small flocks". The basis for these statements may well be the writings of Sperling, van Someren and Meinertzhagen: Sperling (1868) merely said that the Dunlin occurs at Zanzibar, van Someren (1918) wrote that "a few come here [Kenya] between November and January and remain till March". Later, (1922), he wrote "has been recorded from the coast and inland waters, but I have seen no specimens". Meinertzhagen (1950) recorded "one or two small parties of Dunlin" at Lake Magadi on 19-22 March 1949. However, J. G. Williams, who was with Meinertzhagen at Magadi tells us (*in litt.*) that he "disagreed with him [Meinertzhagen] at the time. But the error in identification is understandable when one considers that R. M. had just arrived from U. K. and was seeing birds in brighter light than in England, making everything appear large. The birds we saw were Little Stints *C. minuta* (Leisler)". Earlier, Sclater (1924) gave the range as "to Zanzibar" but Jackson (1938) said "there are no examples in the British Museum from so far south (as Zanzibar), nor are there any definite records in the literature except that of Captain Sperling". Guggisberg (1950) gave a record of one seen on 8 January 1950 at Nairobi Dam but presented no comment whatsoever, which is strange in view of the birds' rarity. Vaughan (1932) had no personal records from Zanzibar. In mainland Tanzania, J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) saw a "possible" Dunlin on 10 January 1963 at Kisaki Dam, near Kondoa Irangi. However, as he does not feel certain of the identification, and as this is the only dated Tanzanian record, we cannot admit the Dunlin to the avifauna of Tanzania; Beesley fully agrees with this.

The only satisfactory Kenya record is of several seen, some in breeding plumage, on 28 March 1970 at Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf (C.F.M.). There are no specimens from East Africa either in the National Museum or the British Museum and Archer & Godman (1937) had only one Somalia specimen, from Berbera at more than 10°N, which is, incidentally, in the British Museum. Being such a rarity on the African coast even as far north as northern Somalia, it can be no more than a vagrant to the coast of East Africa; but in view of the above record from Lake Rudolf, and

the fact that it occurs throughout Ethiopia according to Urban & Brown (1971), it may be expected to be observed in the future in northern Kenya.

With the exception of a sight record near Cape Town mentioned by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1963) and another which was photographed at Swakopmund in January 1965 (S.A.O.S. List Committee 1969), the Dunlin is not recorded in Africa south of Lake Rudolf in the east and The Gambia in the west (White), but R. Stjernstedt has told us (*in litt.*) of one he saw at Mpulungu, Zambia (8° 46' S.) on 30 September 1970. A sighting of between 15 and 29 Dunlin at a dam near Johannesburg from 4 January to 29 March 1970 is therefore quite remarkable and worthy of discussion. The authors (Schmitt & Hunter 1971) make no comment except that Schmitt was "not at first aware that the Dunlin did not normally come as far south as the Transvaal". The editor makes no comment either, perhaps because the Dunlin is admitted to the avifauna of South Africa, although Dowsett & Irwin (1970) question the validity of this. The fact that Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) record it south to Mozambique also gives the impression that it might well occur a little further south in eastern South Africa. We have ignored this reference to Mozambique especially as the authors themselves make no mention of it in their later work (1963). It is not our place to either accept or reject this record as it is from well south of our area; but it is useful to point out how exceptional the record is, being inland, so far south, and involving a large number of individuals.

#### *CALIDRIS CANUTUS CANUTUS* (Linn.) Knot

The Knot is another species whose status in East Africa remains vague save for two recent sight records (see below).

Van Someren (1918) writing on Kenya mentions that "one specimen has been shot by A. Blayney Percival in December"; later in 1922, he wrote "recorded from Zanzibar. I have not collected specimens". Jackson (1938) refers to van Someren's mention of this species but adds "it seems very doubtful if it occurs on the eastern side of Africa at all". However, Vaurie gives the range as south to about Zanzibar and White is vague: "Possibly only a vagrant to East Africa (Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar)". Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) appreciate that the Knot is rare in Africa but also mention that it has visited Uganda and Zanzibar but they do not give details. We have been unable to trace any specimens of this species. One seen on 16-17 September 1961 at Kiunga with Curlew Sandpipers *C. ferruginea* (Pontoppidan) by Fogden (1963) and three seen on 17 November 1970 on salt pans at Dar es Salaam by Harvey (1971) are the only dated occurrences which we can find.

The Knot can be no more than a very rare vagrant to the East African coast since it is not recorded from Arabia or northern Somalia (Meinertzhagen 1954, Archer & Godman 1937). A British ringing recovery communicated by R. E. Scott (*in litt.*) provides evidence that Knot reach the east coast of Africa at least occasionally, possibly via the Cape. The bird concerned was ringed in Kent, England on 30 August 1969 and was recovered at Lourenco Marques, Mozambique on 10 October 1970 (not in the same wintering 'season'). Although regular on the west coast of South Africa (McLachlan & Liversidge 1957) it is rare east of the Cape of Good Hope, and, as far as we are aware, the Lourenco Marques bird is the first record for Mozambique. Clancey (1965) provides the first record for Natal, this being the most northerly record previously available for the Indian Ocean coast of southern Africa. Thus the two sight records in this paper provide the only evidence of its occurrence in eastern Africa between the Mediterranean and southern Mozambique. A specimen from either Kenya or Tanzania would be most desirable.

#### *CALIDRIS MELANOTOS* (Vieillot) Pectoral Sandpiper

The Pectoral Sandpiper, although mainly a Nearctic species, does breed in the eastern Palaearctic (Vaurie) and is therefore included in this review. The sole record for East Africa is the adult male obtained at Lake Naivasha on 11 May 1952 (Williams 1952). Williams noted that the bird was extremely fat and considered this especially remarkable; it seems less remarkable to us: the first half of May is a time of considerable wader passage at Naivasha and many species reach their highest fat levels during this period (G.C.B. personal observation).

The Pectoral Sandpiper is the most numerous of the rare waders to occur in Britain and most of those seen are in autumn (Sharrock 1971). In the ten years 1958-1967 Sharrock found only one record for the four months December-March whereas he gave 45 records for September. This pattern of occurrence, which resembles that of a normal (British) autumn passage migrant (e.g. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Linn.), indicates that the majority of the birds must pass on south, some of them no doubt to Africa. Sharrock (*op. cit.*) speculates that some of the Pectoral Sandpipers seen in Britain may have come across Asia and Europe from the eastern Palaearctic since this species is more common on the east coast of Britain than are other Nearctic waders. The Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (Linn.) and Curlew Sandpiper both visit Britain and East Africa from areas to the east of the most westerly Pectoral Sandpiper breeding area so that it is conceivable that some individuals of this species might accompany parties of Ruff and/or Curlew Sandpipers. Recently Ginn & Brooke (1971) have reviewed the occurrence of the species in Africa and add a spring specimen from Botswana on 25 April 1971.

*CALIDRIS SUBMINUTA* (Middendorff) Long-toed Stint

There are two records of this species, both from Kenya. The first was one obtained at Naivasha on 27 April 1969 (Backhurst & Britton 1969) and the second was ringed at Lake Nakuru on 9 May 1970 (G.C.B.). Both were in breeding plumage and heavy, weighing 27.7 and 32.5g respectively, which compares favourably with the weights of the somewhat larger Little Stints *C. minuta* (Leisler) caught at the same time.

The Long-toed Stint winters much nearer to East Africa (in Ceylon) than does the Pectoral Sandpiper. The two individuals recorded from Kenya were clearly migrating north, in good condition, with allied species which breed in similar areas of the Palaearctic (Vaurie). The Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* (Pallas) can be expected in the future as there are two specimens from Natal, South Africa (Clancey 1964).

No Long-toed Stints were caught in the spring of 1971 although large numbers of Little Stints were handled in this period. However, from the two records already mentioned, plus one from Ethiopia (Broberg 1967) and one from South Africa (Spronk 1969, but see Dowsett & Irwin 1970), it seems likely that this species will be recorded from time to time in the future. Although very similar to the Nearctic *C. minutilla* (Vieillot) which has been recorded in South Africa (Tree 1968, but see Clancey 1969), it is distinctive in breeding plumage. Nevertheless, we would be reluctant to identify it in the field, although handled but not collected birds are quite acceptable provided that adequate notes and/or photographs are taken.

*CALIDRIS TEMMINCKII* (Leisler) Temminck's Stint

Vaurie and White record this species south to Kivu, Zaire (i.e. c. 2°S.) but with no indication as to its abundance. Jackson (1938) gives no Kenya records but Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) give a good account of its occurrence "... especially to inland waters. Not so common in Africa as the Little Stint and is usually in pairs or small parties, not in flocks." We would agree with this view except that, in our experience, it is usually seen singly.

The first Kenya record was of one obtained in September 1936 at Lake Naivasha (Stoneham 1944). Thereafter we have many sight records (including birds ringed) from several localities in Kenya from Ferguson's Gulf in the north (J. Gerhart *in litt.*) to Amboseli in the south (D. A. Turner *in litt.*). The earliest record we have is of two seen on 31 August 1958 at Ol Joro Orok (Bednall 1959) and the latest is of three seen on 6 May 1971 at Naivasha (G.C.B.). The largest number recorded together is three: on 7 February and 6 May at Naivasha (G.C.B.).

There are only two records from Tanzania: one on 15 November 1938 at Bukoba (H.F.I. Elliott *in litt.*), and one there on 26 January 1940 (Meikljohn 1940). Moreau (1937) did not mention this species and J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) has never seen it in Tanzania.

Temminck's Stint is a regular but sparse visitor to Kenya. In our experience it favours small inland marshy areas where it usually feeds quietly and escapes notice until one is almost on top of it, when it flies away, often giving its characteristic trilling call.

*GALLINAGO MEDIA* (Latham) Great Snipe

Some mystery surrounds the present status of this bird in Kenya and Tanzania. There is no doubt that it migrates to the south of our area (e.g. Benson *et al.* 1971, McLachlan & Liversidge 1957) but we feel that it cannot be as common now as earlier writers (e.g. van Someren 1922, Granvik 1923, Jackson 1938) indicated. In view of this impression we have gained it is interesting that McLachlan & Liversidge (*op. cit.*) writing on South Africa state that the "Present status indicates that the bird is not as common as it used to be".

There are a number of skins in the British Museum from both countries including Zanzibar, and Pakenham (1945) records it from Pemba. The earlier writers found that the Great Snipe was a very late migrant in spring: van Someren (*op. cit.*) stated that they leave the Kisumu area on 28 May but in 1917 he recorded them as late as 15 June. In three years residence near Kisumu, P.L.B. has only one record, on 21 November 1969, but C.F.M. finds that it passes through Kapsabet between mid October and mid November and then again during the second and third weeks of May; the largest number recorded seen together is ten.

In eight years residence near Nairobi, G.C.B. has never recorded it at all, yet he has ringed many *G. gallinago* (Linn.) and *G. nigripennis* Bonaparte, mainly at Naivasha. These observations indicate that it may well be more numerous as a passage migrant in the west of our area, except that Jackson (*op. cit.*) said that it is "undoubtedly more common in Kenya than in Uganda". It was certainly common in the past in localities well-worked by G.C.B. (Jackson specifically mentions both Nairobi and the Rift Valley) who makes a special effort to catch migrating waders in May. Snipe-shooters at places such as Ol Bolossat should look out for this species in May so that we may know more clearly its present status in our area.

(We should like to note here that the Great Snipe has been included as an afterthought; the account above does not include records from local ornithologists since we did not ask for records of this species.)

*GALLINAGO MINIMA* (Brünnich) Jack Snipe

Vaurie and White both record this species as extending south to Tanzania with one female from Zambia (Mwinilunga in the north-west at 11° 44' S., White 1948) which is in the British Museum. There are no skins in the British Museum from Kenya or Tanzania and only one (25 December 1931, Tulazu (=Tulasha) River, Kinangop) from Kenya in the National Museum. Meinertzhagen (1922) shot two in Nairobi on 15 November 1915 and saw one earlier in the month at Naivasha. Van Someren (1922) and Jackson (1938) record it from the Sio River (border of Kenya and Uganda), Nyeri, Nairobi, Naivasha and Nakuru. D. A. Turner (*in litt.*) saw one on 26 January 1970 at Naivasha and J. G. Williams (*in litt.*) writes that it is "most frequent at Semini's Dam, South Kinangop". We have no personal records, although C.F.M. saw one near Tororo, Uganda on 9 October 1967, i.e. near the Kenya border.

We can find only two records for Tanzania: one was shot on 19 February on the Mbalagetti River (Moreau 1935) and another was collected by N. Williams on 29 December 1957 at Tabora (MS in EANHS file). Cave & Macdonald (1955) record it as fairly common in the Sudan, and Urban & Brown (1971) call it uncommon to rare in Ethiopia. More records of this species can be expected, especially in northern marshy areas of Kenya.

*GALLINAGO STENURA* (Bonaparte) Pintail Snipe

There is only one record for Kenya, a bird photographed and ringed on 1 January 1969 at Naivasha (Backhurst 1969), and only one other for the African mainland (Juba River, Somalia, van Someren 1929). There is a male from Socotra Island in the British Museum collected by Ogilvie-Grant and Forbes on 18 January 1899. It is therefore of interest that G. R. Cunningham-van Someren (*in litt.*) writes as follows: "Alas my game-book was damaged by fire but there have been a few other records of the snipe [*G. stenura*] in Kenya however almost certainly never published. I have a feeling that there may be a specimen of the Pintail [Snipe] in the [National] Museum shot by Dr. McInnes around just pre-1939—may be you have checked this [there is no such specimen in the National Museum now—*authors*]. The Pintail [Snipe] was also shot in Ethiopia, the swamps of Adda, 1940 by military parties". In view of these remarks the species should be expected in the future. However, it should be remembered that it is not recorded for the Sudan, Ethiopia, ex-British Somaliland or Arabia (Cave & Macdonald 1955, Urban & Brown 1971, Archer & Godman 1937, Meinertzhagen 1954).

*LIMICOLA FALCINELLUS FALCINELLUS* (Pontoppidan) Broad-billed Sandpiper

The Broad-billed Sandpiper is not recorded from our area or Uganda by Vaurie or White. There is a 1964 specimen from western Uganda in the National Museum and also a more recent one from the same area (M. P. L. Fogden *in litt.*). There are no Kenya records but one was seen at Kazima Dam near Tabora, Tanzania by Reynolds (1965) on 5 November 1961. It is likely that this species will be recorded from Kenya in the future. As Nisbet (1961) points out, the main wintering area of the Broad-billed Sandpiper is unknown but may lie somewhere in eastern Africa. It may be noted in passing that a *L. falcinellus* is recorded from Swakopmund, South West Africa (S.A.O.S. List Committee 1969).

*LIMNODROMAS SEMIPALMATUS* (Blyth) Asiatic Dowitcher

White does not include this species and Vaurie gives no records for the Ethiopian Region. The sole record of which we are aware is the bird seen at Lake Nakuru, Kenya by Smart & Forbes-Watson (1971) on 20-21 November 1966.

*LIMOSA LAPPONICA LAPPONICA* (Linn.) Bar-tailed Godwit

Vaurie and White suggest that this species occurs in our area, and both White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) mention the bird at the coast. Jackson (1938) gave no records at all but van Someren (1932) had recorded it from Kismayu, Somalia, 200 km from the Kenya border.

The first Kenya record is claimed by V. D. van Someren (1958) in November (no year) at Kikambala. We are aware of only the following subsequent records:

23 July 1956, 1 seen Namuraputh, north end of Lake Rudolf, J. R. M. Tennent  
(MS in EANHS file)

27 August 1970, 1 seen Kiunga, P. L. B. and L. H. Brown

15 September 1961, 1 seen Kiunga, Fogden (1963)

16-18 September 1961, 3 seen Kiunga, Fogden (1963)

5-6 October 1968, 1 seen Mida, G.C.B.

November 1969, 1 photographed Lake Nakuru, A. J. Deane (*in litt.*)

10-11 December 1970, 2 seen Mida, Goddard (1971)

17 December 1949, ♀ Mida, National Museum

There are two records from Tanzania, both at Dar es Salaam: five on 18 October 1945 (Morrison 1946) and an immature male obtained in September 1955, now in the National Museum.

The Bar-tailed Godwit is probably regular in small numbers on the coast, indeed, according to Williams (1967) a few usually winter in Mida Creek. It is significant that we can trace only two inland records (compare the next species) and that there is no record after December.

**LIMOSA LIMOSA LIMOSA** (Linn.) Black-tailed Godwit

Vaurie records this species as south to northern Tanzania and White mentions that it occurs more often on fresh waters than on the coast and that it is a vagrant south to Cape Province. Jackson (1938) had no records.

From the data at our disposal the Black-tailed Godwit appears to be a regular visitor in very small numbers, almost always to inland localities; the only coastal records are of one at Kiunga on 16-17 September 1961 (Fogden 1963) and one to four near Dar es Salaam between October and December 1970 (W. G. Harvey *in litt.*). Inland in Kenya we have records from Aruba and Kandeni (Tsavo East National Park), Lakes Elmenteita, Naivasha and Nakuru, Athi River, Mwea and Suguta Naibor. At the last mentioned locality, 15-20 were seen on 14 September 1958 (Bednall 1959a) which constitutes both the earliest date and the largest party. The latest passage bird was seen on 3 April 1959 at Lake Elmenteita (J. G. Williams in Bednall 1959b) but P.L.B. saw a summing bird in non-breeding dress at Lake Nakuru on 27 June 1969.

From Tanzania there are three records in addition to the Dar es Salaam birds mentioned above: 7 October 1962, Kazima Dam, near Tabora (Reynolds 1965); 6 January 1965, Wembere, near Tabora (Reynolds *op. cit.*); 2 March 1946, Lake Manyara (Fuggles-Couchman & Elliott 1946).

**[SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA** Linn. Woodcock

This species is included as it is mentioned by Lynn-Allen (1951). Major Allan North assured Lynn-Allen "most positively" that he encountered one on Marsabit Mountain during the Second World War, probably in October. To Lynn-Allen "it is barely conceivable that an experienced shot could be mistaken over such a well-known species". He then adds that "the Marsabit forests, thick, cool and well-watered, are just such places where one would expect to find woodcock—possibly a strayed juvenile on its southerly migration". We agree with Lynn-Allen that the Woodcock is unmistakable, especially to an experienced shot, so that despite the lack of records from Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971) we think it *possible* that the Woodcock might occur in northern Kenya eventually. According to Vaurie the Woodcock is sedentary and migratory but although he gives its winter range as south in Asia to Ceylon and Malaya, he does not record it from the Ethiopian Region at all.]

**TRINGA ERYTHROPUS** (Pallas) Spotted Redshank

The Spotted Redshank is not recorded from Kenya, Tanzania or Uganda by Vaurie, White, Jackson (1938) or Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957); it is not recorded from former British Somaliland (Archer & Godman 1937), while in the Sudan Cave & Macdonald (1955) do not record it further south than 9°N. Urban & Brown (1971) include it for Ethiopia as "uncommon to frequent" but give no precise localities.

It seems certain that the abundance of the Spotted Redshank on passage and in winter has changed considerably over the last thirty years. In the British Isles, Witherby *et al.* (1943) described it as an uncommon passage migrant in autumn, scarce in spring and exceptional in winter, whereas today it is by no means uncommon even in spring (personal observations). In Kenya, the bird (a male) was first obtained on 8 February 1953 at Semini's Dam, South Kinangop (Williams 1953) while a second male was taken on 15 March 1958 at Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf; both specimens are in the National Museum. We now have details of thirty sightings of this species in Kenya: the earliest date is 6 September 1959 at Lake Naivasha (Lee, MS in EANHS file). There are no other September records, none for October, and only one in late November (Deane 1971a). There are records for December to May with most falling in February and March. The latest is a bird in breeding plumage at Ahero, Western Kenya on 8 May 1971 (Simpson 1971). The maximum number recorded together is ten (Deane *op. cit.*) while there are also two records of *c.* 10. Most are from Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru and Tsavo East National Park. One has been ringed at Naivasha in January 1970 (G.C.B.).

The Spotted Redshank is less frequent in Tanzania where Moreau (1937) did not note it at all, but Meiklejohn (1940) had two sight records near Bukoba in December 1939 and January 1940. J. S. S. Beesley (*in litt.*) considers it a regular visitor between December and February to Arusha Chini; M. Probyn has three sight records from the Arusha area (MS in EANHS file); and W. Leuthold (*in litt.*) saw two on the late date of 22 May 1970 in Ngorongoro Crater. It is listed for Ngorongoro by Pickerling (1966) and also for Lake Manyara (Anon., no date, The Lake Manyara National Park, Checklist of Birds, Tanganyika National Parks).

We would describe the Spotted Redshank as a regular winter visitor, more common in February and March, to freshwaters in Kenya and northern Tanzania.

**TRINGA TOTANUS** (Linn.) Redshank

White records both nominate *totanus* and *eurhinus* (Oberholser) from our area while Vaurie believes that examples from East Africa are nominate birds or intermediates. As we have relied heavily on sight records we have treated this species binomially.

Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) have given a quite false impression of its status in our area describing it as "a very common palearctic winter visitor to the Red Sea coast and East Africa, occurring as far south as Beira and Durban". Jackson (1938) gave no definitive records although

he thought that he heard one near Lamu. Williams (1955) said that "unless the evidence of collected specimens proves to the contrary the status of *T. t. eurhinus* in eastern Africa should be amended to rare palearctic visitor". We have located only a few Kenya records:

- 22 July 1961, 1 seen Kiungamini, Fogden (1963)
- 10 August 1968, 1 seen Lake Nakuru, G.C.B.
- 15 August 1949, 3 seen Shekani, Smart (1949)
- 23 August 1961, 1 seen Kiunga, Fogden (1963)
- 15 September 1968, 1 seen Lake Naivasha, G.C.B.
- 18 September 1968, 1 seen Lake Nakuru, G.C.B.
- 5 October 1968, 1 seen Mida, G.C.B.
- 28-29 October, 1 seen Narok, F. N. Betts in MS
- 27 November 1955, ♂ Lake Magadi, National Museum
- 11 December 1970, 19 seen Mida, Goddard (1971)
- end 1961, seen "immediately south of Mombasa", Lee (1962)
- 30 January 1971, 1 seen Lake Kanyaboli, P.L.B. & C.F.M.
- 25 February 1971, a different bird seen Lake Kanyaboli, P.L.B.

We have the following records from Tanzania:

- 10 October 1959, 1 seen Kazima Dam near Tabora, Reynolds (1965)
- 7 November 1964, 1 seen Wembere near Tabora, Reynolds (1965)
- 13 December 1970, 2 seen Dar es Salaam (salt pans), W. G. Harvey (*in litt.*)
- 31 December 1939, Chabula Swamp, S. E. Lake Victoria, H. F. I. Elliott (*in litt.*)

The Redshank is clearly a rare but regular visitor to our area, both inland and on the coast, especially from August to December.

#### *STERCORARIUS LONGICAUDUS* Vieillot Long-tailed Skua

Neither Vaurie nor White record this species from the Ethiopian Region.

One seen and photographed in flight by A. D. Forbes-Watson on 25-26 August 1961 at Ferguson's Gulf, Lake Rudolf constitutes the first Kenya record. The photographs, which leave no doubt as to the bird's identity, are lodged in the National Museum. There is only one other African record, of a bird obtained on 28 August 1969 at Kolokopé, Togo (De Roo & van Damme 1970).

#### *STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS* (Linn.) Arctic Skua

The Arctic Skua is recorded by Vaurie and White from no nearer East Africa than Zululand. The only record we have is the sighting of a light phase bird on 9 April 1966 at Casuarina Point, Malindi (Backhurst 1971a). This species may occur more frequently than this single record would suggest. However, at present there is very little bird-watching done off our coasts.

#### *CUCULUS POLIOCEPHALUS POLIOCEPHALUS* Latham Lesser Cuckoo

Vaurie and White record the nominate eastern Palearctic subspecies for coastal eastern Africa from Kenya to Natal, west to Katanga, eastern Zambia and Rhodesia (White). The Malagasy form *rochii* Hartlaub, which also visits our area is indistinguishable in the field, and many specimens cannot be certainly assigned racially. According to Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) *rochii* occurs mostly from April to August, so that the dates of the two forms hardly overlap; Chapin (1939) states that the African records fall between June and September. Grant & Mackworth-Praed (1936-37) mention nestlings and young specimens from east-central Madagascar in March and April, and conclude "breeding Madagascar October to April, visits Africa May to September". Thus most dated birds may be assigned racially with reasonable certainty. Unfortunately, the period of possible overlap in April is a critical time when Palearctic *Cuculus canorus* Linn. pass through the east of our area in some numbers (authors in prep.).

Jackson (1938) recorded only *rochii* in Kenya and Uganda, both Kenya birds from the coast (Rabai and Lamu). The Rabai specimen was collected on 21 April by van Someren (1932) who does not in fact assign it to *rochii* with any certainty, although he suggests that it is probably *rochii* (the only form given for the Ethiopian Region by Sclater (1924)). The Lamu bird was first reported by Sclater (*op. cit.*), but he gives no date. He implies that the specimen is in the British Museum so that it is odd that Grant & Mackworth-Praed (*op. cit.*), who presumably used this material, restricted *rochii* to Madagascar until they were informed by Chapin of Zaire and Uganda specimens. The Lamu bird is best left as racially indeterminate, in which case we know of no Kenya record of *rochii*. Moreau (1966) and White record it for Kenya but this may simply refer to the Lamu bird. Since *rochii* reaches Uganda and eastern Zaire it presumably passes through parts of Tanzania regularly. Nevertheless the only Tanzania record of which we are aware is from the north-east, a male collected near Amani on 26 November (Sclater & Moreau 1932, 1933). In western Kenya, near Eldoret, C.F.M. saw a Lesser Cuckoo on 4 May 1971 which may well have been *rochii* (on date), and it is reasonable to assume that *rochii* reaches Kenya in the extreme west.

In north-eastern Tanzania, Moreau & Moreau (1937) saw large numbers of Palearctic *poliocephalus* associated with *C. canorus* in a "great migration" at the end of March 1934. They noted a similar movement between 31 March and 12 April the next year, so that there is probably

a regular passage through north-eastern Tanzania at this time. Specimens of both species were very fat. The few other Tanzania records are 30 November, 4 December, 13 January and 21 January (Moreau 1944, Meiklejohn 1940, Friedmann & Stager 1964).

The only definite nominate birds from Kenya are two males from the coast at Sokoke Forest: 28 March 1951 in the National Museum and 18 April 1970 in the British Museum (another bird collected for the British Museum at Sokoke on 11 April 1970 is preserved in spirit and is not raced). This locality is close to Watamu where Brown (1971b) saw a total of perhaps fifty Lesser Cuckoos crossing Mida Creek to the south in a purposeful manner in April 1971 (mainly 9-12 April with a few to 19 April at least). In view of the direction in which they were moving he concluded that they were most likely *rochii*. This is not a reasonable supposition as neither form should be moving in this direction in April. Madagascar is well south of Kenya and any *rochii* in Kenya at this time would be moving north-west just as any *poliocephalus* would be moving north-east. At the time of Brown's observations P.L.B. and C.F.M. saw several birds of this species in Sokoke Forest along with large numbers of Palaearctic *canorus*.

In view of the impossibility of racing birds except on measurements, and then only males we still have a great deal to learn about the status of both forms in our area. There is a regular passage of the Palaearctic form through north-eastern Tanzania in spring which extends to some extent to coastal Kenya. It coincides with the movement of large numbers of Palaearctic *Cuculus canorus*. The absence of any records in Africa north of Kenya suggests that this species makes a direct flight across the Indian Ocean from our area to Asia, probably India (the breeding area is north and north-east of the Himalayas in India and China). Its migration is thus somewhat similar to that of *Falco amurensis* (see above) except that the crossing is probably a little shorter. From the comparative lack of birds in autumn one might think that a more southerly route is used at that season, but it should be noted that funnelling in diurnal migrants is only apparent before a sea crossing, not after, and the more scattered individuals in autumn could well go unnoticed.

#### *ASIO FLAMMEUS FLAMMEUS* (Pontoppidan) Short-eared Owl

The European Short-eared Owl is not recorded from our area by Vaurie, White, Jackson (1938) or Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957).

The first record, from Kenya, is the female collected on 27 January 1927 at Makuiwa, Mt. Elgon (Granvik 1934). Brown (1971a) saw a Short-eared Owl flying in over the sea at Mida Creek on 5 January 1971 and earlier, Moreau (1938) had observed two Short-eared Owls come aboard a ship travelling south from the Red Sea; one of these birds left on 12 November 1936 at 2°S., i.e. off the Kenya coast north of Lamu. The species is not recorded from Tanzania.

#### *OTUS SCOPS SCOPS* (Linn.) European Scops Owl

Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) record the nominate race of the Scops Owl as a non-breeding migrant as far south as Kenya, but these authors do not define its abundance. Williams (1969) mentions that it is a winter visitor to East Africa.

Van Someren (1932) collected specimens at Kiambu and Nairobi in January, February and March, and Jackson (1938) mentions two Kenya specimens, both of which are in the British Museum. The following is a list of all dated records (including those cited by Jackson (*op. cit.*), marked with an asterisk):

- 22 November 1920, ♀ Kiambu, British Museum
- 6 December 1960, ♀ Nairobi, National Museum
- 7 February 1900, ♂ Msara, British Museum\*
- 5 March 1971, 1 ringed Athi River, D. J. Pearson (*in litt.*)
- 15 March 1944, ♂ Muthaiga, Nairobi, National Museum
- 16 March 1897, ♂ Eldama Ravine, British Museum\*

We have been able to trace no records from Tanzania. The status of the European Scops Owl in our area must remain a mystery; it may be an uncommon but regular visitor. The subspecies cannot be determined in the field and it is unlikely that the European bird would betray its presence in Africa by calling.

#### *OTUS SCOPS TURANICUS* (Loudon)

This pale race of the Scops Owl has been collected once in our area, at Bura on the Tana River on 5 March 1963 (Friedmann & Keith 1968). As with the nominate race, it is impossible to draw any conclusions on the true status of the species in East Africa since Scops Owls are so rarely seen or caught.

#### *JYNX TORQUILLA* Linn. Wryneck

The Wryneck is not recorded by Vaurie, White, Jackson (1938) or Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) from our area although all these authors record the species from Uganda.

There is no Tanzanian record and only one from Kenya, the bird first seen on 19 February 1969 and ringed on 22 February at Ng'iya, western Kenya (Britton and Harper 1969). Two races (*torquilla* and *tshusii* Kleinschmidt) are recorded from Uganda but no subspecific differentiation was attempted for the Kenya bird. It is likely that the Wryneck occurs from time to time in northern Kenya. Urban & Brown (1971) record it from Ethiopia and D. J. Pearson informs us (*in litt.*) that one has been ringed recently in eastern Uganda.

**EMBERIZA HORTULANA** Linn. Ortolan Bunting

White, Jackson (1938) and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) all record this species from northern Kenya and, as far as we can ascertain, the only record is the bird mentioned by Jackson (*op. cit.*) and now in the British Museum; a young unsexed bird collected by Kemp on 15 October 1910 at Baringo. The Ortolan should be found in northern Kenya since it is "locally frequent to common" in Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971).

**LANIUS NUBICUS** Lichtenstein Masked or Nubian Shrike

The only record from our area is the immature bird collected on 9 November 1969 at Lake Kanyaboli, western Kenya (Britton 1970b). As Britton (*op. cit.*) pointed out, Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960), White and Archer & Godman (1961) all mention its occurrence near Lake Rudolf without specifying the country. In the British Museum collection a box of *L. nubicus* has "Lake Rudolf" written on the label but a thorough search through all the skins of this species in the collection failed to unearth the Lake Rudolf bird (G.C.B., July 1971). With only three records from south of 10°N. (Britton *op. cit.*) the Masked Shrike can be no more than a vagrant to our area.

**LANIUS SENATOR NILOTICUS** (Bonaparte) Woodchat Shrike

Jackson (1938) had no records of this species from Kenya but Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) all record it from western Kenya. There are no specimens from our area in the National or British Museums. Meinertzhagen (1921) collected a pair on 10 January in the Maragoli Hills, western Kenya and the other records of the species are those of P.L.B. at Lake Kanyaboli, also in western Kenya, virtually on the equator:

adults seen on 8 November 1969, 9 November 1969 (ringed), 22 November 1969, 29 November 1969 (two seen), 31 January 1970, and 20 March 1970; an immature was seen on 11 November 1969. Britton (1970b) mentioned an exceptional influx of Palaearctic migrants at Lake Kanyaboli in November 1969 of which most of these Woodchat Shrikes, and the previous species, were a part.

**ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS** (Linn.) Tawny Pipit

Vaurie and White give the winter range as south to the equator; Vaurie recognises two races (White does not) but none of our records can be assigned subspecifically.

Van Someren (1922) had two males from Tsavo (Kenya) on 26 March 1918 and these were the only specimens known to Jackson (1938). There are no examples in the National or British Museums from our area. We have four sight records, all from Kenya:

22 July 1956, seen Lokitaung, north end of Lake Rudolf, Tennent (MS in EANHS file)  
11 October 1959, seen Sukari, near Nairobi, Lee (MS in EANHS file)  
20 October 1968, 1 seen Lake Nakuru, P. L. B. and J. F. Harper  
26 March 1967, 1 seen Lake Kisima, near Maralal, G.C.B.

The Tawny Pipit may well be more regular in northern Kenya than these few records suggest.

**FICEDULA ALBICOLLIS** (Temminck) Collared Flycatcher

Two races of the Collared Flycatcher are recognised, namely nominate *albicollis* and *semitorquata* Hofmeyer; Vaurie and White record both from Tanzania but neither author mentions Kenya. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) recognise no races of the Collared Flycatcher but treat *semitorquata* as a race of *F. hypoleuca* (Pallas), the Pied Flycatcher.

Urban & Brown (1971) do not record this species from Ethiopia, and Williams (1967, 1969) does not record it from Kenya or Tanzania; Mackworth-Praed & Grant (*op. cit.*) record *semitorquata* from Tanzania and say that *albicollis* should occur in that country. Lynes (1934) found *semitorquata* a fairly common winter visitor to Iringa, and two of his birds are in the British Museum: a male, 10 January 1932 from near Njombe and another male, 22 January 1932 from Iringa; in the National Museum there is an unsexed bird from Kibondo (Tanzania) collected on 24 February 1961. Reynolds (1969) records it from Tabora on 11 February 1965 and he has further records (*in litt.*) of *semitorquata* from Iringa on 9 February (male) and 17 February (female) 1968.

This species is a sparse migrant to Zambia (Benson *et al.* 1971), Malawi (Benson 1953), Rhodesia (Smithers *et al.* 1957) and Zaire (Chapin 1953); so that, as Chapin (*op. cit.*) suggests, the population which winters in southern Tanzania and further south passes to the west of Kenya through Uganda and Zaire. As it is far commoner in the east than in the west of Zambia with virtually no records west of 31°E. (Britton 1970a), and as the most easterly recorded locality in Tanzania is Iringa at about 36°E., its wintering area is thus very limited.

The Collared Flycatcher is still not recorded from Kenya where it may well occur eventually in the extreme west. In Tanzania it is probably regular and locally numerous in the west and south-west.

**FICEDULA HYPOLEUCA HYPOLEUCA** (Pallas) Pied Flycatcher

Vaurie and White say that the Pied Flycatcher winters in savannas north of the equator, while Jackson (1938) and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) do not include it.

Two specimens from Kakamega Forest in extreme western Kenya represent the only definite records from our area: one collected by A. D. Forbes-Watson for the Smithsonian Institution is to be reported on eventually by Ripley and Bond (see Appendix), the other (unsexed) was collected by J. F. Harper on 24 December 1970 and is in the National Museum. In addition, Granvik (1934) collected a female *hypoleuca* on the north-eastern slopes of Mt. Elgon on 5 November 1926; this locality may be just inside Uganda. In view of Moreau's (1966) opinion that *Ficedula* flycatchers will eventually be found wintering in the canopy of (west) African forest, this species may well be more common in Kakamega Forest than these two records suggest. It is worth noting that P.L.B. and C.F.M. glimpsed a bird which could only have been a *Ficedula* in this forest on 31 January 1971. There are recent records from west of our area in Uganda (M.P.L. Fogden; R. Frankum; E. R. Waterhouse; all *in litt.*).

#### *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS GRISELDIS* (Hartlaub) Basra Reed Warbler

Two large races of *A. arundinaceus*, *arundinaceus* Linn. and *zarudnyi* Hartert are not uncommon in parts of our area and are omitted from this review. The present race, *griseidis*, is much smaller than the others, which are called Great Reed Warbler in English.

Vaurie and White give the Ethiopian distribution of *griseidis* as Eritrea to Kenya, once to Malawi; Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) (who, incidentally, treat the bird as a distinct species) add eastern Tanzania to the range. Williamson (1968), who had access to only ten specimens, gives the winter range as "E. Africa". The sole Malawi bird mentioned above was collected on 22 March at Fort Johnson (Benson 1953).

All records known to us are listed below (Tanzanian birds marked with an asterisk); since the bird is so little known we have appended wing-lengths of ringed birds as well as all available weights:

- \*no date, the type, Nguru, Kilosa District, Hartlaub (1891)
- December, N. Uaso Nyiro, 2, van Someren (1932)
- December, Nyambe Crater, Mt. Kenya, N. van Someren quoted by Jackson (1938)
- 4 December 1969, Ngulia, Tsavo, 3 collected by A. D. Forbes-Watson, now in the National Museum; weights: unsexed, 15.8 and 16g, male 17.5g
- 23 December 1969, Naivasha, 1 ringed (G.C.B.), wing 83 mm, weight 16.5g
- 22 January 1967, Naivasha, 1 ringed, J. B. Smart, wing 75 mm (worn)
- 26 January 1966, Kilifi, ♀ collected by A. D. Forbes-Watson for Smithsonian Institution, weight 16.6g
- 27 January 1966, Kilifi, 2 collected as above, weights ♂ 19.3g, ♀ 19.6g
- \*12 February 1921, Kilosa, ♀ collected, wing 80.5 mm, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)
- \*24 March 1934, near Tanga, collected, Moreau & Moreau (1937)

The Basra Reed Warbler is probably a regular but uncommon winter visitor to the eastern part of our area. It has a very restricted breeding range according to Vaurie so that the total number of individuals must be small.

#### *ACROCEPHALUS PALUDICOLA* Vieillot Aquatic Warbler

The Aquatic Warbler's winter quarters are unknown (Moreau 1961). It is not included by White but Vaurie suggests that it probably migrates to tropical Africa. Williamson (1968) is more definite stating that it "winters in tropical Africa".

A. G. T. Carter (*in litt.*) reports seeing a bird which he is sure was this species at Lake Naivasha on 7 January 1968. In view of the difficulty of identifying this species in the field and since no specimens are known from anywhere in the Ethiopian Region, we think it desirable that one be obtained or handled and photographed before admitting it to the avifauna of the Region.]

#### *HIPPOLAIS ICTERINA* (Vieillot) Icterine Warbler

Vaurie and White record the Icterine Warbler as wintering from Kenya south to northern Cape Province and southern Mozambique. Jackson (1938) gave a single record from Kenya, a male (now in the British Museum) collected on 23 March 1900 at Suguro in western Kenya. We have been able to trace only eight further records from our area (those from Tanzania are marked with an asterisk):

- 3 October 1959, seen Ngong Hills, H. Lee (MS in EANHS file)
- \*October, collected Rukwa Valley, Vesey-Fitzgerald & Beesley (1960)
- \*6 December 1922, ♀ collected Mwanza, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)
- \*17 February 1962, ♀ collected Changana, Wembere, British Museum. The collector (B. W. H. Stronach) labelled the bird "Willow Warbler"; "*H. polyglotta*" had been added by another hand, but the wing is 77 mm and the bird is *icterina*.
- \*25 February 1922, ♀ collected Samumba, Singida, Friedmann & Loveridge (1937)
- 26 March 1967, 1 watched for at least half an hour, Maralal, J. B. Smart and G.C.B.
- 30 March 1940, Garabani Hill (= Emali), National Museum
- 13 April 1970, 5 seen Crescent Island, Lake Naivasha, C.F.M.

In addition, J. G. Williams tells us (*in litt.*) that it "occurs not infrequently at Lake Naivasha in spring".

The Icterine Warbler is more common in Central Africa than in our area. Pitman (1934) recorded it commonly at Kabwe (Broken Hill), Zambia from late November to January while Chapin (1953) states that it arrives near the equator (in Zaire) in September and leaves towards the end of April. Chapin (*op. cit.*) also observes that it has been noticed more often in southern Zaire than in the north.

We cannot explain the dearth of records from our area but think it unlikely that this comparatively conspicuous warbler could have been overlooked, especially by those operating with mist nets. It probably passes mainly west of our area on its way to and from winter quarters. With most records from February to April it may well use a more easterly route on return passage when it should be looked for especially.

**HIPPOLAIS LANGUIDA** (Hemprich & Ehrenberg) Upcher's Warbler

Recorded by Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) as wintering in Kenya and Tanzania but not further south. Van Someren (1922) had collected forty specimens from Kenya (Kisumu, Simba, Tsavo and Taveta), and Meinertzhagen (1922) records it from Lake Rudolf in March and the Taita Hills in December; he also mentions that Reichenow had specimens from Latema, near Taveta and from the Pare Mountains, north-eastern Tanzania. Jackson (1938) adds Doinyo Erok, Athi River, Wajir, northern Uaso Nyiro and Marsabit to the recorded localities. Williams (1967, 1969) omits Upcher's Warbler, probably because the species is difficult to identify in the field. Moreau (1937) mentions a record of one near Moshi (no details), and in the National Museum there is a female collected by Moreau on 13 April 1944 at Amani; we know of no other records from Tanzania.

We have never encountered this species in any numbers although our personal knowledge of northern Kenya where Upcher's Warbler may be more common is very slight. This species is unlikely to be identified by casual bird-watchers since it is a rather drab bird and is, in any case, omitted by Williams (*op. cit.*) and Peterson *et al.* (1966). We know of few modern records from Kenya and none from Tanzania although Namanga (see below) is on the border:

- 5 December 1969, 1 collected Ngulia, A. D. Forbes-Watson, in National Museum
- late December 1966, 3 seen Tsavo, D. J. Pearson (*in litt.*)
- 15 January 1966, 2 ringed Namanga, J. B. Smart
- 25 January 1954, ♂ Liboi, National Museum
- 13 February 1971, 1 ringed Lake Nakuru, D. J. Pearson (*in litt.*)
- mid March—early April 1971, 1 seen Nairobi, A. D. Forbes-Watson *et al.* (*in litt.*)
- 20 March 1971, 1 ringed Athi River, D. J. Pearson (*in litt.*)
- 24 March 1947, ♀ Horr Valley, National Museum
- 1 April 1971, 1 ringed Athi River, G.C.B.

It is probable that Upcher's Warbler will be recorded more frequently in the north and east of Kenya but it cannot be common at Athi River or Nakuru where large numbers of Palaearctic warblers have been ringed.

**HIPPOLAIS OLIVETORUM** (Strickland) Olive-tree Warbler

Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) record this very large *Hippolais* from our area and south to the Transvaal. The total world population of this species must be rather small since it breeds only in the Balkans and parts of Asia Minor (Vaurie); moreover it is a drab bird unlikely to be noticed by casual bird-watchers in our area.

Jackson (1938) was able to quote only van Someren's (1922, 1932) records from Simba, Sagala, Chanler's Falls and Turkwell. Moreau (1937) did not include this species in his list of migrants to Tanzania and Vesey-FitzGerald & Beesley (1960) gave no records from the Rukwa. However, Beesley informs us (*in litt.*) that he obtained one there in December 1953 as well as seeing it at other times between October and January; he saw one in an Arusha garden on 4 October 1966 and another in Arusha National Park in March 1967. It should be mentioned that Meiklejohn (1940) saw a "probable" Olive-tree Warbler near Mwanza on 18 January 1940. There are no specimens in the National or British Museums and we know of no other Tanzania records. Like *H. languida*, this species may well be more common and regular in northern Kenya than the following records indicate:

- 21 November 1969, 1 ringed Ukwala, western Kenya, P.L.B.
- late December 1970, widespread (seen) Lodungokwe, Barsalinga and Seya Valley, Samburu District, C.F.M.
- 9 January 1967, 1 seen Amboseli, D. J. Pearson (*in litt.*)
- 21 February 1971, 1 seen Ngulia, G.C.B.
- 5 March, 13 March—2 April 1961, Kitui: collected on first date; strong passage of this and/or *H. pallida* Hemprich and Ehrenberg on other dates, Tennent (1962 and MS in EANHS file)
- 25 April 1968, 1 found dead at Muguga (2300 m); another a few days later. These birds were found early in the morning by buildings which had been lit at night. W. G. Dyson (*in litt.*).

**[HIPPOLAIS POLYGLOTTA** Vieillot Melodious Warbler

White mentions one record from Bukoba, and Vaurie is clearly referring to this same bird when he writes "accidental . . . . Lake Victoria". The Bukoba Melodious Warbler belongs to Sassi (1916) in which his total entry for this species, which normally winters in West Africa, is "♀ Bukoba XI. 1909". Grote (1930) and Moreau (1937) doubt this record and Chapin (1953) clearly puts little faith in it. In view of the lack of any supporting evidence, such as wing-length, we suggest that this record be rejected until the specimen can be located and re-examined. Williamson (1968) gives West Africa as the wintering area of this species but, under the heading "Moult" mentions "one from Uganda, 26. X". In the British Museum there is a bird collected by Capt. Pitman on 26 October at Nyhaabande, Kigezi, S. W. Uganda. The collector's label, No. 1406, has "*Hippolais ?polyglotta*, a few hunting insects in flowering Black Wattle". This bird is *H. ictarina*: one wing is short by c. 10 mm, presumably shot; the other measures 70.5 mm with the first (i.e. outermost) primary 1.5mm longer than the primary coverts (G.C.B., confirmed by P. R. Colston.)

**LOCUSTELLA FLUVIATILIS** (Wolf) River Warbler

Vaurie records the River Warbler as migrating to eastern Africa south to the Zambezi, and occasionally to the Transvaal. White repeats this statement. Jackson (1938) was able to cite only three recorded localities, namely Nairobi, Kikuyu and Taveta. Williams (1967, 1969) does not mention this species while Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) say that it has been noticed as a rare Palaearctic winter visitor to Kenya.

From our modern records there is strong evidence to suggest that the River Warbler is, in fact, a passage migrant, at least to Kenya and probably also to northern Tanzania. Van Someren (1922) records it from Taveta and Nairobi giving no dates; two of Meinertzhagen's Taveta birds in the British Museum are dated December and these were given by Meinertzhagen (1922). There is a specimen in the National Museum from Naivasha in November.

A. D. Forbes-Watson (pers. comm.) drew our attention to a small passage of these birds, together with other Palaearctic warblers, in December 1969 at Ngulia; he collected a female weighing 20.0g on 2 December, a male weighing 15.5g the next day, and another male weighing 19.8 g on 5 December. Later the same month, G.C.B. ringed five more individuals at the same locality on 11-13 December, with weights 15g, 17.5g, 18g, 18g and 18g. The same locality was visited in December 1970 when G.C.B. ringed two, one on 13th and one on 14th, with weights 16.2g and 16.3g. Two of us investigated the Ngulia area in spring 1971 (late February and mid April) but very few migrants were present and, needless to say, no *L. fluviatilis* were seen or caught. The two spring records refer to specimens collected in late April: 21 April 1966 at Embakasi, Nairobi which is in the Paris Museum (kindly communicated by R. J. Dowsett) and 25 April 1968 at Arusha National Park (Beesley 1971a). The Embakasi record is interesting since, from March to early May 1971 many hundreds of Palaearctic warblers (and other passerines) were caught at Athi River, a locality very near Embakasi; yet no River Warblers came to hand.

The River Warbler is indeed an elusive bird; at Ngulia neither Forbes-Watson nor G.C.B. ever observed one except in, or just flying into a mist net. Most authors suggest that the bird's habitat is in swamps, which is surely suggested by the trivial and English names, but in G.C.B.'s experience at Ngulia the birds were in dry bush; the type locality in eastern Austria is woodland by the edge of the Danube.

**PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA ABIETINUS** (Nilsson) Chiffchaff

Vaurie gives the normal southern limit as 8°N. in eastern Africa (i.e. 400 km north of the Kenya border) but mentions that it has been collected once on Mt. Kenya (virtually on the equator). White mentions that it is found occasionally as far south as Mt. Kilimanjaro (3°S.), but Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) do not record it for East Africa. The sole record in Jackson (1938) is Kemp's bird from Rumuruti on 28 October 1910, which, according to Ticehurst (1938) is in fact *P. trochilus* Linn.

Meinertzhagen (1937) collected an example of the race *abietinus* in the bamboo zone of Mt. Kenya (3300m) on 10 February 1936, which was racially determined by Ticehurst, and it is likely that all East African birds belong to this form; Ticehurst (*op. cit.*) also mentions one from Tsavo in April 1918 racially determined by van Someren. The only other specimens we have traced are the three females from Tanzania in Moreau & Sclater (1935): January and March, Ngare Nairobi (1600m); 26 February, Bismark Hut, Kilimanjaro (2750m). All but one of our other records refer to singing birds in Kenya:

January 1964, heard (probable) Mau Narok, c. 2900 m, Sessions (1967)

20 January 1971, at least 3 heard Mt. Kenya, c. 3100m, Oliver *et al.* (1971)

February 1966, 1 seen and tape recorded at Mau Narok; tape recording confirmed by M. E. W. North. Sessions (1967)

9 February 1941, heard many times Mt. Elgon, c. 3100m, Benson (1945)

21 March 1971, 1 ringed (recaptured next day) Lake Kanyaboli, c. 1170m wing 58 mm, weight 6.7g, G.C.B. and P.L.B.

It is clear from the above records that the Chiffchaff's 'normal' African habitat is highland forest. The Lake Kanyaboli, Tsavo (probably less than 1000 m) and Ngare Nairobi birds are from

lower altitudes, but the Tsavo bird was probably on migration as, certainly, was the bird at Lake Kanyaboli. *Phylloscopus* warblers are only at all common at Lake Kanyaboli (regularly visited by P.L.B.) when there are 'falls' of migrants, mainly in November. This bird was netted with nine Willow Warblers *P. trochilus* on such an occasion, in acacia close to the lake shore. It may be relevant to mention that only 80km south of this locality there are the forested Gwasi Hills, hardly explored ornithologically, rising to over 2250 m, thus providing a suitable wintering habitat. Britton & Sugg (in press) failed to record it on Mt. Elgon between 24 December 1969 and 7 January 1970 but it is easily overlooked when not in song. Sharpe (1930a), who recorded it on Marsabit Mountain throughout the winter, said that they do not sing until after Christmas. At more than 2°N., the forest on Marsabit is an especially likely place for the Chiffchaff to winter regularly, as are other isolated areas of montane forest in northern Kenya. In the Chyulu Hills in southern Kenya van Someren (1939) noted both Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers frequently between 19 and 30 April in small forest patches. No Chiffchaffs were trapped at Athi River during spring 1971 although about 800 Willow Warblers were ringed there.

Thus the Chiffchaff is probably a regular winter visitor in small numbers to highland forest in Kenya and northern Tanzania. It should be looked for on Mts. Kenya, Kilimanjaro and Elgon, and in forest on Marsabit, Kulal, the Matthews Range and Nyiru in northern Kenya. (See Appendix.)

*PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechstein) Wood Warbler

Vaurie and White record the Wood Warbler south to the equator but do not mention any countries specifically; Ticehurst (1938) is more explicit, saying "N. Uganda and N. E. Kenya, barely south of the equator". Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) record it from Uganda and Kenya but give no precise details except that it is not usually common.

We have been unable to trace any satisfactory specimens at all from our area although there are two in the British Museum from Uganda, and Pitman (1931) noted "quite a number" (and collected one, now in the British Museum) on Nkose Island in mid December 1923; Nkose Island is at 0° 44'S., 32° 20'E., 200 km west of the Kenya border. Friedmann & Williams (1969) mention a male collected in forest close to the Tanzanian border in south-western Uganda on 13 February. We know of two Kenya sight records and two from Tanzania one of which is from over 6°S.: 8 September 1958 near Kibweza, Lake Tanganyika (Ulfstrand & Lamprey 1960); 3 October 1962, Mau Narok (Sessions 1967); Meiklejohn (1950) merely notes it in January from Mwanza but gives no precise details; 10 April 1971, Karen (J. G. Williams *in litt.*).

We admit the Wood Warbler to the avifauna of both Kenya and Tanzania, but with some reluctance for the latter country. Meiklejohn's (*op. cit.*) record is presented without any supporting evidence whatsoever and we do not consider that it should be included, especially as it was then the first record for Tanzania. The Kibweza sighting is also open to criticism: the locality is over 650 km south of the equator and the date (8 September) is very early for a Palaearctic passerine, other than a Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Linn., to be so far south. It should be noted that the observer (Ulfstrand) claims to be extremely familiar with the species in Sweden (see Ulfstrand & Lamprey *op. cit.*).

The Wood Warbler must surely occur more frequently in Kenya and north-western Tanzania than the above records suggest, however we should mention that many Willow Warblers *P. trochilus* Linn. are very white below so that pure sight records, as distinct from birds handled for ringing, should be supported by full field notes. (See Appendix.)

[*SYLVIA CANTILLANS ALBISTRIATA* (Brehm) Subalpine Warbler

White records the Subalpine Warbler from northern Tanzania, and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) call it a rare and local winter visitor to coastal Tanzania. Vaurie does not mention the species south of Somalia. The reference to its occurrence in Tanzania seems to have been originated by Hartert (1910) and repeated by Sclater (1930) and Grote (1930). Hartert (*op. cit.*) gave no specific record for East Africa, neither did Reichenow (1900-03). Since we know of no records of this species from East Africa, or even Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971), we follow Moreau (1937) in rejecting this species. The Subalpine Warbler should be deleted from Backhurst & Backhurst (1970) and Forbes-Watson (1971).]

[*SYLVIA HORTENSIS CRASSIROSTRIS* (Cretzchmar) Orphee Warbler

Both White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) record this race of the Orphee Warbler from Kenya; but Vaurie, and all other authors consulted, including Sclater (1930), make no mention of this species from our area. It does, however, occur in Ethiopia (Vaurie, Urban & Brown 1971). This species should be removed from the Kenya list and therefore deleted from Backhurst & Backhurst (1970) and Forbes-Watson (1971).]

*CERCOTRICHAS GALACTOTES* (Temminck) Rufous Bush Chat (Rufous Warbler)

Two races, *syriacus* Hemprich & Ehrenberg and *familiaris* Ménétries, occur in our area, at least in Kenya. Vaurie records both races to Kenya, and White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) extend the range to north-eastern Tanzania.

The Rufous Bush Chat is recorded fairly often in the early literature (see below) but rarely nowadays: for example, none has ever been caught during ringing operations. Van Someren (1932) had twenty-six specimens of *syriacus* from south-eastern and northern Kenya collected between October and March, as well as an unspecified number of *familiaris* from unspecified localities between January and April, with one in June; the *familiaris* were determined by Hartert. Jackson (1938) had five recorded localities for *syriacus* in eastern Kenya and three for *familiaris* in the north and east. In the National Museum there are but two specimens from Kenya and none from Tanzania: 12 November, immature male, Emali; 15 April 1943, male Balambala, Garissa. There are also the following recent sight records from Tsavo East National Park: 3 January 1970 (C.S.M.); 26-27 March 1967, four seen Aruba (A. D. Forbes-Watson *in litt.*); 7 April 1971, Lugard's Falls (P.L.B.). Moreau (1937) was able to quote only two records from Tanzania, both in the north-east and both *syriacus*: a male at Mao on 19 November 1931 (Sclater & Moreau 1933), and at Masinde (Sclater 1930); however Moreau (1937) added that it was "probably not uncommon in the thorn bush inland towards Kilimanjaro".

The Rufous Bush Chat may be more common in the north and east of our area than the few modern records suggest; these areas, which are comparatively neglected nowadays, provided most of the earlier records. As Moreau (1937) has pointed out, this species could be confused in the field with local species of *Cercotrichas*. For example, it was only after some effort that the above mentioned Lugard's Falls bird was seen sufficiently well to be identified.

#### IRANIA GUTTURALIS (Guérin) White-throated Robin

Vaurie, White and Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) record this species from Kenya south to central Tanzania. Jackson (1938) recorded it as uncommon and gave six eastern Kenya localities, while Moreau (1937) could only quote Loveridge's male and female specimens from Dodoma on 22 December 1918 for the whole of Tanzania (Friedmann & Loveridge 1937).

We can add the following unpublished records:

December 1969, 1 seen Ngulia, A. D. Forbes-Watson (pers. comm.)

13 December 1970, 1 ringed Ngulia, G.C.B.

23 February 1941, Naberera, Tanzania, H.F.I. Elliott (*in litt.*)

14 March 1971, ♂ ringed, Athi River, G.C.B.

26 March 1971, ♂ ringed, Athi River, recaptured next day, G.C.B.

April 1971, one present in a Nairobi garden, D. A. Turner (pers. comm.)

spring 1966, immature male trapped, Athi River, Smart (1967)

*Irania*, although a strikingly coloured bird is, nevertheless, rarely seen; at Ngulia in December 1970 and at Athi River in 1971 G.C.B. saw none in the field. It is likely that more records of *Irania* will come to light in the future from eastern Kenya.

#### PHOENICURUS PHOENICURUS PHOENICURUS (Linn.) Redstart

Vaurie and White record the Redstart south to northern Kenya while Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) extend the range to north-western Tanzania, adding that it is only casual in Kenya and that very few records are known from Tanzania. Van Someren (1932) had only one specimen from present-day Kenya (Turkwell). Jackson (1938) also quoted only one, a male at Weiwei River (Turkana) on 9 January 1913. There is also a (presumed) sight record from Eldama Ravine on 11 October 1928 (Anon. 1930). The sole record from Tanzania is one at Bukoba in December (Reichenow 1903). We can add the following modern records from Kenya:

12 October 1969, ♀ ringed Ng'iya, P.L.B.

1 December 1968, 2 immature ♂♂ ringed Ng'iya, P.L.B. and J. F. Harper

8-13 December 1955, 1 seen Nairobi garden, H. Williams (MS in EANHS file)

28 January 1971, ♂ seen Sawagongo, Yala, P.L.B.

7 February 1971, 1 seen Kaptagat, C.F.M.

19 and 22 February 1969, one ♂ of 1 December 1968 was recaptured at Ng'iya on these two days, P.L.B.

24 March 1967, 1 seen Lake Kisima, J. B. Smart (pers. comm.)

The Redstart is probably a regular winter visitor in small numbers to the north-west of our area, south to about the equator. It can be no more than a mere straggler as far south and east as Nairobi. The single record from Tanzania is in the extreme north-west of the country, on the western shore of Lake Victoria at 1° 39' S.

## APPENDIX

Through the courtesy of Dr George E. Watson we have been sent by airmail copies of the paper "Systematic notes on a collection of birds from Kenya" by S. D. Ripley & G. M. Bond (*Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* Number 111: 1-21) published in November 1971. They report some interesting Palaearctic birds details of which are given below.

## 1. Additional species to be added to the Systematic List

*CALANDRELLA CINEREA LONGIPENNIS* (Eversmann) Short-toed Lark.

Vaurie does not record this race of Short-toed Lark for Africa, whereas White, who treats it as a race of *C. brachydactyla* (Leisler), gives the winter range as south to Eritrea and ex-British Somaliland. We have overlooked an early record of this bird mentioned in Jackson (1938): one was collected on 14 November 1899 at Athi River by Lord Delamere. We are most grateful to A. D. Forbes-Watson for drawing our attention to this record.

The second East African record is given by Ripley & Bond: one collected on 19 December 1964 at Ukundu (=Ukunda) airstrip, 4° 17'S., 39° 34'E. by A. D. Forbes-Watson. The species is not recorded from Tanzania.

## 2. Additional records

*FICEDULA HYPOLEUCA HYPOLEUCA* (Pallas) Pied Flycatcher

The bird referred to on page 24 was a young male collected in the Kakamega Forest on 8 December 1965 by A. D. Forbes-Watson.

*PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA ABIETINUS* (Nilsson) Chiffchaff

A female obtained by A. D. Forbes-Watson in Kakamega Forest in March or December 1965: the exact date is not given by Ripley & Bond.

*PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechstein) Wood Warbler

A male obtained by A. D. Forbes-Watson in Kakamega Forest mentioned by Ripley & Bond is the first Kenya specimen known to us. Unfortunately Ripley & Bond give no precise date—they deal with seven *Phylloscopus* skins which were collected in March and December 1965 in Kakamega. It should be noted that Ripley & Bond state that the Chiffchaff and Wood Warbler "are difficult to observe and are represented by only a few specimens from Kenya."; this implies that there are other specimens of the Wood Warbler in the United States, which are, as far as we know, undocumented.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writing of this paper would not have been possible without the help of a number of ornithologists who have supplied us with their unpublished observations; we are very grateful to the following for their help: Miss D. Angwin, Dr. J. S. Ash, J. S. S. Beesley, R. C. Boy, L. H. Brown, Mrs. L. Campbell, A. G. T. Carter, G. R. Cunningham-van Someren, A. J. Deane, Dr W. G. Dyson, Sir Hugh Elliot, Dr M. P. L. Fogden, A. D. Forbes-Watson, R. Frankum, J. Gerhart, W. G. Harvey, J. S. Karmali, G. S. Keith, Dr W. Leuthold, I. C. S. Parker, Dr D. J. Pearson, J. F. Reynolds, J. B. Smart, C. Smeenk, R. Stjernstedt, D. A. Turner, E. R. Waterhouse and J. G. Williams. We should also like to thank C. W. Benson, R. J. Dowsett, A. D. Forbes-Watson, Mrs. B. P. Hall and R. E. Scott for help with references and for advice.

## GAZETTEER

K=KENYA T=MAINLAND TANZANIA U=UGANDA Z=ZANZIBAR

		Lat. ° '	Long. ° '
AHERO	K	0.11 S.	34.55 E.
ALBERT, LAKE	U	1.40 N.	31.00 E.
AMANI	T	5.06 S.	38.38 E.
AMBOSELI, LAKE	K	2.37 S.	37.08 E.
ARUBA	K	3.21 S.	38.49 E.
ARUSHA	T	3.22 S.	36.41 E.
ARUSHA CHINI	T	3.35 S.	37.20 E.
ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK	T	3.13 S.	36.34 E.
ATHI RIVER	K	1.27 S.	36.59 E.
ATHI RIVER (K.M.C. POOLS)	K	1.27 S.	36.59 E.
BALAMBALA (GARISSA)	K	0.05 S.	39.07 E.
BAMBURI (=BUMBURI)	K	3.59 S.	39.44 E.
BARINGO	K	0.38 N.	36.05 E.
BARSSALINGA	K	0.55 N.	37.06 E.
BISMARK HUT	T	3.11 S.	37.32 E.
BUFFALO WALLOWES	K	c.3.14 S.	38.30 E.
BUKOBA	T	1.20 S.	31.49 E.
BURA	K	1.06 S.	39.57 E.
BUSENGA (=BUSENGE)	T	2.18 S.	32.16 E.
CENTRAL ISLAND	K	3.30 N.	36.03 E.
CHABULA SWAMP	T	unlocated: SE Lake Victoria.	
CHANGANA (WEMBERE)	T	4.30 S.	34.00 E.
CHYULU HILLS	K	2.35 S.	37.50 E.
CRESCENT ISLAND	K	0.46 S.	36.24 E.
DAR ES SALAAM	T	6.48 S.	39.17 E.
DIANI BEACH	K	4.18 S.	39.35 E.
DODOMA	T	6.11 S.	35.45 E.
ELDAMA RAVINE	K	0.03 N.	35.43 E.
ELDORET	K	0.31 N.	35.17 E.
ELGON, MOUNT	K	1.08 N.	34.33 E.
ELIYE POINT/SPRINGS	K	3.20 N.	35.57 E.
ELMENTEITA, LAKE	K	0.27 S.	36.15 E.
EL MOLO BAY	K	2.51 N.	36.42 E.
EMALI	K	2.05 S.	37.28 E.
EMALI HILLS	K	2.03 S.	37.22 E.
EMBAKASI	K	1.21 S.	36.54 E.
ENDEBESS	K	1.04 N.	34.59 E.
EYASI, LAKE	T	3.40 S.	35.05 E.
FERGUSON'S GULF	K	3.31 N.	35.55 E.
GEITA	T	0.35 S.	32.56 E.
GWASI HILLS	K	0.37 S.	34.09 E.
HORR VALLEY	K	2.10 N.	36.55 E.
INDANUGU RIVER (=NDARUGU R.)	K	1.07 S.	37.10 E.
IRINGA	T	7.46 S.	35.42 E.
IRIMA	K	3.17 S.	38.32 E.
ISHIARA	K	0.27 S.	37.47 E.
ITHANGA HILLS	K	1.01 S.	37.24 E.
ITUMBA	T	6.30 S.	33.45 E.
KABARNET	K	0.30 N.	35.45 E.
KABETE	K	1.16 S.	36.43 E.
KAKAMEGA FOREST	K	0.16 N.	34.53 E.
KANAMAI	K	3.55 S.	39.47 E.
KANDERE	K	3.22 S.	38.40 E.
KANYABOLI, LAKE	K	0.03 N.	34.10 E.
KAPSABET	K	0.12 N.	35.06 E.
KAPTAGAT	K	0.28 N.	35.29 E.
KAREMA	T	6.49 S.	30.26 E.
KAREN	K	1.20 S.	36.42 E.
KASAMA	ZAMBIA	10.10 S.	31.11 E.
KAVIRONDO	K	0.15 S.	34.35 E.
KAZIMA DAM (TABORA)	T	c.5.01 S.	32.48 E.
KENYA, MOUNT	K	0.10 S.	37.20 E.

KERIO RIVER	K	2.59 N.	36.07 E.
KIAMBU	K	1.10 S.	36.50 E.
KIBONDO	T	3.33 S.	30.30 E.
KIBWEZA (LAKE TANGANYIKA)	T	6.27 S.	29.57 E.
KIBWEZI	K	2.26 S.	37.53 E.
KIKAMBALA	K	3.53 S.	39.47 E.
KIKUYU	K	1.15 S.	36.40 E.
KIKUYU FOREST	K	0.55 S.	36.40 E.
KILIFI	K	3.38 S.	39.51 E.
KILIMANJARO, MOUNT	T	3.04 S.	37.22 E.
KILOSA	T	6.50 S.	36.59 E.
KINANGOP (PLATEAU)	K	0.42 S.	36.34 E.
KISAKI DAM (Nr. KONDOA IRANGI)	T	4.35 S.	35.53 E.
KISIMA, LAKE	K	0.56 N.	36.47 E.
KISMAYU	SOMALIA	0.25 S.	42.31 E.
KISUMU	K	0.06 S.	34.45 E.
KITUI	K	1.22 S.	38.01 E.
KIUNGA.	K	1.45 S.	41.29 E.
KOROLI	K	2.43 N.	37.17 E.
KORONLI WATER	K	2.43 N.	37.42 E.
LAMU	K	2.17 S.	40.52 E.
LANET	K	0.18 S.	36.08 E.
LANGATA	K	1.20 S.	36.43 E.
LAROPI	U	3.34 N.	31.49 E.
LATEMA	K/T	3.24 S.	37.37 E.
LELAN DOWNS	K	1.17 N.	35.27 E.
LESSOS	K	0.13 N.	35.18 E.
LIBOI	K	0.25 N.	40.55 E.
LIMURU	K	1.06 S.	36.39 E.
LODUNGOKWE	K	0.54 N.	37.00 E.
LOIENGALANI	K	2.46 N.	36.43 E.
LOITA	K	1.40 S.	35.50 E.
LOKITAUNG	K	4.16 N.	35.45 E.
LONDIANI	K	0.10 S.	35.36 E.
LONGONOT, MOUNT	K	0.55 S.	36.27 E.
LOWER KABETE	K	1.14 S.	36.43 E.
LUGARD'S FALLS	K	3.03 S.	38.42 E.
LUMBWA	K	0.12 S.	35.28 E.
MAFIA ISLAND	T	7.50 S.	39.50 E.
MAGADI, LAKE	K	1.52 S.	36.17 E.
MAKUIWA, UNLOCATED, ON Mt. ELGON	K	0.08 N.	34.33 E.
MALINDI	K	3.17 S.	40.07 E.
MANDA (LAKE MALAWI)	T	10.30 S.	34.37 E.
MANYANI	K	3.05 S.	38.30 E.
MANYARA, LAKE	T	3.35 S.	35.50 E.
MARAGOLI HILLS	K	0.00	34.40 E.
MARALAL	K	1.06 N.	36.42 E.
MASANJE ISLAND	T	1.55 S.	33.25 E.
MARSABIT	K	2.17 N.	37.57 E.
MASINDE	T	3.39 S.	37.26 E.
MAU NAROK	K	0.41 S.	35.57 E.
MAUNGU	K	3.33 S.	38.45 E.
MBALAGETTI RIVER	T	2.12 S.	33.49 E.
MBUYUNI	K	3.24 S.	37.52 E.
MERU, MOUNT	T	3.14 S.	36.45 E.
MEURESSI (=MURUETHI)	K	2.56 N.	35.26 E.
MIDA	K	3.22 S.	39.58 E.
MILEPA (RUKWA)	T	8.04 S.	31.56 E.
MOMBASA	K	4.03 S.	39.40 E.
MOROGORO	T	6.49 S.	37.40 E.
MOLO RIVER, LOWER	K	0.15 N.	36.06 E.
MOSHI	T	3.21 S.	37.20 E.
MSARA	K	3.25 S.	39.34 E.
MTITO ANDEI	K	2.41 S.	38.10 E.
MUGUGA	K	1.11 S.	36.37 E.
MUTHAIGA	K	1.15 S.	36.49 E.
MWANZA	T	2.31 S.	32.54 E.
MWEA	K	1.42 S.	37.30 E.

NABERERA	T	4.12 S.	36.56 E.
NAIROBI	K	1.17 S.	36.49 E.
NAIROBI DAM	K	1.19 S.	36.48 E.
NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK	K	1.22 S.	36.50 E.
NAIVASHA, LAKE	K	0.46 S.	36.21 E.
NAKURU, LAKE	K	0.22 S.	36.05 E.
NAMANGA	K	2.33 S.	36.47 E.
NAMURAPUTH	K	4.34 N.	35.57 E.
NANYUKI	K	0.01 N.	37.04 E.
NATRON, LAKE	T	2.25 S.	36.00 E.
NDUNDU (RUFJI)	T	8.14 S.	39.11 E.
NGARE NAIROBI	T	3.03 S.	37.01 E.
NG'IIYA	K	0.03 N.	34.23 E.
NGONG HILLS	K	1.24 S.	36.38 E.
NGORONGORO, CRATER	T	3.10 S.	35.35 E.
NGULIA	K	3.00 S.	38.13 E.
NGURU	T	6.38 S.	37.32 E.
NJOMBE	T	9.20 S.	34.46 E.
NJORO	K	0.20 S.	35.56 E.
NORTH UASO NYIRO	K	0.28 N.	39.55 E.
NUNGWI	Z	5.43 S.	39.18 E.
NYAMBE CRATER, ON Mt. KENYA	K	0.10 S.	37.20 E.
OLDUVAI	T	2.58 S.	35.22 E.
OL BOLOSSAT	K	0.09 S.	36.26 E.
OL DONYO SABUK = OL DOINYO SAPUK	K	1.08 S.	37.15 E.
OL JORO OROK	K	0.04 S.	36.22 E.
PEMBA ISLAND		5.10 S.	39.48 E.
RABAI	K	3.56 S.	39.34 E.
RONGAI	K	0.10 S.	35.51 E.
RUAHA NATIONAL PARK	T	8.58 S.	35.25 E.
RUARAKA	K	1.14 S.	36.53 E.
RUDOLF, LAKE	K	3.30 N.	36.00 E.
RURU	K	1.09 S.	36.58 E.
RUKWA	T	8.00 S.	32.25 E.
RUMURUTI	K	0.16 N.	36.32 E.
SABAKI RIVER	K	3.09 S.	40.08 E.
SAMUMBA (SINGIDA)	T	4.49 S.	34.45 E.
SANYA	T	3.35 S.	37.05 E.
SAWAGONGO	K	0.05 N.	34.27 E.
SEMINI'S DAM (S. KINANGOP)	K	c.0.43 S.	36.39 E.
SEYA VALLEY	K	1.08 N.	37.04 E.
SHEKANI (=SHAKANI)	K	1.47 S.	41.29 E.
SHIMBA HILLS	K	4.13 S.	39.25 E.
SIMBA	K	2.10 S.	37.36 E.
SIO RIVER	K	0.14 N.	34.01 E.
SOBO	K	3.04 S.	38.54 E.
SOKOKE FOREST	K	3.31 S.	39.49 E.
SOLAI	K	0.03 N.	36.09 E.
SOUTH UASO NYIRU	K	2.04 S.	36.07 E.
SOY	K	0.41 N.	35.11 E.
SUGURO	K		Western Kenya, unlocated.
SUGUTA NAIBOR	K	c.0.40 N.	36.37 E.
SUKARI	K	1.15 S.	37.06 E.
SULTAN HAMUD	K	2.02 S.	37.22 E.
SUSWA	K	1.09 S.	36.21 E.
TABORA	T	5.02 S.	32.50 E.
TANGA	T	5.04 S.	39.06 E.
TARANGIRI	T	4.00 S.	36.00 E.
TAVETA	K	3.25 S.	37.42 E.
THIKA	K	1.03 S.	37.05 E.
TIWI RIVER	K	4.14 S.	39.36 E.
TODANYANG	K	4.32 N.	35.56 E.
TSAVO	K	2.59 S.	38.31 E.
TSAVO GATE	K	2.59 S.	38.31 E.
TULAZU RIVER (=TULASHA R.)	K	0.30 S.	36.24 E.
UASIN GISHU	K	0.30 N.	35.20 E.
UGALLA RIVER GAME RESERVE	T	5.50 S.	31.50 E.
UKERWE ISLAND	T	2.03 S.	33.00 E.

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UKWALA	K	0.12 N.	34.11 E.
ULUGU (USHORA)	T	4.41 S.	34.15 E.
UPLANDS	K	1.03 S.	36.39 E.
VOI	K	3.23 S.	38.34 E.
WAJIR	K	1.45 N.	40.04 E.
WATAMU	K	3.21 S.	40.01 E.
WEMBERE (Nr. LOLANGURU)	T	4.30 S.	34.00 E.
WITU	K	2.23 S.	40.26 E.
YALA RIVER	K	0.04 N.	34.09 E.
YALA RIVER SWAMP	K	0.03 N.	34.05 E.
YATTA PLAINS	K	2.00 S.	38.00 E.
ZANZIBAR	Z	6.10 S.	39.20 E.

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