

larger Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* which has a white wing-bar and rump, black axillaries and a quite different call. Inland, confusion may be possible with the Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*, however, the Caspian normally occurs in parties in plains country, and has uniform brown upperparts, a brownish wash across the breast, with some vague mottling but no streaking, and a narrow white wing-bar. In breeding plumage, *dominica* has a black face and underparts, and black and gold spangled upperparts, quite different from any plover species occurring in East Africa.

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A SECOND RECORD OF DICKINSON'S KESTREL IN SOUTHERN KENYA *Falco dickinsoni* was first recorded in Kenya by Horwitz & Anderson (1976) who photographed an individual at Amboseli on 30 June 1975. On the afternoon of 23 June 1978, at Salt Lick Lodge near the Taita Hills, one of my companions, Dr Christopher Parrish, reported seeing a small grey kestrel with pale head and rump. I did not locate the bird that day, but shortly after sunrise on the following morning I discovered an adult-plumaged Dickinson's Kestrel perched conspicuously in a dead tree about 65m from my vantage point at the lodge. Viewing the bird through a 20X spotting 'scope at intervals for about 5min, Dr Parrish, Marian Zimmerman and I noted the prominent pale head, grey or black bill with bright yellow cere, very conspicuous yellow orbital ring (almost connecting with the cere), light grey underparts (somewhat darker posteriorly), and seven or eight narrow dark bands on the underside of the grey tail - the more distal bands somewhat wider than the basal ones. In flight, observed through 10X binoculars, the bird's rump and upper tail-coverts were noticeably pale, appearing almost white in contrast with the very dark grey mantle and upper tail surface. The falcon's small size was evident as several Superb

Starlings *Spreo superbus* were perched in the same tree and within the same binocular field.

Nowhere in the East African bird literature, nor in Brown & Amadon (1968) do I find reference to a yellow eye-ring in Dickinson's Kestrel. Nor does the plate in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) depict one. However, these authors' West African handbook (1970) states "ring round eye yellow". Lighton's plate in McLachlan & Liversidge (1957) shows some yellow, and the colour photograph following p. 160 in Grossman & Hamlet (1964) clearly displays a bare, yellow orbital ring, very broad anterior to the eye as in the individual we observed.

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MASCARENE MARTINS IN KENYA At 10:30 hrs on the misty, overcast morning of 24 June 1978, I observed a flock of 16 Mascarene Martins *Phedina borbonica* at Lake Jipe in southeastern Kenya on the Tanzania border. Other observers included Marian Zimmerman (who, together with me had previously seen this species in Madagascar), John Minot, Christopher Parrish and Eugene Kenaga. Upon our arrival at the lake edge the birds were perched atop the small boathouse. As we walked to within 6 or 7 m, some of them took wing, only to fly about very near us; others merely shifted position slightly on the roof. A few fluttered under the low metal roof of a shelter attached to the building where they perched beside four Wire-tailed Swallows *Hirundo smithii* already sheltering there from the intermittent light rain.

The martins were not shy, and seemed reluctant to take wing. However, they were not present upon our return to the site about three hours later. Our observations spanned a 10-min period during which we studied the birds at various angles through 10X and 8X binoculars. I exposed two frames of 35 mm Ektachrome colour film on one martin, but lighting conditions were poor. Nevertheless, the bird is identifiable in the resulting transparency which has been lodged in the Department of Ornithology of the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi. [Black and white prints sent with the MS of this note show little detail owing to the bird being nearly silhouetted against the bright grey sky. They are not suitable for reproduction here and have been deposited in the National Museums' Department of Ornithology together with the transparency, Ed.]



Zimmerman, Dale A. 1978. "A second record of Dickinson's kestrel in southern Kenya." *Scopus* 2, 73–74.

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