

*Eupodotis senegalensis*. Measurements of the two Hartlaub's Bustard eggs were 51 x 58 and 52 x 60 mm (the second egg was fractured, so the length is an estimate, accurate to within about 2 mm). Two White-bellied Bustard eggs laid in December 1996 on Game Ranching Ltd were 42 x 53.5 and 43 x 52.5 mm. White-bellied Bustard eggs are similarly coloured but the brown spots are diffuse and evenly distributed. They are the size and shape of a chicken's egg with a rather pronounced point.

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### Sighting of White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris* in south-central Somalia

During a recent visit to the coastal plains north-east of Mogadishu I observed a single specimen of White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*.

While examining shallow wells used by pastoralists at a point a few kilometres north of Warsheikh, and only 400–600 m from the shoreline, I noticed a strikingly marked, greenish blue and white bird on the top of a low bush, at a distance of about 30 m. The type of bird and plumage details were clear on examination though 8 x 10 binoculars—it was a medium-sized kingfisher with a shiny greenish-blue mantle and head (down to through the eye), clear white below and around the neck (the last feature was quite striking). Later reference to van Perlo (1996) and Fry *et al.* (1988) confirmed the identification.

I estimate the location was 46°E, 2°30'N. This would be in Somalia atlas square 64A as defined by Ash & Miskell (1983), who mention two records, "one old and one recent", from the north of Somalia. They make no reference to any records from the south-central region. Fry *et al.* (1988) include the same two records but also state that "other records from the south are probably erroneous". This reference is to Snow (1978), who mentions two records, one probably being in the area of Balad, 60–70 km due west of the site of the present record.



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## Sighting of Waldrapp *Geronticus eremita* in Eritrea near the Red Sea coast

At about 07:30 on 8 February 1997, I observed five adult Waldrapp Ibises *Geronticus eremita* just off the road near the cemetery at Harghigo (15°31'32.1"N, 39°26'52.3"E) about 15-min drive south of Massawa on the road to Arafailie. The birds were in a short-grass area between the road and the hills further east. Their identity was unmistakable, as the long, lax feathers behind the head, and the bald rose-red head on a dark ibis, are unique. Two colleagues, Kidane Gebre Kidan and Michiel Cherlet, were with me and shared the sighting.

Close inspection to reveal what they were feeding on was inconclusive. The only potential food items seen were a single nymph of *Chrotogonus homalodemus* (Orthoptera: Pyrgomorphidae) and two adults of *Acrotylus longipes* (Orthoptera: Acridinae). It is likely that they were also feeding on the ant-lion larvae (Neuroptera: Myrmeleonidae) that are abundant in those soils.

The Waldrapp is a severely threatened species that is presently known to nest only in Morocco, and possibly Algeria (Hancock *et al.* 1992, Collar *et al.* 1994). There appear to have been no records in Eritrea for about 30 years, although the Massawa area used to be an important overwintering/non-breeding area for the bird (J. C. Hillman, pers. comm.). There have been recent reports from Yemen (near Taiz), and a request through the news media resulted in a report of a sighting from Northern Somalia which is, as yet, unconfirmed (J. S. Ash, pers.comm.).

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