Dear All,

From afternoon of 19th until mid-morning 23rd October I was at Soysambu Conservation Reserve on Lake Elementeita. In the period I recorded 172 species, the most noteworthy being a white Western Reef Egret in non-breeding plumage, (images attached).

I was expecting more of a presence of land migrants than I saw, although the early morning of the departure from 9.00am to 10.30am testified of what was to come.

The land palearctics are as follows…..

OSPREY 21st.

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER Male 22nd.

PALLID HARRIER Female 20th.

STEPPE EAGLE Fifteen going South morning 23rd.

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE Two going South morning 23rd.

EURASIAN BUZZARD 220 going South (largest group 65) morning 23rd.

COMMON SWIFT About 100 associating with House Martins 20th.

EURASIAN BEE-EATER Many small parties sitting on wires or flying over but exact number unknown.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE Different males 21st & 22nd.

BARN SWALLOW Abundant with wires lined with them.

SAND MARTIN Strangely only one seen.

HOUSE MARTIN Very large movement, on 22nd appeared to be outnumbering Barn Swallows on the wires, and large numbers also flying around.

WILLOW WARBLER Only a few until 22nd, when good numbers present in acacias and scrub. Obvious major arrival overnight. The only palearctic warbler encountered.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR Common over period, over fifty individuals found.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR Just three birds.

WHINCHAT Only one individual on 21st.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER None met with until five on 22nd.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Small numbers around lake, fields and large herbivores. All that were identified to race were lutea, although some females looked darker on the crown and could have been flava.

On October 24th flying over the house back in Langata we had the first Black Stork of the season, an Eurasian Buzzard, one Lesser Spotted and two Steppe Eagles, a migrant Black Kite, Northern Hobby plus another falcon too high to be identified and a Eurasian Roller. The interesting thing being that in the afternoon which accounts for all but the Buzzard in the morning, the birds were all heading west towards the Rift. On the ground we had a Spotted Flycatcher, single Willow and Garden Warblers and three Tree Pipits whilst Bee-eaters were feeding in the area for much of the day, and in the afternoon a few Common Swifts were patrolling the ridge.

This is the migrant current update….

**2016 PALEARCTIC ARRIVALS 25TH SEPT TO 4th DECEMBER FIRST DATES**

**2017 FIRST DATES**

Black Stork 9th Oct / 24th Oct NNP / Langata

White Stork 6th Nov Loresho Nairobi

Garganey 5th Nov Manguo Pond

Northern Shoveler 6th Nov Lake Naivasha

Red-necked Phalarope 22nd Oct Lake Nakuru NP

Common Snipe 5th Oct / 8th Oct NNP /NNP

Black-tailed Godwit 5th Oct NNP

Caspian Plover 30th Oct Mara

Common Ringed Plover 9th Oct / 19th Oct NNP / Soysambu

White-winged Black Tern 5th Oct / 19th Oct NNP / Soysambu (2000)

Osprey no date / 21st Oct no date / Soysambu

Eurasian Honey-Buzzard 22nd Nov NNP

Western Marsh Harrier 30th Oct / 14th Oct Mara / Lake Jipe

Montagu’s Harrier 16th Oct / 30th Sept Mara / NNP

Pallid Harrier 16th Oct / 20th Oct Mara / Soysambu

Steppe Eagle 6th Nov / 23rd Oct Lake Naivasha / Soysambu (15)

Great Spotted Eagle 10th Nov NNP

Lesser Spotted Eagle 13th Nov / 18th Oct Langata / Langata

Eurasian Buzzard 16th Oct / 11th Oct Mara / City Park Nairobi

Long-legged Buzzard 4th Nov Garden Langata

Booted Eagle 23rd Oct NNP

Common Kestrel 17th Nov NNP

Lesser Kestrel 20th Nov Garden Langata

Eurasian Hobby 29th Oct / 14th Oct Mara / NNP

Western Red-footed Falcon 29th Oct Nairobi Upper Hill

Amur Falcon 23rd Nov Garden Langata

Sooty Falcon 18th Oct Mara

Eurasian Cuckoo 5th Oct NNP

Common Swift 4th Oct / 17th Oct Langata / Langata

“Pallid-like Swift 6th Nov Garden Langata

Eurasian Nightjar 2nd Nov Kabete

Eurasian Bee-eater 15th Sept NNP

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater 2nd Dec Loldaiga Hills

Eurasian Roller 9th Oct / 24th Oct NNP / Langata

Eurasian Wryneck 18th Oct Nairobi Museum

Red-backed Shrike 24th Oct / 22nd Oct Mara / Soysambu

Isabelline Shrike 5th Oct NNP

Turkestan Shrike 25th Oct NNP

Eurasian Golden Oriole 30th Sept Garden Langata

Barn Swallow

Sand Martin 5th Oct / 30th Sept NNP / NNP

House Martin 4th Oct / 16th Oct Langata / Langata

Willow Warbler 30th Sept / 27th Sept Langata / Langata

Olive Tree Warbler 4th Nov Icross Rd (Magadi Rd)

Olivaceous Warbler 8th Nov NNP

Upcher’s Warbler 17th Nov NNP

Icterine Warbler 22nd Nov NNP

Marsh Warbler 22nd Nov NNP

Eurasian Reed Warbler 30th Nov Garden Upper Hill

Sedge Warbler 2nd Dec Lower Kabete

Blackcap 31st Oct Garden Langata

Garden Warbler 5th Oct / 11th Oct NNP / Karen

Common Whitethroat 9th Oct NNP

Eurasian Rock Thrush 1st Nov Garden Langata

Rufous Bush Chat 1st Nov Nguuni

Luscinia sp 23rd Oct NNP

Common Nightingale 1st Nov Garden Langata

Thrush Nightingale 3rd Nov Kabete

Irania 4th Dec Magadi Road

Northern Wheatear 25th Sept / 15th Sept NNP / NNP

Isabelline Wheatear 25th Oct / 14th Oct NNP / NNP

Pied Wheatear 3rd Nov Suswa

Desert Wheatear 17th Nov NNP

Whinchat 8th Oct / 21st Oct NNP / Soysambu

Common Redstart 13th Oct Langata (unrecorded 2016)

Spotted Flycatcher 2nd Oct / 8th Oct Thika / NNP

Tree Pipit 17th Oct / 18th Oct Langata / Langata

Red-throated Pipit 17th Nov NNP

Yellow Wagtail 9th Oct / 8th Oct NNP / NNP

Grey Wagtail 26th Oct Nairobi Arboretum

Birds that had been reported as at Oct 24th in 2016, but not yet reported this year are…

Red-necked Phalarope, Booted Eagle, Sooty Falcon, Eurasian Cuckoo, Eurasian Wryneck, Isabelline Shrike, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Common Whitethroat.

Best to all

Brian

IMAGES

TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT

Lesser Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, prob Black Kite shot by unpleasant Arab even more deserving of similar fate, Eurasian Hobby

BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT

Black Stork, Tree Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher, Western Reef Egret