**SPECIES RECORDED SOUTHERN LAIKIPIA AT**

**LOLLDAIGA HILLS AND OLE NAISHU 10th-13th April 2018**

Observers;

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Abbreviations;

LH & LHGR = Lolldaiga Hills Ranch

MG Main Gate

VD Valley Dam

ON = Ole Naishu Ranch

BD Bird Dam

Helmeted Guineafowl

Shelley’s Francolin

Crested Francolin

Hildebrandt’s Francolin

Yellow-necked Spurfowl

Egyptian Goose

Yellow-billed Duck

Little Grebe

Yellow-billed Stork

Sacred Ibis

Hadada Ibis

African Spoonbill

Black-crowned Night-Heron

One on ONBD

Grey Heron

Cattle Egret

Hamerkop

Lesser Kestrel

Six at ONBD

Eurasian Hobby

Peregrine Falcon

One Palearctic ONBD

Secretarybird

One on nest near LHVD

African Fish Eagle

White-backed Vulture

Black-chested Snake-Eagle

Pallid Harrier

African Harrier-Hawk

Common Buzzard

Augur Buzzard

Tawny Eagle

Verreaux’s Eagle

Martial Eagle

Kori Bustard

White=bellied Bustard

Buff-crested Bustard

Black Crake

Common Moorhen

Red-knobbed Coot

Grey Crowned Crane

Blacksmith Plover

Black-winged Plover

Crowned Plover

Three-banded Plover

Common Snipe

Two ONBD

Common Greenshank

Wood Sandpiper

Common Sandpiper

Little Stint

Speckled Pigeon

Dusky Turtledove

Red-eyed Dove

Ring-necked Dove

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove

Namaqua Dove

African Green Pigeon

Brown Parrot

Hartlaub’s Turaco

White-bellied Go-Away Bird

Red=chested Cuckoo

Black Cuckoo

Several calling LH

African Cuckoo

One calling LH

Klaas’s Cuckoo

Diederic Cuckoo

White-browed Coucal

Dusky Nightjar

Montane Nightjar

Alpine Swift

Mottled Swift

Common Swift

African Black Swift

Little Swift

White-rumped Swift

Speckled Mousebird

Blue-naped Mousebird

Narina Trogon

Pair LHMG

Lilac-breasted Roller

Pied Kingfisher

Little Bee-eater

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater

Eurasian Bee-eater

Small numbers moving north, no big flocks

African Hoopoe

Violet Wood-Hoopoe

Seen several times, attempts to take images were not successful but upperparts entirely deep violet, no green iridescence by any stretch of imagination.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill

Common Scimitarbill

Red-billed Hornbill

Von der Decken’s Hornbill

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Red-fronted Barbet

Red-and-Yellow Barbet

D’Arnaud’s Barbet

Lesser Honeyguide

Greater Honeyguide

Red-throated Wryneck

Nubian Woodpecker

Cardinal Woodpecker

Bearded Woodpecker

Montane Grey Woodpecker

Chin-spot Batis

Grey-headed Bush-shrike

Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrike

Rosy-patched Bush-shrike

Black-crowned Tchagra

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Northern Puffback

Slate-coloured Boubou

Tropical Boubou

Brubru

Black Cuckooshrike

Northern White-crowned Shrike

Red-backed Shrike

Only three seen LH

Lesser Grey Shrike

Only three seen two LH, one OLBD

Taita Fiscal

Common Fiscal

Black-headed Oriole

Common Drongo

African Paradise Flycatcher

Fan-tailed Raven

Northern Grey Tit

A seemingly solitary bird singing vigorously in erosion gulley LH Ngainitu, only second record LHGR

White-bellied Tit

Black Saw-wing

Barn Swallow

Angola Swallow

Ethiopian Swallow

Wire-tailed Swallow

Rock Martin

Common House Martin

Regular JH, but good numbers moving at ONBD

Lesser Striped Swallow

Mosque Swallow

Red-rumped Swallow

Rufous-naped Lark

Flappet Lark

Fawn-coloured Lark

Red-capped Lark

Rattling Cisticola

Boran Cisticola

Stout Cisticola

Siffling Cisticola

Two birds singing LH where first found as new bird for LHNR last year.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Grey-backed Camaroptera

Grey Wren Warbler

Common Bulbul

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul

Highland Rush Warbler

One ONBD

Lesser Swamp Warbler

At least four ONBD

Great Reed Warbler

One ONBD

Sedge Warbler

At least eight ONBD

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler

Up to three at LH Main House, one ONBD was all.

Willow Warbler

Two LH Main House, two ONBD was all.

Red-faced Crombec

Garden Warbler

Several LH and one ONBD.

Brown Parisoma

Banded Parisoma

Rufous Chatterer

Vepres Black-lored Babbler

Brown Babbler

Yellow White-eye

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Superb Starling

Hildebrandt’s Starling

Violet-backed Starling

Red-winged Starling

Red-billed Oxpecker

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Olive Thrush

Cape Robin-Chat

White-browed Robin-Chat

White-browed Scrub-Robin

Whinchat

One LHVD

Brown-tailed Rock-Chat

A pair found in the same erosion gulley at Ngainitu where they were first found two years ago and not seen again until now.

Northern Anteater Chat

Mocking Cliff Chat

Common Rock Thrush

Single male and female LH

Little Rock Thrush

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher

Southern Black Flycatcher

Pale Flycatcher

African Grey Flycatcher

Spotted Flycatcher

The only bird was one near the Main Entrance on leaving.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Amethyst Sunbird

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Bronze Sunbird

Golden-winged Sunbird

One male ONBD

Northern Double-collared Sunbird

Marico Sunbird

Variable Sunbird

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

One see near LH Main Gate, a new bird for LHGR

Grey-capped Social-Weaver

Black-capped Social-Weaver

Ten breeding with Grey-capped LH Ngainitu.

Kenya Rufous Sparrow

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Baglafecht Weaver

Spectacled Weaver

Lesser Masked Weaver

Vitelline Masked Weaver

Speke’s Weaver

Red-headed Weaver

Yellow Bishop

Common Waxbill

Red-cheeked Cordon bleu

Purple Grenadier

Red-billed Firefinch

African Pied Wagtail

Yellow-throated Longclaw

Grassland Pipit

Palin-backed Pipit

Tree Pipit

Only three LH.

African Citril

Reichenow’s Seedeater

White-bellied Canary

Brimstone Canary

Streaky Seedeater

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Golden-breasted Bunting

KEY TO MONTAGE (Unless stated all records refer Lolldaiga Hills).

1. WOOD SANDPIPER

One on VD and four on Baharini Dam were the only birds recorded. Indicating major vacation of region.

1. ROSY-PATCHED BUSH-SHRIKE

This is a female of the northern race hilgertus. Several birds were encountered

1. VERREAUX’S EAGLE

Unusual to see perched in a tree. This bird is doing well and was seen in five locations.

1. ANGOLA SWALLOW

We don’t understand the movements of this species east of the Rift. It is a total migrant, but dates of absence are not that well studied, although the information must be in Laikipian notebooks. Following the good rains, birds are back and breeding on the bridge at the Main Gate. In a barn near the farmhouse offices there is a peculiar situation of both Angola and Ethiopian appearing to be prospecting for nest sites. Where else could this even happen other than Laikipia?

1. BROWN PARROT

Such a common bird, this one was cowing around trying to impress a female.

1. MT. KENYA

With the rains clearing the air, visibility was outstanding. The mountain was photographed from the lawn of the Farmhouse. The image of the peak was taken to show how far down the mountain the snow has come.

1. EURASIAN HOBBY

This is not the usual colour for a Eurasian Hobby being pale grey over the entire upperparts. Also the kinked face pattern looks rather strange. It was associating with normal looking Hobbys.

1. PALE FLYCATCHER

Fairly common in the Cedar woodlands. Appears to lack the brown flight-feathers of Nairobi birds, and appears smaller.

1. GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING

This truly gorgeous species is the most abundant bird on Lolldaiga. Five common starling species in continuing order of abundance are Superb, Hildebrandt’s, Violet-backed and Red-winged.

1. BORAN CISTICOLA

This might be the commonest uncolored bird! It’s anywhere where there are rocky slopes, but also anywhere there are Cedars but appears to not be in the very immediate vicinity of the Farmhouse.

1. LESSER GREY SHRIKE

It seems rather late to only find three birds, and there were only three Red-backed as well. Where are they this year?

1. LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER

Strangely not as common (though not rare) as on previous visits. Maybe many were non-breeding birds.

1. BROWN-TAILED ROCK-CHAT

The closest this species is known to Lolldaiga is Shaba and Samburu Game Reserves to the east, and Baringo to the west. Two years ago a pair were found in a dramatic erosion gulley at Nganaitu near North Gate, this is the first look for them since, and they were still there singing from an unidentified Aloe!

1. EURASIAN ROCK-THRUSH

Not surprisingly just single male and female in different places, most have usually gone by now.

1. NARINA TROGON

A pair of very noisy birds in the Kianugu Forest right at the Main Gate. One image shows the huge area of bright turquoise skin that is exposed very briefly as the bird calls.

1. MARICO SUNBIRD

Generally this species is thought more low than high, but it is resident at the Farmhouse where this image was taken.

1. SIFFLING CISTICOLA

Last year the birds were found in three places and constituted a new bird for LH, this year this bird was singing in exactly the same place as the initial discovery with a second bird holding a territory nearby.

1. STEINBOK

Only two were seen, but then they are usually shy. I have never managed to get a good image from NNP, but this animal was most obliging.

1. WHINCHAT

This female was near VD, and may be one of if not the last for the season.

1. ARBOREAL ORCHID *Rangaeris amanuensis*

An amazing fact is that no terrestrial species of Orchid has ever been recorded at Lolldaiga. This was the only orchid we encountered during our stay.

1. ELEMENTEITA ROCK AGAMA

A Kenyan endemic and the largest of the Agamas, common on LH, always associated with rocks. This reptile climbed onto a wooden roof to find his!!!!

1. BLACKSMITH PLOVER CHICK

On a recent montage from NNP, I showed a Spur-winged Plover chick maybe only a few days old but already in its fluffy down showing the adult head pattern. Here is one of three chicks at Bird Dam on Ole Naishu. Clearly this shows the adult head pattern of Blacksmith.

1. FLOOD

Whilst the actual rain falling on the Farmhouse, rain falling overnight on other ridges created impassable torrents where no water usually existed and blocked our passage. It was an extremely dramatic sight.

1. *Rotheca myricoides* (was Clerodendrum)
2. *Hibiscus vitifolius*