



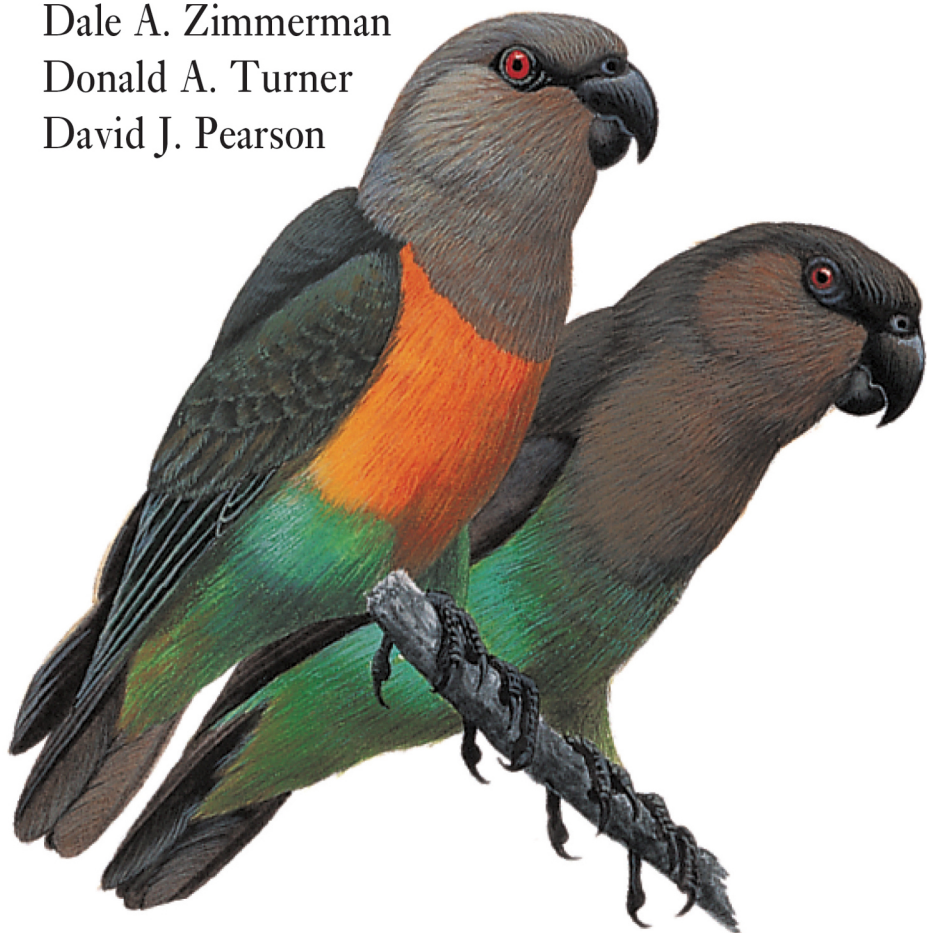
HELM FIELD GUIDES

Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania

Dale A. Zimmerman

Donald A. Turner

David J. Pearson



• Helm Field Guides •

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PREFACE

This field guide is an abridged edition of the authors' *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* published in 1996. It treats all species known from the region, including a few vagrants added to the avifauna subsequent to the appearance of that publication. Although the vast majority of persons who have provided us with comments on the earlier book decidedly favoured its format and its detailed treatment, a significant number expressed the desire for something smaller that could be conveniently carried on foot-excursions away from their tents or safari vehicles. They still wanted all benefits of the 'big book' available in the field, plus something less weighty and nearer 'pocket-sized' to have with them at all times.

Some serious birders dismember large regional books, separating the text from the fascicle of plates which they keep available for instant reference in a shoulder bag or rucksack, but most eschew such drastic measures. Although *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* was not designed for hand-carrying, we have seen several excised sets of plates bound with hard protective covers to withstand rough, prolonged use on treks in the bush. After lengthy deliberation, we decided to condense as much information as possible into a smaller and more portable format to meet the obvious demand, but we stress that this new guide is not intended as a substitute for the original book to which we refer our present readers for many details and the extensive supplementary material.

Of necessity, the new species accounts are greatly abbreviated, and all have been rewritten, but most of the present material has been taken directly from the original book. We have updated our treatment with occasional modifications, a few additions and corrections. Extensive deletion was required throughout, the accounts being reduced by about half from those of the larger book. Many comments on taxonomy, the separate sections on behaviour and ecology, descriptions of some less common vocalizations, pointers for identification of certain birds in the the hand, and other useful features have been eliminated or drastically reduced. We have also condensed our treatment of subspecies. Literature references have been sacrificed, and users will have to consult the larger book for these. The glossary is much smaller. The lengthy discussions of climate and habitats, appendices, gazetteer and bibliography have been eliminated. For these the reader must refer to the earlier volume. Range statements have been severely reduced, the space instead devoted to retention of distribution maps for most species. (Despite lessened utility of ranges depicted on a reduced scale, a small map is vastly better than none; and presenting maps within the text is, we believe, preferable to having them isolated in a separate section of the book. Maps have been omitted for vagrants, a few truly rare species, and those of extremely restricted distribution.) Abridgement notwithstanding, our aim has been to present more identification-related information than is found in most modern field-books of this size.

At the species level we have made three taxonomic deviations from our original treatment, one in the Musophagidae, one in the Laniidae and one in the Malaconotidae. *Nicator* is now treated as a bush-shrike (as it was years ago) rather than with the bulbuls.

The text again is the product of all three authors. The colour plates are those of the original book. These were designed by Zimmerman who painted 79 of them (including all of the passerines). Ian Willis and H. Douglas Pratt produced 25 and 20 plates respectively. Turner and Pearson executed the distribution maps. Zimmerman prepared the introductory material, plate-caption pages and all line drawings (several of which are new in this book).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Space limitations preclude listing here the many individuals and institutions who contributed so significantly to the earlier book. However, we wish to thank each of them once again, and also express our appreciation to the numerous reviewers of that volume in the scientific and popular press. Specifically providing assistance and/or responding to queries relating directly to this field guide have been Thomas Brooks, Adrian Craig, Kimball Garrett (Los Angeles County Museum), Mary LeCroy (American Museum of Natural History), Jeremy Lindsell, and David Willard (Field Museum of Natural History). Dustin Huntington again has rendered invaluable assistance with computer-disk conversion of the manuscript. Marian Zimmerman has contributed significantly by reading and correcting the hundreds of text pages in various drafts, and she has offered much valued advice. Once again, it has been a pleasure to work with Robert Kirk, of A & C Black, who has been the driving force behind this enterprise.

INTRODUCTION

This volume describes and illustrates the 1084 bird species definitely recorded from the Republic of Kenya, and coverage extends south through ecologically similar territory to 5° 30' south latitude in Tanzania, embracing an additional 34 bird species not found in Kenyan territory. These northern Tanzanian birds are shown on three separate colour plates (122–124), although the text treats them in taxonomic sequence alongside their Kenyan relatives.

Excluded are the birds of extreme northwestern Tanzania, and those found only west of a line southward from Mwanza on the southern shore of Lake Victoria. These western species are more typical of the Ugandan/central African fauna and are beyond the scope of this book. Our arbitrary southern boundary has been dictated by practical considerations. It was clearly desirable to include all species in the popular tourist destinations of Serengeti and other northern Tanzanian national parks, plus the intriguing Usambara Mountains so close to the Kenyan border. In more southern areas, however, access problems limit or preclude easy visitation to many choice sites, and the many different montane endemics and miombo woodland birds alone would have expanded our species list to unwieldy proportions. Nevertheless, many of the book's included species are widespread in eastern Africa, so that our coverage effectively embraces some 90 per cent of the 1046 birds known from Tanzania, 85 per cent of Uganda's 1008 species, and a majority of those in southern Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan as well.

THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Species are treated following a brief family summary. Introductory paragraphs are also provided for a few large subfamilies or genera. These contain information relating to the group as a whole, not repeated under the various species headings. Each species account begins with the bird's English name (see below) followed by its scientific name—trinominal if only one subspecies of a polytypic species is present in the region, binomial if (a) no subspecies are recognized or (b) if two or more are present here (in which case they are named beyond). Following the name and colour-plate number is an approximation of the bird's length in inches.

An asterisk (*) preceding the name indicates a lack of either specimen or suitable photographic evidence of the species in our region. One of those so marked (Green Crombec) is supported by tape recordings.

Initial remarks under the species' name concern important recognition features, typically relating to the bird's appearance, but at times reflecting some behavioural trait, important habitat or diagnostic distributional point as well. Plumage descriptions are not necessarily complete. They are designed to supplement the figures on the colour plates, sometimes ignoring features that are obvious from the illustration. Where most or all species in a group share a common broad feature such as brown upperparts or white underparts, these may receive no mention unless the context so demands. *Adult plumage, and similar or identical sexes, should be assumed unless otherwise indicated.* Amount of descriptive detail varies with the complexity of the group or variation within the species. Birds that are difficult to identify are treated more fully than those that are well-marked or unmistakable. Noteworthy features or unique combinations important to identification are printed in italics. Where necessary, male and female are mentioned separately, as, if applicable, are breeding and non-breeding adult plumages and different colour morphs. The term *juvenile* refers to the bird's first real plumage following the natal down. Immature is used for any subsequent stage preceding adult plumage, although it is often appropriate to specifically mention a first-winter dress. We also use *subadult* for certain plumages in species requiring several years to reach 'full' adult status. Significant subspecific differences are indicated. For some polytypic species, ranges of the various races receive only brief mention, and subspecies characterized by only minor differences are not described (although virtually all that are recognized by us are at least named). Similar species likely to be sources of confusion are also referred to where necessary. Terms used in species descriptions are identified on the bird topography drawings and/or are defined in the glossary.

Relative numerical status is expressed in the terms *abundant*, *common*, *fairly common*, *uncommon*, *scarce*, or *rare*, designations intended only as a rough guide. (A bird may be

abundant one season, rare or absent the next, and numbers may vary greatly between areas. The same term also differs in meaning between groups; a 'common' weaver or dove is far more numerous than a 'common' buzzard or eagle.) A *casual* species is one recorded only 5–10 times in the region, but, considering its normal range, is one that can be expected to turn up again. *Occasional* species appear every few years, but not regularly. *Accidental* or *vagrant* birds have been found once or twice but are not likely to be seen again. (Some pelagic species, currently so considered, may prove to be casual or regular with increased offshore observation.)

Resident species are those present in the region year-round, and *such status is assumed unless otherwise stated*. *Palaearctic migrants* visit East Africa during the northern autumn and winter following breeding in Eurasia. Some remain here for a few months as *winter residents*, but others move through as *passage migrants* to 'winter' quarters in southern Africa. *Intra-African migrants* regularly move into or through our region, e.g. Plain Nightjars disperse southward into Kenya following nesting in northeast Africa, and the southern race of African Golden Oriole spends April to August with us after breeding in the southern tropics. A few *Malagasy migrants* such as Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo and Madagascar Pratincole breed on Indian Ocean islands before spending a significant portion of their year in Africa.

Descriptions of vocalizations, usually given under call or song, are based wherever possible on our own tape recordings and field notes, supplemented by those of our colleagues. A few descriptions are based on reports in the literature, references to which are found in *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*.

Geographic distribution within our region is briefly outlined in the text, under **Range** for all resident species, under **Range/status** for palaearctic, afrotropical and other migrants. (For vagrants, only **status** is considered.) Distributions are elucidated in terms of cities, major towns, districts (and/or 'regions' in Tanzania), important topographic features, national parks and game reserves. Many of those mentioned are located on the two maps on the front covers. A few features require definition: the *eastern Kenyan plateau* encompasses the generally dry regions north, east, and south of the highlands. In the *Rift Valley*, that great trough intersecting Kenya from the north and continuing south to Malawi, lie the important *Rift Valley lakes* of Turkana, Baringo, Bogoria, Nakuru, Elmenteita, Naivasha and Magadi in Kenya, Natron and Manyara in northern Tanzania. The *western Kenyan highlands* are those west of the Rift, the *central highlands* are to the east. *Rift Valley highlands* may be used for elevated areas in or immediately adjacent to the Rift. The *Masai Steppe* is an extensive shelf of dry country extending from Tanzania's Rift wall east to the Pangani River valley below the Pare Mts.

Elevation limits (in metres) are often provided, but are omitted for most altitudinally widespread species. Highlands are considered to be those areas above 1500 m (5000 ft), lowlands below 500 m (1640 ft). Habitat terminology is discussed below.

Seasonal status and habitat are usually dealt with in the captions facing the colour plates, but where convenient, occasional comments are included with range statements or elsewhere in the species account. A **Taxonomic Note** terminates certain accounts where our treatment differs from that of other recent authors, or where we wish to direct attention to a particular point of classification.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Experienced observers know that positive species identification often involves more than matching an unfamiliar bird with a book illustration, but in most cases a person will first consult the colour plates. Similar species are grouped together among the plates wherever practical, but there may be additional birds to consider before deciding on a species name. This is particularly true in challenging groups such as larks, cisticolas and greenbuls that include numerous confusingly similar species. Sometimes, too, quite unrelated birds resemble one another. It is always wise to consult the text.

The family sequence of the plates does not parallel that of the text. Among the non-passerines, 'waterbirds' precede 'landbirds.' Otherwise we have kept related groups together when practical, but there are exceptions. Plates 1 and 2, for example, depict pelagic species regardless of their taxonomic affinities. Optimal space utilization, an overriding consideration in plate design, has resulted in unconventional placement of some small families. Ostriches thus appear with other large ground birds, far from their traditional lead position. Sequence of passerine families is also at variance with the text.

Some superficially similar but rather distantly related groups are placed near one another for easier visual comparisons; pipits are near the larks, and penduline tits, white-eyes and Little Yellow Flycatcher are with the warblers. The pitta and broadbill follow the motacillids, as near the beginning of the Passeriformes as available space permitted. The 34 species restricted (in our region) to northern Tanzania are depicted on the three final plates. Plates and text are conspicuously cross-referenced to avoid location problems.

We have endeavoured to illustrate birds in typical postures for the species, yet still show essential field marks. Where space has permitted, we have included additional figures of flying birds or spread tails if these aid identification. Important subspecific differences have also been illustrated. Ideally, these are full-size (as with the races of Yellow Wagtail), but at times small inset figures must suffice (e.g. White-headed Barbet). Most figures of flying birds are also to a smaller scale. A dividing line across a plate indicates two different size scales, and usually family separation. We offer no apology for crowded plates; purely aesthetic considerations have sometimes been sacrificed in favour of illustrating additional plumages or subspecies. For a few species, we have shown both worn and freshly plumaged birds as feather abrasion and fading can profoundly alter basic appearance. All passerines and most non-passerines have been painted from specific museum specimens, often supplemented by photographs of living birds. For polytypic species the bird figured usually represents a particular race and is so identified in the captions. Ten species, all vagrants, are illustrated only in black and white, either in the text or on an appropriate plate-caption page.

PLATE CAPTION NOTES

Captions opposite each colour plate provide key information in skeletal form, typically including relative abundance, migratory status, indication of habitat, and sometimes a brief reference to geographic range within our region. Captions for a few crowded plates are necessarily brief, but with those exceptions we have tried to provide identification 'essentials' opposite the plates to avoid the need for constant page-flipping to the text.

DISTRIBUTION MAPS

Maps are provided for most species, and show at a glance broad aspects of the bird's recent range (from c. 1960 to 1996). Solid black portions of the maps indicate the distribution of breeding and presumed breeding residents; open hatching (with diagonal lines) shows the non-breeding range of both East African residents and species breeding elsewhere but migrating through or into our region. It is understood that the map reflects distribution *only in areas of suitable habitat* within the broadly designated range. Black dots indicate either isolated breeding records or breeding colonies. Open dots show sites of isolated non-breeding records, both early (to 1950) and recent (through 1996). For a few species (e.g. Black Heron) open dots may indicate former breeding sites. Not reflected in the maps is former distribution of species which have suffered a major reduction in range in recent decades. Open dots are also used for records of rare or little known migrants. International boundaries are represented by dashed lines. For simplicity, the only physical features depicted are Lake Turkana, the eastern edge of Lake Victoria, and the Tana and Athi-Galana-Sabaki rivers.

Readers may note discrepancies between certain of our distribution maps and those for the same species that have appeared in other publications. As we know some available maps to have been based in part on questionable or erroneous sight records, we have interpreted them with great caution. Other maps have been based partially on earlier published range statements, some of which were in error or based on unverifiable information. We have disregarded these in preparing our own maps, relying instead on carefully considered data and many thousands of specimens in European, American and African museums.

HABITAT TERMINOLOGY

(For an expanded discussion of vegetation and bird habitats see *The Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*.) The following terms are used throughout. *Desert* and *semi-desert* occupy extensive areas of low precipitation (especially in the north), grading into *grassland* as rainfall increases. *Bush* refers to a broad range of shrub or low tree growth, mainly under 5 m in height. It grades into *bushed grassland* with widely spaced thickets

of shrubby growth, or into *savanna*—extensive grassy areas with scattered trees. *Scrub* is applied to varied assemblages of low shrubs or coarse perennial herbs 2–3 m in height. Bush and scrub may be deciduous or evergreen, thorny or unarmed.

In higher-rainfall areas, bush and savanna merge into denser *woodland* (in semi-desert areas usually confined to riparian strips), differing from savanna in its more nearly continuous tree canopy (over 20% coverage). Woodland grades into *forest* with its closed upper tree canopy of interlaced crowns. Forest is categorized as *riparian* (along watercourses), *lowland* (below 1000 m) and *highland* or *montane* (above 1500 m). Some anomalous major tracts, such as the western Kakamega and Nandi forests, are ‘highland’ in terms of elevation yet support many ‘lowland’ bird species. Although certain coastal Kenyan forests, and that in the Shimba Hills, have been treated as *lowland rainforest*, our region supports almost no stands that can be so considered. Except for small remnant coastal patches, most of it is in narrow riparian strips or other sites where the trees are maintained by ground water, not rainfall (e.g. the Lake Manyara Forest). Locally at higher elevations is a high-rainfall, temperate or *intermediate rainforest*, e.g. near Kakamega, at 1520–1820 m (5000–6000 ft), and the quite different Amani Forest as low as 900 m (c. 3000 ft) in the Usambara Mts. Structurally and floristically distinct from these are other montane forests such as those on Mt Elgon, Mt Kenya, the Aberdares and Kilimanjaro, also in high-rainfall areas. Less well-developed, but species-rich, ‘dry’ *evergreen forests* (precipitation c. 750 mm or 30 inches), exist on the Taita and Chyulu hills.

More localized habitats are *moorland*, above 3000 m (c. 10,000 ft), and thickets of montane *bamboo*, sometimes with intermediate belts of scrubby *Hagenia/Hypericum* woodland and *giant heath* (*Erica*, *Philippa*), forming a dwarf subalpine forest or shrub association. The moorlands themselves are characterized by coarse tussock grasses and impressive giant species of *Lobelia* and *Senecio*. In the alpine zone above the moors, vegetation is reduced to scattered low plants in sheltered sites, and there are few birds.

In swamps or along rivers, palms of several kinds form belts of specialised habitat. Picturesque doum palms (*Hyphaene*) are characteristic of watercourses in northern and eastern Kenya. *Papyrus swamps*, consisting of nearly pure stands of the giant sedge *Cyperus papyrus*, are prominent around Lake Victoria and scattered elsewhere. *Mangrove swamps* form an important coastal environment. Throughout the region, increasingly large areas of human-modified or -created habitats are superimposed on the original vegetational pattern. Locally attractive to birds are well-wooded *gardens* associated with rural or suburban residences. Croplands, pastures and cultivated fields, some in various stages of abandonment and regrowth, we lump together under the term *cultivation*. In the highlands are extensive *plantations* of introduced *Eucalyptus* or exotic conifers (with little to offer, for most birds).

The large *alkaline* (‘soda’) *lakes* (e.g. Nakuru, Magadi and Natron) support a different biota from *freshwater lakes* such as Naivasha. (Lakes Turkana and Baringo, though alkaline, are fresh enough to support rich fish populations.) Smaller freshwater *ponds*, artificial impoundments behind dams, and sewage treatment ponds provide important resting and feeding areas for many species. Extensive irrigated fields, as in the Mwea and Ahero rice schemes, are also important for waterbirds and waders. Temporarily flooded land, inundated after heavy rains, may persist for months as marsh, swamp or open water, providing breeding and feeding areas. Coastal habitats include sand and coral-rock *beaches*, and the tidal *estuaries* and *mudflats* so essential to palearctic-breeding shorebirds on passage and during their winter sojourn in East Africa.

TAXONOMY AND SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE

Sources for our decisions on family sequence are cited in *The Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*. In general, our taxonomic treatment parallels that of the recent volumes of *The Birds of Africa* (Academic Press, 1992, 1997), with a few important exceptions at both generic and specific levels. Users of East African bird books published prior to the 1990s will notice numerous unfamiliar names, plus a few changes at the family level. Authorities differ in their treatment of certain allopatric forms, and standard zoological nomenclature provides no convenient intermediate category to designate populations believed to be evolutionarily between mere subspecific standing and ‘full’ species status. In East Africa, a few such birds have, in our opinion, diverged sufficiently from their near relatives to be very strong candidates for species status, yet are not universally recognized as such. We treat each under a separate English name, and indicate in brackets after the

generic name, the species to which it seems most closely related (and/or under which it is treated by other authors) e.g. Somali Ostrich, *Struthio (camelus) molybdophanes*. Where applicable, trinomial designations are used throughout, as we treat subspecies in greater detail than do many field guides. Although many of these geographic races differ only in minor ways from one another, others are readily recognizable under field conditions. Still others may be elevated to specific status in the future.

ENGLISH NAMES

English names are those of *The Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* (one exception: 'Blue-eared Starling' of that work is modified to Greater Blue-eared Starling). In the few cases where our preferred names differ from those used in *The Birds of Africa*, we provide alternative names from that work. Where space permits, we include current names that differ in southern Africa for certain widespread species shared by both regions, but we have not attempted to provide alternatives for all of these.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT AND PLATE CAPTIONS

Measurements

cm	centimetres
mm	millimetres
m	metre(s)
mi	mile(s)
km	kilometre(s)
ft	foot; feet
in. or "	inch(es)

Geographical or directional

n.	north(ern)
s.	south(ern)
e.	east(ern)
w. or west.	west(ern)
cent.	central
L.	lake
mt(s)	mountain(s), mount(s)
NP(s)	national park(s)
NR	national reserve
GR(s)	game reserve(s)
R.	river

Other

ad.	adult
br.	breeding
imm.	immature
incl.	including
juv.	juvenile
non-br.	non-breeding
opp.	opposite
sec.	second
sp.	species (singular)
spp.	species (plural)
sq.	square

TERMS RELATING TO BIRD IDENTIFICATION

The following glossary covers morphological terms used in the text excepting many of those for parts labelled on the accompanying drawings (unless elaboration is necessary). Also included are certain other definitions relating to behaviour, distribution and taxonomy.

- Air sacs:** components of the bird's respiratory system; extensions from the lungs to several areas of the body cavity, into certain large bones and under the skin.
- Allopatric:** relating to two or more congeneric forms whose breeding ranges do not overlap.
- Axillaries (axillars):** long inner wing-lining feathers, lying between underside of wing and body.
- Booted:** referring to an undivided tarsal sheath, i.e. one not consisting of separate scales or scutes.
- Brood parasite:** a bird which lays its eggs in the nest of another species (the **host** species) and plays no parental role in raising the young, e.g. Old-World cuckoos and the New-World cowbirds.
- Carpal:** pertaining to the wrist area at the bend of the wing.
- Cere:** in hawks, owls and parrots, the soft basal covering on the maxilla. The nostrils open in, or at the edge of this structure which may be swollen and/or distinctively coloured.
- Cheek:** technically the side of the jaw (i.e. the malar region), but loosely considered to be the general auricular region.
- Commissure:** the line of closure of the two mandibles.
- Congeneric:** belonging to the same genus.
- Conspecific:** belonging to the same species.
- Crepuscular:** active at twilight.
- Crissum:** the under tail-coverts together with the feathers in the vent region; sometimes contrastingly coloured as in d'Arnaud's Barbet.
- Cryptic:** aiding in concealment.
- Culmen:** the dorsal ridge of the maxilla.
- Decurved:** curved downward, as the bill of a curlew.
- Dimorphic:** having two distinct morphs or colour phases. See **Polymorphic**.
- Distal:** farthest from the body; pertaining to the tip of an appendage.
- Diurnal:** active by day.
- DNA:** standard abbreviation for deoxyribose nucleic acid.
- Dorsal:** pertaining to the upper surface; opposite of ventral.
- Eclipse plumage:** a dull plumage worn by males of certain brightly coloured birds (e.g. some sunbirds and male ducks) following breeding.
- Emarginate:** pertaining to a primary feather that is notched or abruptly narrowed along the edge, usually near the tip. Also refers to a slightly forked or notched tail.
- Endemic:** confined to a particular region. Turacos and mousebirds are *endemic* to Africa.
- Family:** a taxonomic category immediately above the genus in rank, composed of a genus or several genera. Family names of birds and other animals invariably end in *-idae*.
- Feather tract (pteryla):** a tract or area of skin to which contour feathers are restricted.
- Filoplume:** an inconspicuous, specialized, hairlike feather, usually most noticeable on the hindneck.
- Flight feathers:** as used here, the long wing feathers or remiges (primaries and secondaries); strictly, the remiges and rectrices taken collectively.
- Foot:** the tarsus and toes, collectively.
- Forked:** referring to a tail with the outer feathers distinctly longer than the innermost, as in terns.
- Form:** as used here, a deliberately non-committal term applied to species and/or subspecies when a more specific taxonomic designation is not desirable or practical in a particular context.
- Gape:** the mouth opening; sometimes used to refer to the rictus (*q.v.*)
- Gape flange:** expanded soft tissue of the rictus as in young birds and adults of some

cuckoo-shrikes; in raptors, may be extended far back to below the eye.

Genus (pl. **genera**): a taxonomic category between family and species; a group of closely related species.

Gonys: the lower median ridge of the mandible; usually smoothly curved but forms a distinct **gonydeal angle** in gulls and some other birds.

Graduated: referring to a tail in which the innermost rectrices are longest, the others becoming progressively shorter toward the sides.

Greater coverts: see **Secondary coverts**.

Gular: pertaining to the throat.

Hackles: long slender feathers on the neck, as in a Vulturine Guineafowl.

Holarctic region: the palearctic and nearctic regions, collectively.

Host: the individual, or species, which incubates the eggs and raises the young of avian **brood parasites**, *q.v.*

Humerus: the upper arm bone.

Immature: in this book, used to refer to the plumage(s) replacing juvenile feathering and preceding adult plumage.

Indigenous: native to a particular country or region. (See *endemic*.)

Invertebrate: an animal lacking a spinal column or 'backbone'; insects, molluscs, worms *et al.*

Iridesence: a type of shiny or 'metallic' structural coloration, essentially independent of feather pigments; well developed in sunbirds and glossy starlings.

Iris (pl. **irides**): the coloured contractile diaphragm of the eye, surrounding the pupil.

Lamellate: possessing numerous thin plates or lamellae, as along the sides of a duck's bill.

Lappet: a wattle, especially at the corner of the mouth.

Lesser Coverts: see **Secondary coverts**.

Lore (pl. **lores**; adj. **loral**): the space between bill and eyelid; may be bare or feathered.

Malar region: the side of the jaw, posterior to the bill. At times marked by a **malar stripe** bordering the upper edge of the throat.

Mandible: the lower part of the bill (often called 'lower mandible'); the plural is used with reference to both upper and lower portions.

Mandibular ramus (pl. **rami**): the projection of the mandible extending posteriorly on each side of the jaw.

Maxilla: the upper half of the bill; often termed 'upper mandible.'

Median coverts: see **Secondary coverts**.

Monotypic: containing only one type or representative. A monotypic species includes no recognized subspecies.

Morph: a plumage 'colour phase' of a polymorphic or dimorphic species.

Morphological: pertaining to form or structure.

Moult (molt): the periodic process of shedding old feathers and replacing these with new ones.

Nearctic region: the biogeographical region comprising North America south to the tropics.

Neotropical region: the New World tropics; one of the world's six major biogeographical regions.

Nidicolous: refers to bird species in which young remain in the nest for some time following hatching.

Nidifugous: refers to species whose young leave the nest soon after hatching.

Nocturnal: active at night.

Nominate subspecies (race): the first population of a polytypic species to be described. Designated by repetition of the specific epithet, e.g. *Amadina fasciata fasciata*.

Nuchal: pertaining to the nape.

Orbital ring: a circle of bare skin surrounding the eye, as opposed to the feathered eye-ring.

Palearctic region: one of the world's six major biogeographical regions, comprising Eurasia south to the Himalayas and North Africa.

Panel: an elongated wing patch formed by more or less contrasting feather edges, as in the primaries of various cisticolas. See wing edgings.

Passerine: pertaining to the Order Passeriformes, the 'perching birds.'

Patagium (adj. **patagial**): the fold of skin between the carpal area of the wing and the body.

- Pectinate:** comb-like, i.e. bearing numerous tooth-like projections.
- Pectoral patch:** a clearly defined dark area of plumage on either side of the breast.
- Pelagic:** pertaining to the open sea.
- Plumage:** a bird's feathers, collectively. Also used more specifically for a particular feather coat or feather generation between moults. Each species has a characteristic plumage sequence.
- Polymorphic:** having two (then often called dimorphic) or more distinct, genetically determined colour morphs within a species, independent of age, sexual, seasonal or subspecific variation.
- Polytypic:** having two or more taxonomic divisions within the category referred to. Usually applied to those species divisible into subspecies.
- Posthumeral (posthumeral quills):** in some birds, the large, often long, inner wing feathers, usually lacking the rigidity of remiges, lying along or near the trailing edge of the humerus. Sometimes confusingly called tertiaries or tertials (q.v.), but not a feather series comparable with secondaries or primaries, and distinct from the true tertiaries which arise from the humerus in certain very large birds.
- Postocular stripe:** a (usually dark) line behind the eye; the posterior part of an **eye-line**.
- Powder-down feathers:** highly modified body feathers, short, silky and disintegrating at the tips into a very fine powder that produces a characteristic bloom on the bird's plumage, best developed in herons (among East African birds).
- Primary extension:** the length of that portion of the primaries visible beyond the ends of the secondaries in a folded wing.
- Primaries:** the outermost flight feathers of the wing, those attached to the bird's hand bones and digits.
- Proximal:** refers to the part of an appendage near the body; opposite of distal.
- Race:** see **subspecies**.
- Raptor:** a bird with strong claws and sharp talons for tearing prey. Usually used with reference to the diurnal Falconiformes (hawks and relatives) but applies also to owls. (adj. **raptorial**).
- Rectrix:** a tail feather.
- Recurved:** curved upward, as an avocet's bill.
- Remex:** a flight feather of the wing, either a primary or secondary.
- Scute(s):** the horny plates or scales, as in a scutellate tarsus.
- Secondaries:** the series of flight feathers (remiges) arising from, and attached to the ulna. The more or less differentiated inner secondaries are sometimes called **tertials** (q.v.)
- Secondary coverts:** partially overlapping feathers covering the bases of the secondaries. (Includes **greater**, **median** and **lesser coverts**; usually refers to the upper wing surface, but a comparable series exists on the underside (cf. **wing-lining**).
- Serrate:** saw-toothed.
- Shaft streak:** a narrow longitudinal mark along the central axis of a feather.
- Sibling Species:** two or more very closely related species, nearly identical morphologically but each usually distinct vocally or behaviourally.
- Species (sg. & pl.):** in the vernacular, a 'kind' of bird (or other organism). As defined by Ernst Mayr, a group of "actually or potentially interbreeding populations which are reproductively isolated from other such groups."
- Speculum:** A bright, sharply contrasting patch near the rear edge of a wing, especially the iridescent areas on the secondaries of waterfowl; conspicuous in flight.
- Spur:** a sharp projection (corneous modified skin over a bony core) as on the tarsus of a spurfowl or from near the carpal joint on the wing (as in Spur-winged Plover).
- Streamer:** exceptionally long slender outermost or innermost rectrices as in a tern or tropicbird.
- Subadult:** applies to the later (older) stages of immature birds (i.e. those two or three years old) in those species which require more than one year to reach full maturity.
- Rachis:** the shaft of a feather.
- Subspecies (sg. & pl.):** a geographic *race* of a species; a population (or group of populations) morphologically and geographically defined. The subspecies of a species interbreed freely where (and if) their ranges overlap, thereby producing intermediate populations sharing characteristics of each form but readily assignable to neither. Designated trinomially in scientific nomenclature. See **species**.
- Supercilium:** that part of the head immediately above the eye; in many birds marked by

a **superciliary stripe** (or 'superciliary')

Supra-: a prefix meaning 'above.' Supraloral lines are above the lores.

Sympatric: applied to two congeneric species whose breeding ranges overlap; the opposite of allopatric.

Tarsus (pl. **tarsi**): technically, the **tarsometatarsus**, together with the tibia, loosely termed 'leg' (although the tarsus and toes anatomically constitute a bird's *foot*). Typically featherless, and covered with smooth scales, but feathered in sandgrouse, most owls and some other birds.

Taxon: any taxonomic unit—order, family, genus, species, etc.

Taxonomy (adj. **Taxonomic**): the science of classification of plants and animals according to their natural relationships.

Tertials: a term now generally avoided by ornithologists but perpetuated by birders to apply to a few differently coloured or patterned inner secondaries, or to strongly differentiated proximal secondaries or adjacent specialized posthumeral feathers (usually elongated and pointed) in shorebirds, larks *et al.* True tertiaries or tertials, originating on the humerus, are found only in certain large, long-winged birds such as albatrosses.

Tibia (pl. **tibiae**): the **tibiotarsus** ('drumstick') of the leg; partly bare in numerous birds such as herons, but largely feathered in most small birds (entire tibia featherless in Golden Pipit). Often casually designated as the 'thigh,' (especially if the feathering contrastingly coloured), but the true thighs are seldom visible in a living bird.

Tomia (sg. **tomium**): the hard cutting edges of the bill. There are maxillary tomia (one on each side) and comparable mandibular tomia, mutually apposed in the closed bill.

Trinomial: designation of a bird's scientific name by a generic name and both specific and subspecific epithets, e.g. *Anthreptes collaris elachior*; in other words, the name of a subspecies.

Ulna: the posterior and heavier forearm bone to which a bird's secondaries are attached.

Underparts: the feathers from chin to under tail-coverts, usually not including underside of the tail.

Upperparts: the feathered dorsal surface from forehead to upper tail-coverts, usually including the scapulars and wing-coverts, sometimes also the upper surface of the tail.

Vane: the flattened part of a feather, attached to the shaft (rachis); divided into outer and inner **webs**.

Vent: the opening of the cloaca to the surface of the body; the feathers of this region, between lower belly and under tail-coverts.

Ventral: pertaining to the underside of the body; opposite of dorsal.

Vertebrate: any 'backboned' animal (Subphylum Vertebrata) supporting a vertebral column—bony fish, amphibian, reptile, bird or mammal.

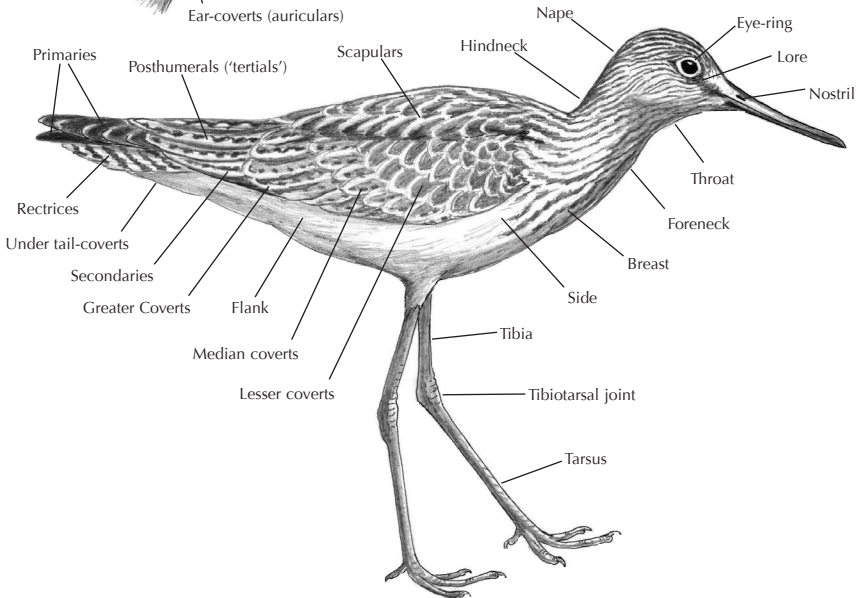
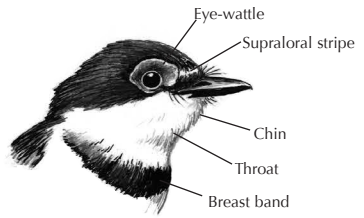
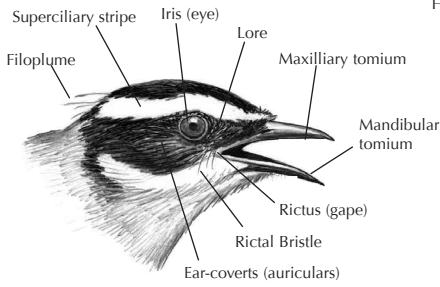
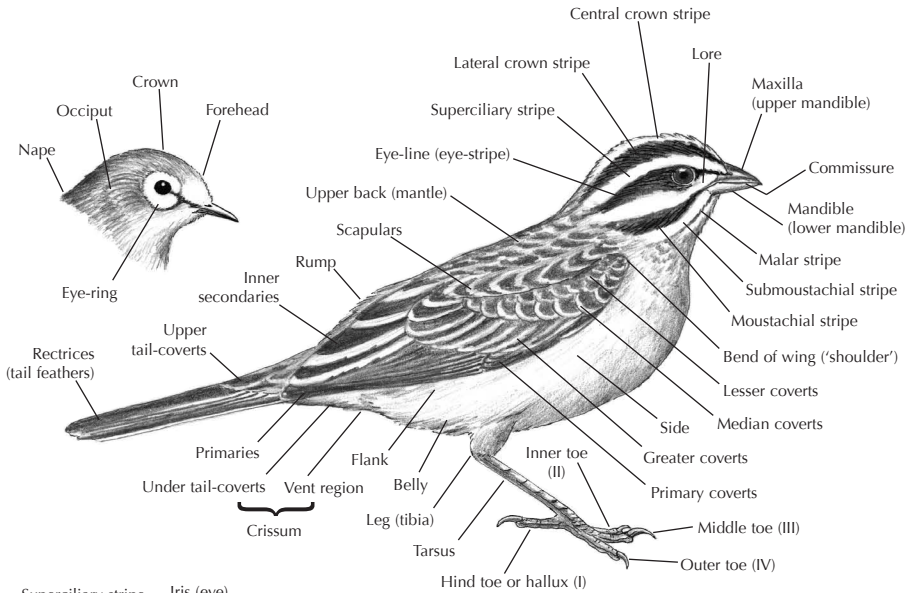
Wattle: a fleshy, largely unfeathered appendage of the head or neck, usually more or less wrinkled and often brightly coloured, as the **eye-wattles** of paradise flycatchers or wattle-eyes.

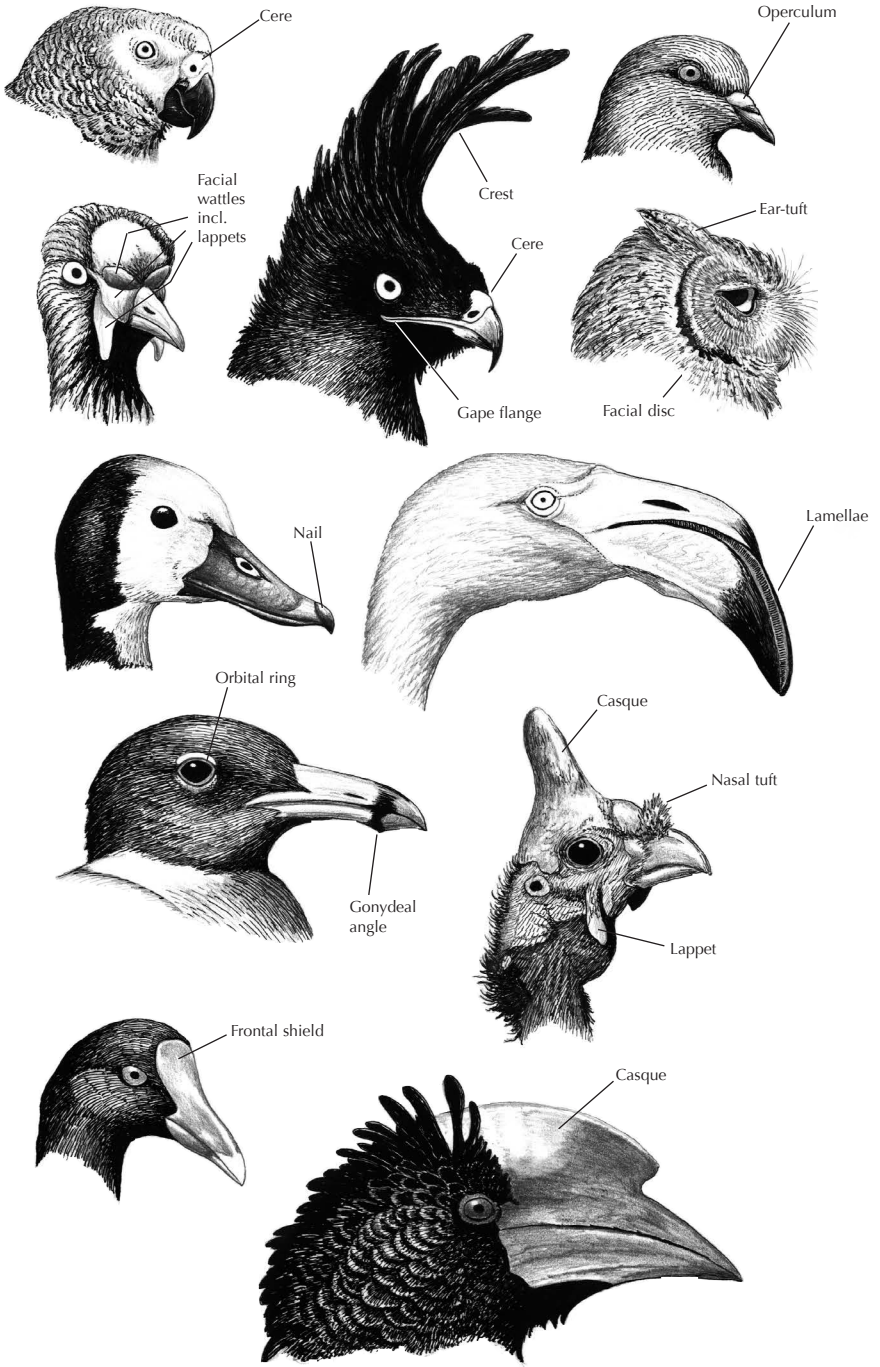
Web: of feather, see **vane**. Of toes, a thin flexible membrane attached to the sides of (and often connecting) the toes of various waterbirds.

Wing edgings: contrastingly coloured edges of the flight feathers, becoming less conspicuous as the outer web of the feather wears away.

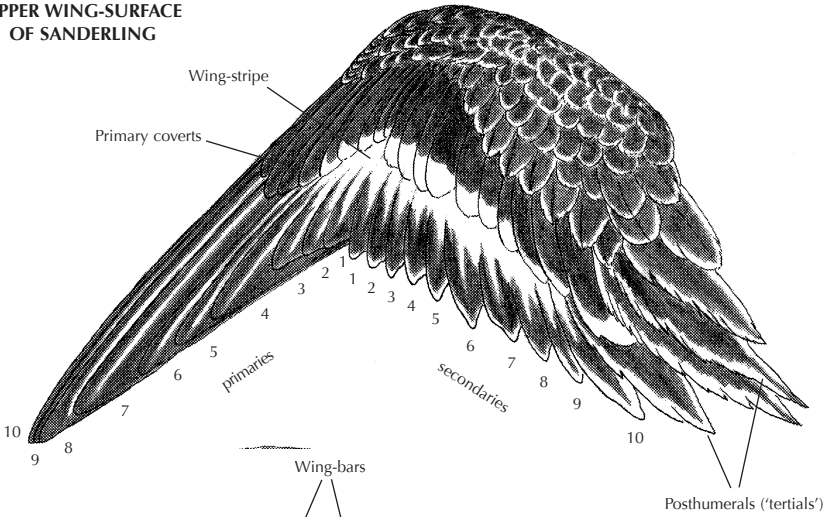
Wing-lining: the under wing-coverts considered collectively.

Zygodactyl: two toes (nos. 2 and 3) in front and two (1st and 4th) directed backward, as in woodpeckers, cuckoos *et al.*

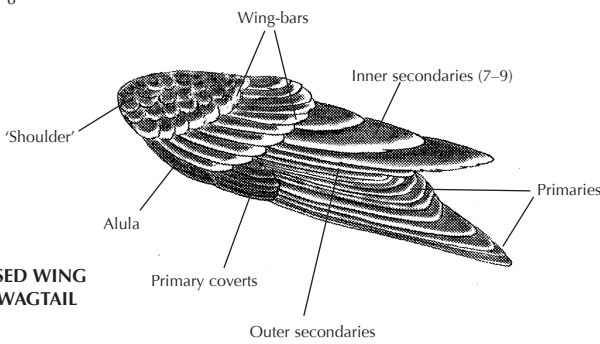




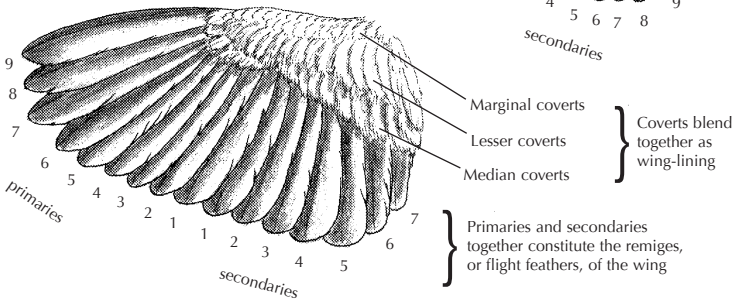
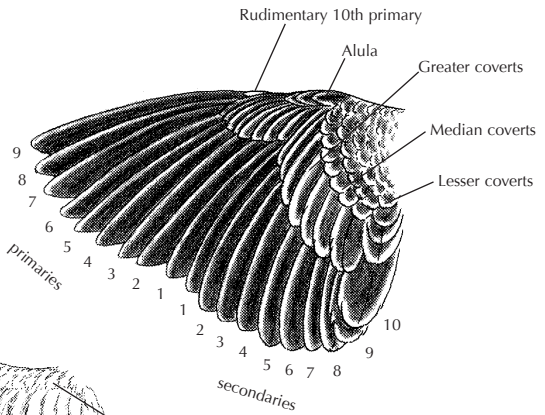
**UPPER WING-SURFACE
OF SANDERLING**



**CLOSED WING
OF WAGTAIL**



WINGS OF SPARROW (PASSER)
Right: upperside
Below: underside

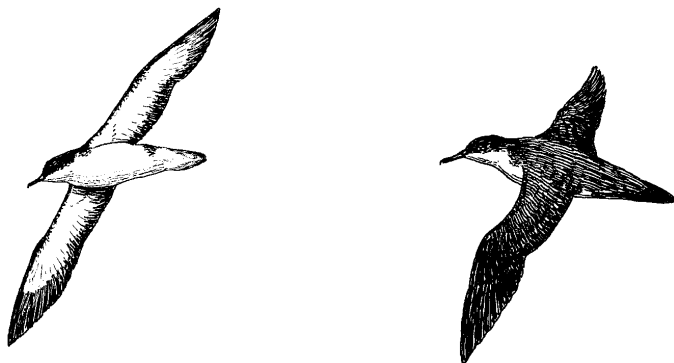


PLATES 1–124

- 1 Pelagic birds (frigatebirds, tubenoses and boobies)
- 2 Pelagic birds (storm-petrels, tropicbird and marine terns)
- 3 Small terns in flight
- 4 Large terns and skimmer in flight
- 5 Small gulls, terns and skimmer
- 6 Large gulls
- 7 Subadult gulls in flight
- 8 Skuas and adult gulls
- 9 Storks and cranes
- 10 Ibises, spoonbills and flamingos
- 11 Large herons and hamerkop
- 12 Small herons
- 13 Herons and egrets
- 14 Pelicans, cormorants and darter
- 15 Grebes, geese and ducks
- 16 Ducks
- 17 Coursers, pratincoles and thick-knees
- 18 Large plovers
- 19 Small plovers
- 20 Small sandpipers
- 21 Flying sandpipers and plovers
- 22 Sandpipers, shanks and phalaropes (adults)
- 23 Godwits, curlews, ruff and turnstone
- 24 Large pied waders, snipe, painted-snipe
- 25 Gallinules, rails, jacanas, finfoot
- 26 Crakes and flufftails
- 27 Turnicids, quail, Stone Partridge and francolins
- 28 Francolins and guineafowl
- 29 Bustards
- 30 Large ground birds
- 31 Vultures and Palm-nut Vulture
- 32 Vultures and eagles overhead
- 33 Buzzards, accipiters & chanting goshawks overhead
- 34 Miscellaneous large raptors overhead
- 35 Eagles, buzzards, other raptors in flight
- 36 Flying sparrowhawks, chanting goshawks, Pygmy Falcon, harriers
- 37 Falcons and kites overhead
- 38 *Aquila* eagles
- 39 Buzzards, Honey Buzzard, Osprey and eagles
- 40 Snake eagles, Fish Eagle, Bateleur
- 41 Chanting goshawks, *Hieraetus* and Great Sparrowhawk
- 42 Accipiters
- 43 Cuckoo-Hawk, kites, harriers, Grasshopper and Lizard Buzzards
- 44 Dark-plumaged raptors
- 45 Falcons
- 46 Smaller falcons
- 47 Parrots and sandgrouse
- 48 *Streptopelia* doves
- 49 Pigeons and doves
- 50 Turacos
- 51 Cuckoos
- 52 Cuckoos and coucals
- 53 Nightjars
- 54 Nightjars
- 55 Larger owls
- 56 Smaller owls
- 57 Swifts
- 58 Mousebirds and trogons
- 59 Kingfishers
- 60 Bee-eaters
- 61 Rollers and Hoopoe
- 62 Wood-hoopoes and scimitarbills
- 63 Hornbills (*Tockus* and *Bycanistes*)
- 64 Barbets
- 65 Tinkerbirds, small woodpeckers and wrynecks
- 66 Woodpeckers
- 67 Honeyguides and honeybirds
- 68 Golden Pipit, longclaws, pitta and broadbill
- 69 Wagtails
- 70 Pipits
- 71 Larks
- 72 Larks (*Mirafr*)
- 73 Swallows
- 74 Swallows (in flight)
- 75 Bulbul, bristlebill and larger greenbul
- 76 Greenbuls and brownbuls
- 77 Glossy starlings
- 78 Starlings and oxpeckers
- 79 Chestnut-winged starlings
- 80 Orioles and corvids
- 81 Cuckoo-shrikes and drongos
- 82 Bush-shrikes
- 83 Bush-shrikes
- 84 Shrikes
- 85 Shrikes and helmet-shrikes
- 86 Wattle-eyes and batises
- 87 Flycatchers and Shrike-flycatcher
- 88 Monarch flycatchers, Black-and-white Flycatcher, black flycatchers
- 89 Babblers and chatters (*Turdoides*)
- 90 Illadopses, hill-babbler and thrushes (part)
- 91 Thrushes (*Turdus/Monticola/Zoothera/Neocossyphus*)
- 92 Thrushes (robin-chats, scrub robins, chats)
- 93 Thrushes (akalats, Irania, chats *et al.*)
- 94 Thrushes (wheatears)
- 95 Warblers (*Acrocephalus*, *Bradypterus* *et al.*)
- 96 Warblers (paleartic migrants, except nos 1–3)
- 97 Unstreaked cisticolas
- 98 Larger streaked cisticolas
- 99 Smaller streaked cisticolas
- 100 African warblers (*Apalis* and relatives)
- 101 African warblers (*Prinia*, *Parisoma* *et al.*)
- 102 African warblers, Little Yellow Flycatcher and white-eyes
- 103 African warblers (crombecs, camaropteras), tits and creeper
- 104 Long-tailed sunbirds
- 105 Sunbirds
- 106 Sunbirds
- 107 Dull-plumaged sunbirds
- 108 Sparrows, petronia, Speckle-fronted Weaver
- 109 Sparrow-weavers, buffalo-weavers, social weavers
- 110 Whydahs, indigobirds and queleas
- 111 Breeding male bishops and widowbirds
- 112 Dull-plumaged bishops, widowbirds, queleas, Parasitic Weaver
- 113 *Ploceus* weavers (part) and Parasitic Weaver
- 114 *Ploceus* weavers (part) and malimbe
- 115 *Ploceus* weavers (part) and Chestnut Sparrow
- 116 *Ploceus* weavers (mostly females and juveniles)
- 117 Waxbills and relatives
- 118 Estrildids (cordon-bleus, pytilias and firefinches)
- 119 Estrildids (mannikins, twinspots *et al.*)
- 120 Canaries
- 121 Seedeaters, buntings, Oriole-Finch
- 122 Northern Tanzanian birds
- 123 Northern Tanzanian birds (Usambara Mts)
- 124 N. Tanzanian birds (incl. Pemba Island specialties)

PLATE 1: PELAGIC BIRDS (FRIGATEBIRDS, TUBENOSES AND BOOBIES)

- 1 GREATER FRIGATEBIRD** *Fregata minor* **Page 277**
 Usually far from shore. Long, pointed wings and long, forked (when spread) tail. The most likely frigatebird in our area. **1a. Adult female.** Grey chin and throat merge with white breast (throat black in vagrant Lesser Frigatebird (see p. 277) **1b. Immature.** White or pale chestnut head. **1c. Adult male.** Entirely black underparts. (Lesser shows small white flank/wing-lining patches.)
- 2 BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS** *Diomedea melanophris* **Page 270**
 Rare north to latitude of Mombasa. Underside of wings with white centre, black borders. **2a. Adult.** Upperside. **2b. Adult.** Underside.
- 3 SHY ALBATROSS** *Diomedea cauta* **Page 270**
 Wanderer to Pemba Channel, possibly regular Aug.–Sept. Black mark at junction of underside of wing and body, and black notch near carpal joint.
- 4 WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus pacificus* **Page 271**
 Scarce; recorded between Shimoni and Lamu. Wings held forward, slightly bowed and angled. Long wedge-shaped tail with even sides. Smaller Jouanin’s Petrel (p. 272). shows different tail outline. **4a. Adult.** Upperside. **4b. Adult.** Underside.
- 5 AUDUBON’S SHEARWATER** *Puffinus lherminieri* **Page 271**
 Uncommon but regular offshore, mainly north of Kilifi. Fluttering flight. Dark brown cap extends below eyes; under tail-coverts dark. (Flanks and sides also brown in *P. l. persicus*. See text. Mascarene Shearwater, *P. atrodorsalis*, is black, not dark brown, above and has white under tail-coverts. (See figure below.)
- 6 BROWN BOOBY** *Sula leucogaster* **Page 275**
 Vagrant. Smaller and longer-tailed than Masked Booby. White confined to lower breast, belly and under tail-coverts and central part of underwing. Female illustrated.
- 7 MASKED BOOBY** *Sula dactylatra melanops* **Page 275**
 Uncommon but regular in Pemba Channel. **7a. Immature.** Whitish collar more or less conspicuous; white area on underside of wing encloses dark stripe parallel to leading edge. (Similar to rare Brown Booby; see text.) **7b. Adult.** Black tail and yellow bill distinguish this species from similar Red-footed Booby. (Extralimital Cape Gannet, possible in Tanzanian waters, has pale blue-grey bill and yellow wash on head.)
- 8 RED-FOOTED BOOBY** *Sula sula rubripes* **Page 275**
 Casual, Aug.–March. Plumage variable. Feet red. **8a. Brown morph.** **8b. White morph.** White tail distinctive.

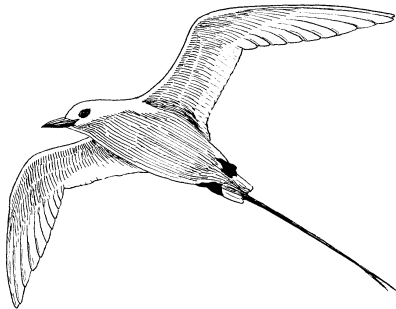


Mascarene Shearwaters



PLATE 2: PELAGIC BIRDS (STORM-PETRELS, TROPICBIRD AND MARINE TERNS)

- 1 BLACK-BELLIED STORM-PETREL** *Fregetta tropica* Page 274
Vagrant. Black mid-ventral line on white belly.
- 2 WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus* Page 273
Uncommon, but probably annual, April–Dec. Small and dark. Flight fluttery, usually just above water, the feet often pattering on the surface. Feet project beyond tail in flight.
- 3 LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Page 273
Vagrant. Feet do not project beyond forked tail in flight.
- 4 BROWN NODDY** *Anous stolidus pileatus* Page 356
Uncommon offshore throughout the year. Numerous near breeding islands, June–Sept. Wedge-shaped tail. **4a. Adult.** Tail darker than the back. Whitish cap contrasts sharply with dark loreal area. **4b. Immature.** White restricted to forehead. Feathers of upperparts and wings pale-tipped.
- 5 LESSER NODDY** *Anous t. tenuirostris* Page 356
Rare, but perhaps regular off s. Kenya and in Pemba Channel. Tail of adult appears greyish, paler than the back. Whitish cap often extends below eyes, not contrasting with loreal area; bill longer and thinner than in Brown Noddy.
- 6 WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD** *Phaethon l. lepturus* Page 274
Uncommon but regular in Pemba Channel, Aug.–March. Occasional farther north at other times. (Immature has different pattern and lacks tail streamers; see text.)
- 7 WHITE-CHEEKED TERN** *Sterna repressa* Page 354
Locally common, sometimes in large flocks north of Mombasa, uncommon farther south. Occasionally seen from shore. **7a. Non-breeding plumage.** Darker, and narrower-winged than similar Common Tern. **7b. Breeding plumage.** Grey above, including rump; black cap separated from dark grey underparts by broad white facial streak.
- 8 SOOTY TERN** *Sterna fuscata nubilosa* Page 355
Regular and sometimes common at sea; rarely seen from shore. Breeds erratically in Lamu area. Feeds by daintily dipping or hovering near surface. **8a. Juvenile.** Pale lower belly/crissum and forked tail separate it from noddies. **8b. Adult.** White on forehead and underparts.
- 9 BRIDLED TERN** *Sterna anaethetus antarctica* Page 355
Fairly common at sea; rare inshore. Associates with Brown Noddy and Sooty Tern. **9a. Juvenile.** Paler than young Sooty Tern; whitish collar on hindneck. **9b. Adult.** Back brownish grey, usually separated from black cap by whitish collar. White of forehead extends back above eyes.



Red-tailed Tropicbird, Phaethon rubricauda. Probable in Kenyan waters, but no substantiated records. See text.



1

4a

5

2

4b

6

3

7a

7b

8a

9a

HDP

8b

9b

PLATE 3: SMALLER TERNS IN FLIGHT (See also Plates 2 and 5)

- 1 BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias n. niger* **Page 356**
Rare inland migrant. **1a. Spring adult** (rare in East Africa). **1b. Winter adult.** Rump and tail grey. Dark grey patches on sides of breast.
- 2 WHITE-WINGED TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus* **Page 356**
Common migrant on large inland lakes. Scarce at coast. Some present all year. **2a. Winter adult. 2b. Juvenile.** Dark back patch, pale wings. **2c. Spring adult.**
- 3 GULL-BILLED TERN** *Sterna n. nilotica* **Page 352**
Locally common migrant, Aug.–April, on large inland lakes. Smaller numbers along coast. Stocky, thick-billed. **3a and 3d. Spring adults.** Pale grey above. **3b. Juvenile. 3c. Winter adult.**
- 4 WHISKERED TERN** *Chlidonias hybridus delalandii* **Page 355**
Widespread inland. Breeds in small colonies on freshwater lakes. Suggests short-tailed *Sterna*. **4a. Non-breeding adult.** Back and tail uniformly grey. **4b. Juvenile.** Brown back with buff feather edges. **4c. Breeding adult.** White facial stripe separates black cap from dark underparts; bill dark red.
- 5 ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii bangsi* **Page 354**
Coastal. Present all year; locally abundant, May–Oct. More slender and appears whiter than other terns. Bill long and narrow. **5a. Juvenile.** Narrow whitish forehead band, mottled back, white collar and pale grey rump, dark carpal bar. Bill black. **5b and 5d. Breeding adults.** All-red bill and feet, very long outer rectrices. **5c. Non-breeding adult.** Narrow black bill may show some dull red at base; white forehead.
- 6 COMMON TERN** *Sterna h. hirundo* **Page 354**
Common/abundant along coast, Aug.–Dec. and in April. Scarce on Rift Valley lakes. Shorter, greyer than Roseate Tern. **6a. First-winter bird** (some juvenile feathers). Dark-edged outer rectrices; base of bill orange. **6b and 6d. Spring adults.** Dark trailing primary edge; outer rectrices darker-edged and shorter than in Roseate Tern. Bill usually black (becomes largely red after birds leave East Africa). **6c. Non-breeding adult.** White forehead and forecrown.
- 7 LITTLE TERN** *Sterna a. albifrons* **Page 355**
Status uncertain (April specimens from coast and Lake Naivasha). **7a. Juvenile.** First-winter birds may retain many juvenile feathers. **7b and 7d. Spring adults.** Black only on outer 2 or 3 primaries (outer 3 or 4 in Saunders's); tail white (not pale grey). **7c. Non-breeding adult.** Usually inseparable from Saunders's Tern. See text.
- 8 SAUNDERS'S TERN** *Sterna (albifrons) saundersi* **Page 355**
Abundant coastal migrant, most numerous Oct.–April. Status at Lake Turkana uncertain (one Oct. specimen record). **Breeding adult.** White forehead patch less elongate than in Little Tern.



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PLATE 4: LARGER TERNS AND SKIMMER IN FLIGHT (See also Plate 5)

- 1 CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia* **Page 353**
Annual winter migrant to Lake Turkana and the coast north of Mombasa. Size may suggest gull, but tern-like bill and habits distinctive. **1a. Juvenile acquiring first-winter plumage. 1b. Winter adult. 1c. Spring adult.**
- 2 SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna s. sandvicensis* **Page 353**
Uncommon migrant to n. Kenyan coast. Vagrant to Rift Valley lakes. **2a. Juvenile. 2b. Winter adult. 2c. Spring adult.**
- 3 LESSER CRESTED TERN** *Sterna b. bengalensis* **Page 353**
Present along coast throughout the year. Vagrant to Rift Valley lakes. **3a. Breeding adult. 3b. Non-breeding adult. 3c. First-year bird.**
- 4 GREATER CRESTED TERN** *Sterna bergii* **Page 353**
Coastal. Less common than Lesser Crested Tern. Two races: *S. b. velox*, with darker grey upperparts, on n. Kenyan coast; paler *S. b. thalassina* along south coast and in Pemba Channel. **4a. *S. b. velox*, breeding adult. 4b. *S. b. velox*, juvenile. 4c. *S. b. velox*, non-breeding adult. 4d. *S. b. thalassina*, breeding adult. 4e. *S. b. thalassina*, non-breeding adult.**
- 5 AFRICAN SKIMMER** *Rynchops flavirostris* **Page 357**
Resident at Lake Turkana; uncommon and irregular elsewhere. **5a. Newly fledged juvenile. 5b. Non-breeding adult. 5c and 5d. Breeding adults.**



African Skimmer flock



PLATE 5: SMALL GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMER (See also Plates 3, 4, 7 and 8)

- 1 **GREY-HEADED GULL** *Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus* Page 351
Common on inland lakes; rare at coast. Larger, stouter, longer tarsi and thicker bill than Nos. 2 and 3. **1a. Non-breeding adult.** Suggestion of breeding pattern; sometimes faint ear spot. **1b. Juvenile.** Broad white collar. **1c. Breeding adult.** Dove-grey hood, pale eyes. **1d. First-year.** Fainter head markings and tail band than 3c; primaries dark.
- 2 **SLENDER-BILLED GULL** *Larus genei* Page 352
Scarce palearctic migrant to lakes Turkana and Nakuru; rare elsewhere. Long-billed; shallow sweeping forehead. **2a. Spring adult. 2b. Winter adult. 2c. First-winter.** From 2b by two-toned bill, dark band across wing, dark tail tip.
- 3 **BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* Page 351
Uncommon palearctic migrant, inland and coastal. Slender bill of medium length. **3a. Spring adult. 3b. Winter adult. 3c. First-winter.** Two-toned bill.
- 4 **WHITE-CHEEKED TERN** *Sterna repressa* Page 354
Coastal, mainly beyond the reef; present all year. **4a. Breeding adult.** White facial streak; grey underparts. **4b. Non-breeding adult.** Suggests Common Tern, but darker grey and bill and legs shorter.
- 5 **ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii bangsi* Page 354
Coastal; present all year. Elegant pearl-white appearance. **5a. Breeding-plumaged adult.** Long outer tail feathers; pink bloom on underparts; bill becomes red when breeding (See Plate 3). **5b. Non-breeding adult.** White forehead and crown, shorter outer tail feathers, narrow black carpal bar.
- 6 **LESSER CRESTED TERN** *Sterna b. bengalensis* Page 353
Common all year along coast; regular on lower Tana River; vagrant to Rift Valley lakes. Crested, with slender orange or orange-yellow bill. **6a. Breeding adult.** Entire top of head black. **6b. Non-breeding adult.** Extensive white on crown.
- 7 **COMMON TERN** *Sterna h. hirundo* Page 354
Common palearctic migrant along coast; large offshore flocks. Many immatures oversummer. Scarce on Rift Valley lakes. **7a. Late-spring adult.** (Bill usually black in our region, becoming red after leaving East African waters.) **7b. Winter adult.** Broader black carpal bar than in non-breeding Roseate Tern.
- 8 **GREATER CRESTED TERN** *Sterna bergii* Page 353
Coastal. Large, with heavy, pale yellow or greenish-yellow bill drooping at tip. **8a. S. b. velox, breeding adult.** Visitor north of Malindi. **8b. S. b. velox, non-breeding adult. 8c. S. b. thalassina, non-breeding adult.** South of Mombasa and in Pemba Channel.
- 9 **SAUNDERS'S TERN** *Sterna (albifrons) saundersi* Page 355
Common migrant along coast, Oct.–April; also on lower Tana River and Lake Turkana. Small size, rapid wingbeats. See text and Plate 3. **9a. Non-breeding adult.** Differs from 5b and 7b in size and wing action. See text. **9b. Breeding adult.** Black-tipped yellow bill. 'Square' white forehead patch does not extend behind eyes as in Little Tern.
- 10 **CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia* Page 353
Uncommon migrant along coast and at Lake Turkana. Large and crested, with heavy red bill. **10a. Winter adult. 10b. Spring adult.**
- 11 **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna s. sandvicensis* Page 353
Uncommon palearctic migrant on n. Kenyan coast; accidental inland. Pale and crested. Yellow bill tip inconspicuous at distance. **11a. Winter adult. 11b. Spring adult.**
- 12 **AFRICAN SKIMMER** *Rynchops flavirostris* Page 357
Locally common at Lake Turkana; sporadic elsewhere; rare along coast. Appears less elongate than shown.
- 13 **GULL-BILLED TERN** *Sterna n. nilotica* Page 352
Migrant, Aug.–April, locally common on large inland lakes; less numerous along coast. Stockier, greyer above than Sandwich Tern, with heavier bill. **13a. Winter adult. 13b. Spring adult.**

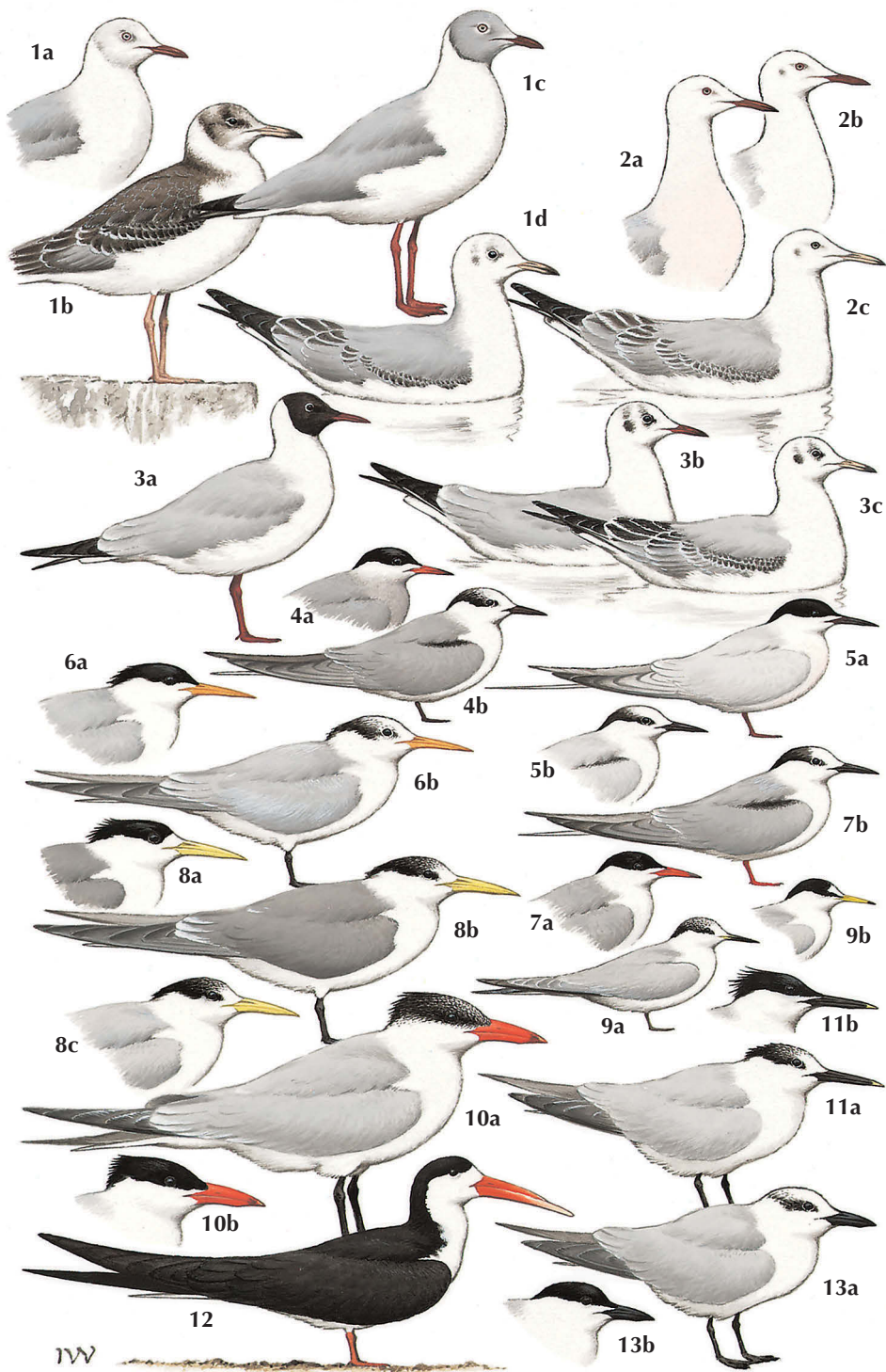


PLATE 6: LARGE GULLS (See also Plates 7 and 8)

1 SOOTY GULL *Larus hemprichii*

Page 350

Coastal resident, at times common; some breed north of Lamu. Long-winged and long-billed. **1a. Juvenile acquiring first-year plumage.** Pale head and dorsal feather edgings. **1b. Non-breeding adult.** Head/neck pattern less well defined than in breeding plumage. **1c. Breeding adult.** White neck patch separates dark hood from grey-brown breast. Bill pale, with black band and red tip.

2 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Page 351

Paleartic migrant, common Oct.–April along coast and on larger inland lakes; some oversummer. Somewhat smaller and lighter in build than Heuglin's Gull. **2a. *L. f. fuscus*, second-winter.** Bill largely pale yellowish. **2b. *L. f. fuscus*, first-winter.** Bill blackish. **2c. *L. f. fuscus*, winter adult.** Black of back same shade as primaries. **2d. *L. f. graellsii*, second-winter.** Dense streaking on back and neck; medium grey on back. **2e. *L. f. graellsii*, winter adult.** Medium grey.

3 HEUGLIN'S GULL *Larus heuglini*

Page 350

Regular along n. Kenyan coast, Nov.–March; sometimes fairly common (but no Kenyan specimens). Flocks with Lesser Black-backed Gulls. See text. **3a. (Presumed) *L. h. taimyrensis*, pale adult.** (Illustration from bird photographed at Malindi, Dec. 1992.) **3b. (Presumed) *L. h. taimyrensis*, darker adult.** (From bird photographed at Malindi, Jan. 1983.) **3c. *L. h. heuglini*, second-winter.** Bill blackish. **3d. *L. h. heuglini*, winter adult.** Bill yellow with red or black-and-red spot. Black primaries slightly darker than back. Bill somewhat larger than in *L. f. fuscus*; head and neck usually with some dark streaking.

4 KELP GULL *Larus dominicanus vetula*

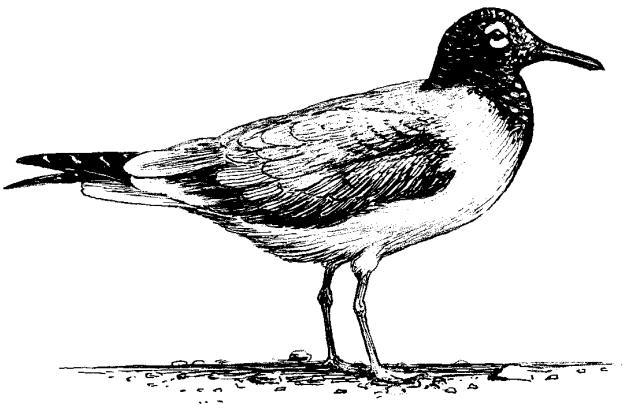
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Vagrant from s. Africa. **4a. Juvenile/first-winter.** Bill blackish. **4b. Non-breeding adult.**

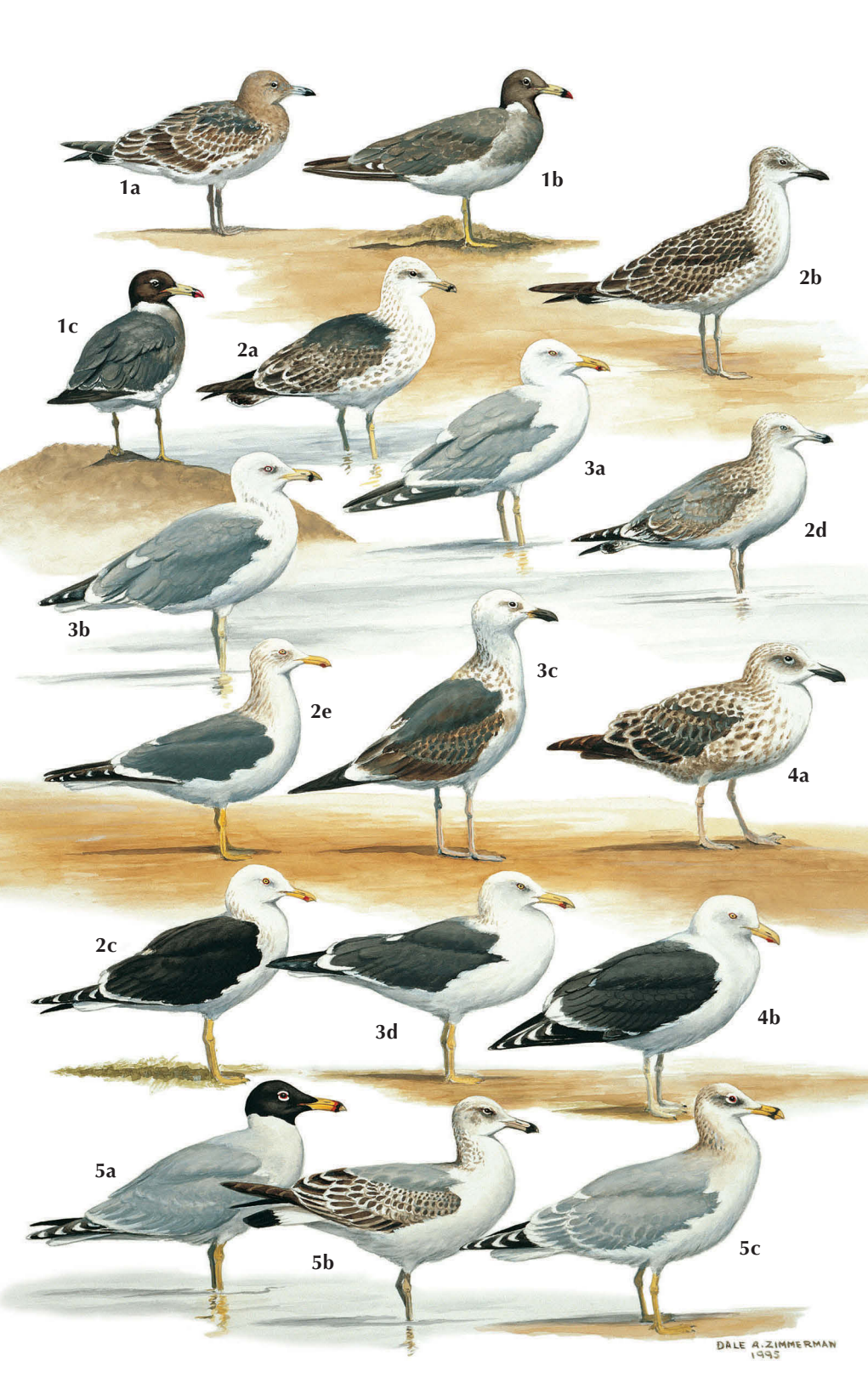
5 GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ichthyaetus*

Page 352

Uncommon paleartic migrant, Dec.–March, mainly along coast and at Lake Turkana. Large, with long sloping forehead and thick bill drooping at tip. **5a. Late-spring adult.** **5b. First-winter.** Dusky eye patch extends over hindcrown. Nape and often side of breast densely dark-streaked or spotted; pale greyish patch on wing; broad blackish tail tip. **5c. Winter adult.**



Adult White-eyed Gull, *Larus leucophthalmus* (No substantiated record from our region.)
See text.



1a

1b

2b

1c

2a

3a

2d

3b

3c

4a

2e

2c

3d

4b

5a

5b

5c

PLATE 7: SUBADULT GULLS IN FLIGHT (See also Plates 5, 6 and 8)

- 1 HEUGLIN'S GULL** *Larus heuglini taimyrensis* **Page 350**
Birds apparently representing this form regular along Kenyan coast, from Tana River delta south to Malindi, Nov.–March. See text. **1a. First-winter. 1b. Second-winter.**
- 2 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus f. fuscus* **Page 351**
Common migrant along coast, Oct.–April, less numerous on inland lakes. A few over-summer. Slightly smaller and lighter in build than Heuglin's Gull. **2a. First-winter. 2b. Second-winter.**
- 3 SOOTY GULL** *Larus hemprichii* **Page 350**
Present along coast throughout year, some breeding in the north. Long-winged and long-billed. **3a. First-year. 3b. Second-year.**
- 4 BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* **Page 351**
Locally common palearctic migrant. Shorter-billed and shorter-tailed than Slender-billed Gull. **4a. First-winter.** More sharply marked than Slender-billed Gull. **4b. Winter adult.**
- 5 SLENDER-BILLED GULL** *Larus genei* **Page 352**
Scarce to uncommon palearctic migrant. **First-winter** bird is longer-tailed and has less distinct postocular spot than more numerous Black-headed Gull.
- 6 GREY-HEADED GULL** *Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus* **Page 351**
Common on inland lakes; rare at coast. Heavier and thicker-billed than Black-headed and Slender-billed Gulls. **Juvenile/first-year** bird also darker on head and with less white in primaries.
- 7 GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL**, *Larus ichthyaetus* **Page 352**
Uncommon migrant, Dec.–March, mainly along coast and at Lake Turkana. Appears longer and more 'front-heavy' than other large gulls, owing to long bill and long sloping forehead. **7a. First-winter. 7b. Second-winter.**

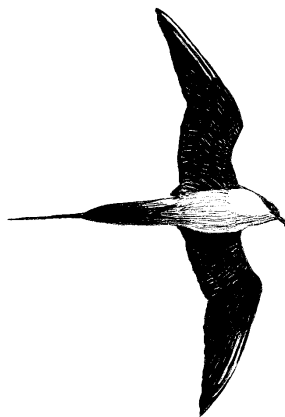


First-winter Kelp Gull, Larus dominicanus. Vagrant in our region. See text.



PLATE 8: SKUAS AND ADULT GULLS (See Plates 5, 6 and 7 for other gull plumages)

- 1 POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* **Page 348**
Scarce, Oct.–March, on coast and Rift Valley lakes. Size of large gull, thick-necked, deep-chested. Bill long, deep, with prominent gonydeal angle. **1a. Spring adult, light morph.** Rounded and twisted central tail feathers; black cap. **1b. Adult, dark morph.** Uncommon. Identify by size, build, shape of central tail feathers. **1c. Immature** (and similar non-breeding adult). Barred upper tail-coverts/rump; heavy build.
- 2 LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus* **Page 349**
Vagrant. Less massive than larger species, flight more buoyant and tern-like; wings long and narrow, with less white in primaries (only two shafts white). **Immature** variable, wing-lining more barred than in non-breeding adult. (Adult figured below.)
- 3 ARCTIC SKUA or PARASITIC JAEGER** *Stercorarius parasiticus* **Page 349**
Rare migrant on coast and on Rift Valley lakes. Smaller, less massive than Pomarine, more falcon-like in flight. **3a. Immature.** Upper tail-covert barring buff and brown, less black and white than in young Pomarine. **3b. Adult, pale morph.** Central tail feathers straight and pointed. Any dark breast band evenly grey, not mottled or barred.
- 4 GREY-HEADED GULL** *Larus cirrocephalus poiocephalus* **Page 351**
The common gull of inland lakes; rare on coast. **Breeding bird** has pale grey hood, more dark in primaries than Nos. 7 and 8. Eyes yellowish white.
- 5 SOOTY GULL** *Larus hemprichii* **Page 350**
Common along coast (less numerous in south, June–Sept.). Long wings, long bill. **Breeding adult.**
- 6 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus f. fuscus* **Page 351**
Sometimes common on coast and Lake Turkana, Oct.–April. See text.
- 7 BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus* **Page 351**
Regular migrant mainly on Rift Valley lakes. **Spring adult** has dark brown hood.
- 8 SLENDER-BILLED GULL** *Larus genei* **Page 352**
Scarce migrant on lakes Turkana and Nakuru; rare elsewhere. More elongate than No. 7, with longer bill and slimmer neck. Bill dark red to orange.
- 9 GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ichthyaetus* **Page 352**
Uncommon Dec.–March. Local but regular on coast, irregular on Lake Turkana; rare elsewhere. **Spring adult** has black hood and bold white eye crescents.



Adult Long-tailed Skua



1b

1c

2

1a

3a

3b

4

5

6

7

8

9

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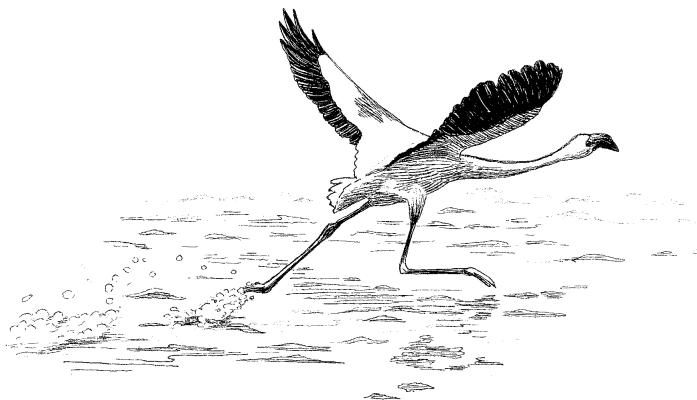
PLATE 9: STORKS AND CRANES

- 1 WHITE STORK** *Ciconia c. ciconia* **Page 283**
Common palearctic migrant in grasslands and grain fields, Nov.–April; a few oversummer in Kenyan highlands. In high flight, white tail is diagnostic. **1a and 1b. Adults.**
- 2 YELLOW-BILLED STORK** *Mycteria ibis* **Page 284**
Common and widespread along shallow rivers and lakeshores. Breeding adult has pink wing-coverts. In flight shows black tail, unlike White Stork. **2a and 2b. Breeding adults.**
- 3 WOOLLY-NECKED STORK** *Ciconia episcopus microscelis* **Page 283**
Fairly common on coastal lagoons; local and uncommon elsewhere. Dark back and wings contrast with white posterior underparts. **3a and 3b. Adults.**
- 4 ABDIM'S STORK** *Ciconia abdimii* **Page 283**
Intra-African migrant, Oct.–April, often in large flocks with White Storks. White belly and (in flight) white back; bill, legs and feet dull greenish grey. **4a and 4b. Adults.**
- 5 SADDLE-BILLED STORK** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* **Page 283**
Local and uncommon in swamps, marshes and flooded grassland. **5a and 5c. Adult females.** Eyes yellow. **5b. Juvenile.** Dark bill; dark plumage areas grey-brown. **5d. Adult male.** Eyes dark brown.
- 6 AFRICAN OPEN-BILLED STORK** *Anastomus l. lamelligerus* **Page 284**
Locally common in Lake Victoria basin, se. Kenya and ne. Tanzania. Glossy plumage; unique bill. **Adult.** (Juv. duller and browner; bill shorter, with narrow tomial gap.)
- 7 BLACK STORK** *Ciconia nigra* **Page 283**
Regular palearctic migrant, Oct.–April; uncommon in and near wetlands. **7a and 7b. Adults.** White belly, red bill and legs; back and rump dark. (Juvenile has dull olive-green bill and legs.)
- 8 MARABOU STORK** *Leptoptilus crumeniferus* **Page 284**
Widespread; locally common on town and village outskirts. Joins vultures at carcasses. **8a and 8b. Breeding adults. 8c. Non-breeding adult.**
- 9 DEMOISELLE CRANE** *Anthropoides virgo* **Page 325**
Palearctic vagrant. Grey, with black foreneck and long breast feathers. Elongated secondaries droop over tail. **Adult.**
- 10 GREY CROWNED CRANE** *Balearica regulorum gibbericeps* **Page 326**
Fairly common and widespread in wetlands above 1300 m. Rare at Lake Turkana and in coastal lowlands. **10a and 10b. Adults.** Largely grey neck; white cheek patch scarlet at top. (Juvenile more rufous, with smaller crest.)
- 11 BLACK CROWNED CRANE** *Balearica pavonina ceciliae* **Page 326**
Rare at n. Lake Turkana. Neck blackish; cheek patch white above, pink below; short pinkish throat-wattle. **Adult.**



PLATE 10: IBISES, SPOONBILLS AND FLAMINGOS

- 1 GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis f. falcinellus* **Page 285**
Widespread in permanent wetlands. Appears all black at a distance. Feet project beyond tail in flight. **1a and 1c. Adults. 1b. Juvenile.**
- 2 AFRICAN GREEN or OLIVE IBIS** *Bostrychia olivacea akeleyorum* **Page 285**
Scarce in montane forests. Feeds on forest floor and in clearings. Rarely seen, except when flying to and from roosts at dusk and dawn. Little or no overlap of range with Hadada. **Adult.**
- 3 HADADA IBIS** *Bostrychia hagedash brevirostris* **Page 285**
Common and widespread in wet areas, along forest borders, in cultivation, Nairobi city parks and suburbs. Feet do not project beyond tail in flight. **3a and 3b. Adults.** (Juvenile similar but duller.)
- 4 AFRICAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea alba* **Page 286**
Widespread on inland waters; local in coastal lowlands. Forehead unfeathered. **4a. Immature.** Dull yellowish bill and facial skin. **4b. Adult. 4c. Subadult.**
- 5 SACRED IBIS** *Threskiornis a. aethiopicus* **Page 284**
Widespread in wetlands, including coastal estuaries. **5a. Juvenile. 5b. Breeding adult. 5c. Non-breeding adult.**
- 6 EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* **Page 285**
Fairly regular at Lake Turkana, scarce elsewhere. Forehead entirely feathered; bill largely black. **6a. First-winter.** No yellow on bill tip; facial skin dark. **6b. Spring male acquiring breeding plumage.** (Non-breeding adult has no crest or yellow on lower neck.)
- 7 GREATER FLAMINGO** *Phoenicopterus (ruber) roseus* **Page 286**
Largely confined to brackish and soda lakes in Rift Valley, where locally common. Uncommon at coast. **7a, 7c and 7d. Adults.** Bill pink with black tip. **7b. Immature.** Greyer plumage; black-tipped grey bill.
- 8 LESSER FLAMINGO** *Phoeniconaias minor* **Page 286**
Abundant on Rift Valley soda lakes. **8a. Immature. 8b. Juvenile. 8c, 8d and 8e. Adults.**



Lesser Flamingo



PLATE 11: LARGE HERONS AND HAMERKOP (See also Plates 12 and 13)

- 1 PURPLE HERON** *Ardea p. purpurea* **Page 282**
Widespread and locally common in wetlands with extensive reedbeds. Colourful, slender. Less chestnut on wings than much larger Goliath Heron. Bill long and slim. **1a. Juvenile. 1b and 1c. Adults.**
- 2 BLACK-HEADED HERON** *Ardea melanocephala* **Page 282**
Commonest heron; widespread in open grassland, cultivation. Often on dry ground. **2a and 2b. Adults.** Black crown, nape and hindneck; underside of wings strongly two-toned (unlike Grey Heron). **2c. Juvenile.** Appears largely grey above, whitish to pale grey below.
- 3 GOLIATH HERON** *Ardea goliath* **Page 282**
Uncommon and local, mainly around larger lakes and swamps. Very large with massive bill. **3a, 3b and 3c. Adults. 3d. Juvenile.**
- 4 GREY HERON** *Ardea c. cinerea* **Page 281**
Widespread and uncommon in wetlands. **4a, 4b and 4c. Adults.** Blackish flight feathers contrast with grey wing-coverts above; wings more uniformly grey below. **4d. Juvenile.**
- 5 HAMERKOP** *Scopus u. umbretta* **Page 282**
Widespread and fairly common at swamp edges, lakesides and along rivers. **5a, 5b and 5c. Adults.** (Juvenile similar.)



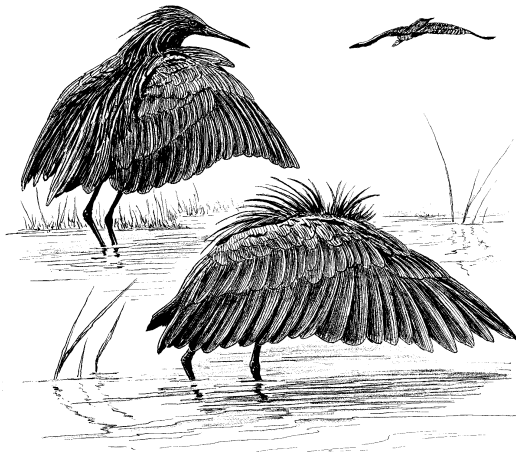
Nest of Hamerkop



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PLATE 12: SMALL HERONS (See also Plates 11 and 13)

- 1 DWARF BITTERN** *Ixobrychus sturmii* Page 278
Widespread but uncommon in reedbeds and seasonal swamps. Secretive. **1a. Juvenile.**
1b. Adult.
- 2 LITTLE BITTERN** *Ixobrychus minutus* Page 278
Widespread in permanent marshes. Skulks in reeds. Nominat race present Oct.–May.
2a. *I. m. minutus*, first-winter. **2b. *I. m. minutus*, adult male.** **2c. *I. m. payesii*, adult female.** **2d. *I. m. payesii*, juvenile.** **2e and 2f. *I. m. payesii*, adult males.**
- 3 SQUACCO HERON** *Ardeola ralloides* Page 280
Widespread in wetlands. White wings may be largely concealed by body feathers. **Non-breeding adult.** (See Plate 13 for breeding plumage.)
- 4 MADAGASCAR SQUACCO or MALAGASY POND HERON** *Ardeola idae* Page 280
Uncommon non-breeding migrant, May–October, inland to Mwea NR and Ngorongoro Crater. **Non-breeding adult.** (See Plate 13 for breeding plumage.)
- 5 RUFOUS-BELLIED HERON** *Ardea rufiventris* Page 280
Uncommon and local; regular in nw. Mara GR and Tarangire NP. **5a and 5c. Adult males.** **5b. Adult female.**
- 6 GREEN-BACKED or STRIATED HERON** *Butorides striatus atricapillus* Page 281
Fairly common along coastal creeks, well-vegetated lakes and rivers. **6a and 6c. Adults.**
6b. Juvenile.
- 7 BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax n. nycticorax* Page 278
Locally common in permanent wetlands. Nocturnal. **7a. Juvenile.** **7b. Subadult.** **7c and 7d. Adults.**
- 8 WHITE-BACKED NIGHT-HERON** *Gorsachius leuconotus* Page 278
Scarce along shaded river banks and in mangroves. Nocturnal. **8a. Juvenile.** **8b and 8c.**



Black Herons feeding



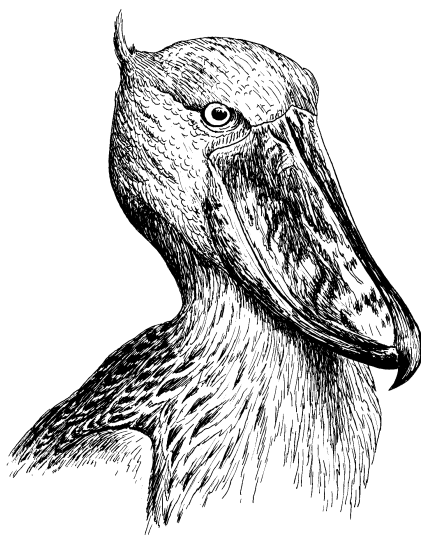
PLATE 13: HERONS and EGRETS (See also Plates 11 and 12)

- 1 GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus melanorhynchos* **Page 281**
Widespread in wetlands. Large size; dark line from base of bill extends behind eyes; bill colour variable. Legs and feet black. **1a. Non-breeding adult. 1b. Courting adult.** (Amount of yellow at base of bill varies. Eyes may be briefly red.) **1c. Immature.**
- 2 YELLOW-BILLED or INTERMEDIATE EGRET** *Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha* **Page 281**
Less common than Great Egret; smaller, with shorter neck and bill; black gape line from bill does not extend past eye; legs and feet black. **2a. Non-breeding adult. 2b. Immature. 2c. Breeding adult.**
- 3 CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus i. ibis* **Page 279**
Common and widespread; not restricted to wet places. Small, stocky, heavy-jowled. **3a. Breeding adult. 3b. Juvenile.** (Tarsus colour varies; see text.) **3c. Non-breeding adult.**
- 4 MADAGASCAR SQUACCO or MALAGASY POND HERON** *Ardeola idae* **Page 280**
Breeding-plumaged adult rare in East Africa. (Non-breeding plumage on Plate 12.)
- 5 SQUACCO HERON** *Ardeola ralloides* **Page 280**
Fairly common and widespread in wetlands. **5a and 5b. Breeding adult.** White wings obscured in perched bird.
- 6 WESTERN REEF HERON** *Egretta gularis schistacea* **Page 279**
Uncommon along coast (Mida Creek) and at Lake Turkana; rare at other Rift Valley lakes. Bill longer, heavier and deeper than in Little or Dimorphic Egrets, never black. (Caution: Little Egrets feeding in some Rift Valley lakes may show pale, soda-encrusted bills.) Legs and feet largely greenish olive, the toes, and often front of tarsi, yellow. **6a. White morph. 6b and 6c. Dark morph.** (Amount of white in wing varies individually.)
- 7 LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta g. garzetta* **Page 279**
Common and widespread except along open coastal areas, where scarce. Toes greenish yellow (partly black in rare dark morph). Largely black bill (basal half of gonyx pale). **7a. White morph, non-breeding.** Loes usually grey. **7b. Dark morph, breeding. 7c. White morph, breeding.** Loes yellow, or dull peach colour at onset of breeding season (orange during peak courtship activity).
- 8 DIMORPHIC EGRET** *Egretta (garzetta) dimorpha* **Page 279**
Strictly marine. Strongly dimorphic; dark birds common, as are pied intermediates. May show yellow spot on mandible. Tibiae always dark (unless whitewashed with excrement); tarsi black, often with yellowish or greenish 'anklets' extending up front of tarsi. **8a. White morph, non-breeding.** Facial skin grey; toes and parts of tarsi yellow or greenish. **8b. White morph, courting.** Toes, loes and base of bill bright rose-pink. **8c and 8d. Dark morph, breeding.** Toes bright yellow or orange-yellow; base of bill bright yellow; loes and facial skin yellow-green. White in wing variable in extent or lacking. (Bare parts of non-breeders as in 8a.) **8e. Dark morph, courting.** Facial skin and bill base bright rose-pink. **8f. Juvenile/immature.** Largely grey, greyish blue or nearly lavender; some pale brown and white on wings and neck. *E. (g.) dimorpha* not known inland; similar grey birds seen on Rift Valley lakes may be young of dark-morph *E. g. garzetta*. (Grey immature of *E. gularis schistacea* has larger, paler bill.)
- 9 BLACK HERON** *Egretta ardesiaca* **Page 280**
Local, mainly at coast, Lake Jipe and Rift Valley lakes. **Adult** shaggy-crested. Eyes dark; toes orange or orange-yellow. (Juv. duller, greyer, lacks long plumes; toes yellow.)



PLATE 14: PELICANS, CORMORANTS AND DARTER

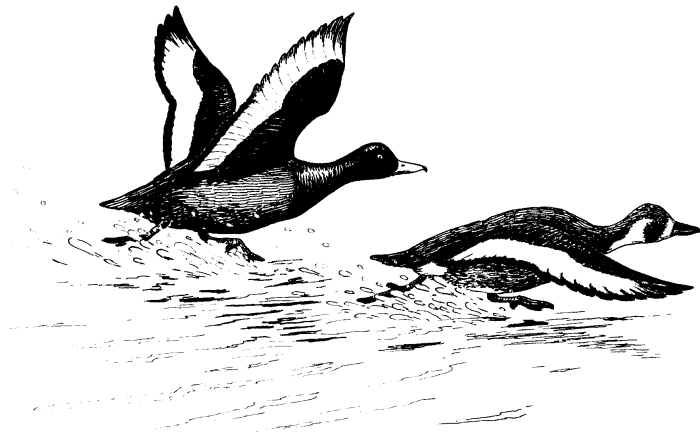
- 1 GREAT WHITE PELICAN** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Page 274
Common on alkaline lakes in Rift Valley. Secondaries largely black. **1a. Breeding adult.** Pinkish-orange face (briefly shows swollen orange-red knob at base of culmen at peak of courtship activity). **1b, 1c and 1d. Non-breeding adults. 1e. Immature.** Mottled plumage replaces uniform dark brown of juvenile.
- 2 PINK-BACKED PELICAN** *Pelecanus rufescens* Page 275
Widespread on lakes, rivers and coastal salt pans. Secondaries brownish grey. **2a and 2b. Adults.** Greyish white. Pinkish back and rump visible only in flight. Develops shaggy crest, and pouch becomes deep yellow, when breeding. **2c. Juvenile.**
- 3 LONG-TAILED CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax a. africanus* Page 276
Widespread on freshwater lakes, ponds and swamps with ample fringing vegetation. Long-tailed, with small bill. Adults red-eyed. **3a. Immature.** (Juvenile similar but brown-eyed, and may be paler below.) **3b. Post-breeding adult. 3c. Breeding adult.** (Non-breeding adult may have white underparts, but eyes are red.
- 4 GREAT CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus* Page 276
Locally common, often in large flocks on Rift Valley lakes. Wanders to coastal estuaries. Heavy-billed and short-tailed. **4a. Immature.** Brownish, with whitish underparts, darkening with age. **4b and 4c. Breeding adults.** White flank/thigh patch.
- 5 AFRICAN DARTER** *Anhinga rufa* Page 276
Formerly fairly common in freshwater areas with fringing trees. Now scarce in Kenyan highlands. Long, broad tail, sinuous neck, sharp-pointed bill. **5a. Female. 5b. and 5c. Adult males.**



Shoebill. Vagrant in Kenya. See text.

PLATE 15: GREBES, GEESE AND DUCKS (See also Plate 16)

- 1 **WHITE-FACED WHISTLING DUCK** *Dendrocygna viduata* Page 287
Common and widespread in wetlands below 1500 m. White face, long black neck, black belly and tail. **1a and 1b. Adults.**
- 2 **FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK** *Dendrocygna bicolor* Page 287
Widespread visitor (rarely breeds) below 1500 m, often in large flocks. Broad black line on back, whitish U-shaped patch on upper tail-coverts. **2a and 2b. Adults.**
- 3 **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus infuscatus* Page 269
Increasingly scarce resident on lakes of cent. Rift Valley, Arusha NP and Ngorongoro Crater. **3a. Breeding adult. 3b. Juvenile.**
- 4 **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis* Page 270
Widespread. Most numerous on larger Rift Valley lakes and in Arusha NP. **4a. Breeding adult. 4b. Non-breeding adult.**
- 5 **BLACK-NECKED or EARED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi* Page 270
Local on Rift Valley lakes, sometimes common July–Nov. Wanders elsewhere; sporadic in n. Tanzania. **5a. Breeding adult. 5b. Worn, post-breeding adult.** (No black-and-white non-breeding plumage in East African birds.)
- 6 **EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiacus* Page 287
Common on freshwater lakes, ponds, river banks (sometimes fields) up to 3000 m. **6a. Juvenile.** Forewing patch grey. **6b, 6c and 6d. Adults.** Variable; forewing patch white. **6e. Gosling.**
- 7 **WHITE-BACKED DUCK** *Thalassornis l. leuconotus* Page 287
Locally common on lakes and ponds with emergent vegetation. Avoids open water. **7a and 7b. Adults.**
- 8 **AFRICAN PYGMY GOOSE** *Nettapus auritus* Page 288
Local on secluded, well-vegetated lakes and swampy pools near coast. **8a and 8c. Males. 8b. Female.**
- 9 **SPUR-WINGED GOOSE** *Plectropterus g. gambensis* Page 287
Locally common in freshwater wetlands up to 3000 m. **9a. Female.** No forehead caruncles. **9b. Male. 9c. Juvenile.**
- 10 **KNOB-BILLED or COMB DUCK** *Sarkidiornis m. melanotos* Page 288
Widespread on freshwater lakes, ponds, flooded grassland up to 3000 m. **10a. Breeding male. 10b. Non-breeding male. 10c. Juvenile. 10d. Female.** Grey rump/lower back.



Southern Pochards, male (left) and female (right)



PLATE 16: DUCKS (See also Plate 15)

- 1 MACCOA DUCK** *Oxyura maccoa* **Page 292**
Only East African stiff-tail. Uncommon in Kenyan highlands; more numerous in n. Tanzania. Squat, thickset, large head and bill; swims low in water. **1a. Male. 1b. Female.**
- 2 HOTTENTOT TEAL** *Anas hottentota* **Page 290**
Widespread on alkaline and freshwater lakes. Often common inland; rare on coast. Dark crown and blue-grey bill diagnostic. **2a. Female.** Exposed secondaries brown. **2b. Male.** Secondaries green.
- 3 RED-BILLED TEAL** *Anas erythrorhyncha* **Page 290**
Common and widespread inland; local on coast.
- 4 COMMON TEAL** *Anas c. crecca* **Page 289**
Regular, Nov.–March, in highlands and Rift Valley. Small, compact. **4a. Female.** Sometimes has paler loreal area than shown, never as pale as 6b. **4b. Male.** Head looks dark at distance; yellowish buff patch on sides of black under tail-coverts.
- 5 CAPE TEAL** *Anas capensis* **Page 289**
Largely confined to alkaline Rift Valley lakes where common.
- 6 GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula* **Page 289**
Widespread, Oct.–April. Common in Kenya, less so in n. Tanzania. **6a. Male. 6b. Female.** Sharper head pattern than 4a; pale loreal spot.
- 7 YELLOW-BILLED DUCK** *Anas u. undulata* **Page 290**
Common in Kenyan highlands, much less so in n. Tanzania. Green speculum (blue in northern *A. u. rueppelli*) conspicuous in flight.
- 8 AFRICAN BLACK DUCK** *Anas sparsa leucostigma* **Page 288**
Uncommon on mountain streams, mainly above 1850 m. Shy and wary. White-bordered blue or purple speculum conspicuous in flight.
- 9 EURASIAN WIGEON** *Anas penelope* **Page 289**
Uncommon on fresh water, Nov.–March, typically above 1800 m. No recent Tanzanian records. **9a. Female, rufous morph.** Some birds are much greyer. **9b. Male.**
- 10 MALLARD** *Anas p. platyrhynchos* **Page 288**
Vagrant. No definite recent records of wild birds. **10a. Male. 10b. Female.** Bill orange with dusky markings; no white patch in secondaries. See text.
- 11 GADWALL** *Anas s. strepera* **Page 289**
Rare on freshwater Kenyan lakes. Small white patch in secondaries distinctive in flight, sometimes visible on water. **11a. Female.** Grey-brown; orange-sided bill. **11b. Male.** Grey with black rear end.
- 12 NORTHERN SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata* **Page 291**
Locally common, Oct.–early April. Long spatulate bill. **12a. Female. 12b. Sub-eclipse male** (autumn, early winter). **12c. Male** (breeding plumage, late Dec.–April).
- 13 NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas a. acuta* **Page 290**
Fairly common and widespread, Nov.–early April. **13a. Male. 13b. Female.** Slender; plain head on long neck.
- 14 FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca* **Page 292**
Scarce and local, Oct.–March. Usually with Southern Pochards. **14a. Female.** Duller than male; brown-eyed. **14b. Male.** White-eyed. Appears black at distance, with white rear end.
- 15 COMMON POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* **Page 291**
Rare on open water (six records, Dec.–March). Long bill, peaked forehead. **15a. Female.** Hoary face patches, sooty rear. **15b. Male.**
- 16 SOUTHERN POCHARD** *Netta erythrophthalma brunnea* **Page 291**
Locally common on highland waters, mainly Nov.–Feb. **16a. Female.** Pied face, white rear end. **16b. Male.** Dark, with long pale grey bill.
- 17 TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula* **Page 292**
Scarce on highland waters and Lake Turkana, Nov.–March. Short crest on hindcrown usually evident. **17a. Male. 17b. Female.** White loreal patch often lacking; can show white under tail-coverts.

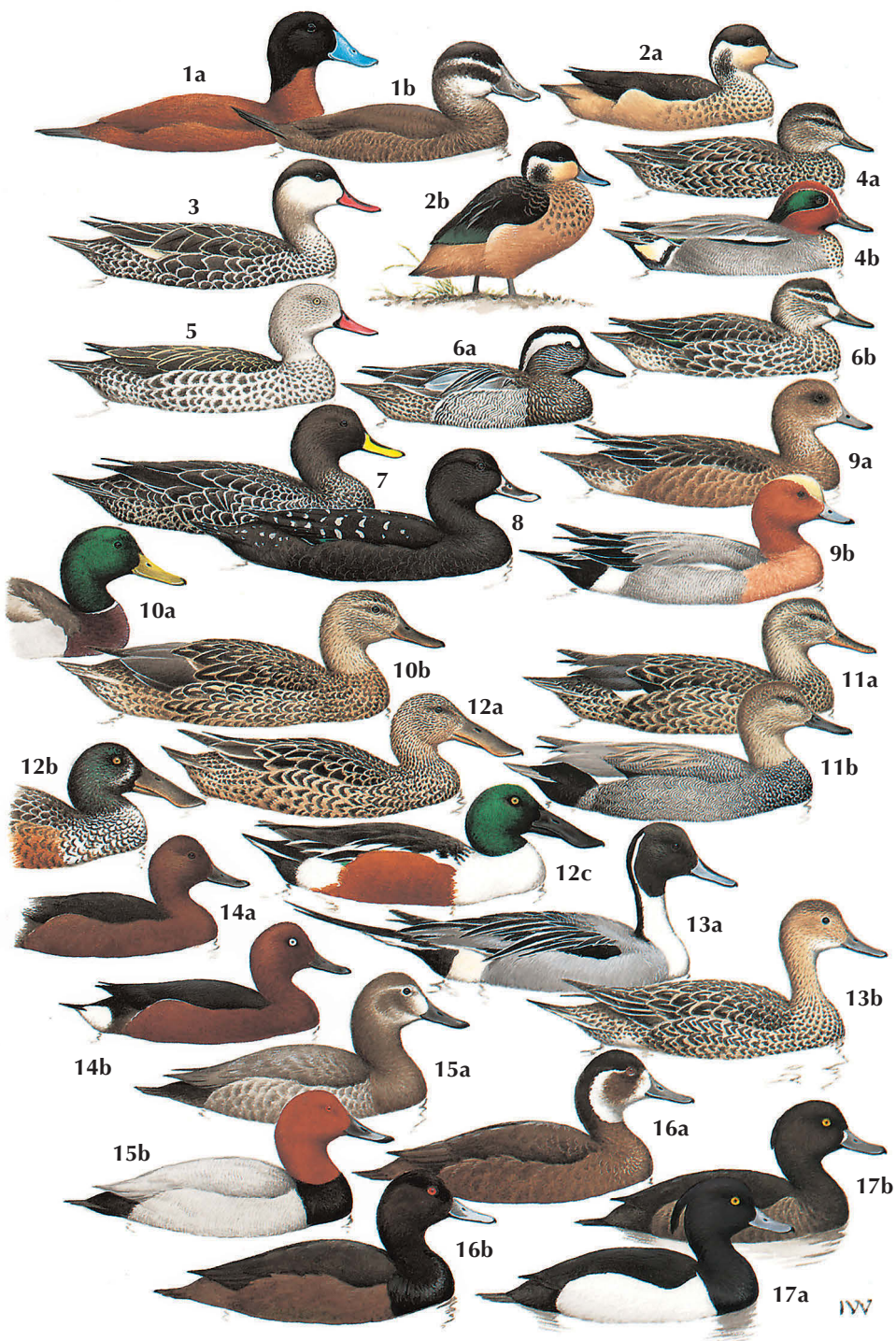


PLATE 17: COURSERS, PRATINCOLES AND THICK-KNEES

- 1 MADAGASCAR PRATINCOLE** *Glareola ocularis* **Page 335**
Malagasy migrant to East African coast, April–Sept.; locally abundant north of Kilifi (especially Sabaki River estuary Aug.–Sept.). **1a and 1b. Non-breeding plumage.** Shorter tail with shallower fork than in Collared Pratincole; dark brown throat and breast; rufous belly patch; white subocular streak.
- 2 ROCK PRATINCOLE** *Glareola n. nuchalis* **Page 335**
Local on rocks in Nzoia River, w. Kenya. White postocular stripe joins hindneck collar. Short white stripe on underside of wing; feet red. **2a and 2c. Adults. 2b. Juvenile.**
- 3 COLLARED PRATINCOLE** *Glareola pratincola fueilleborni* **Page 334**
Locally common along Rift Valley lakes and coastal estuaries. Long pointed wings, deeply forked tail. **3a and 3d. Breeding adults.** Creamy buff throat with black border; belly white. **3b. Immature.** Throat border blurred, breast mottled. **3c. Juvenile.** Buff feather edges, short tail.
- 4 BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE** *Glareola nordmanni* **Page 334**
Rare palearctic passage migrant; associates with Collared Pratincole. Underside of wing entirely black; no white trailing edge.
- 5 VIOLET-TIPPED COURSER** *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* **Page 333**
Local in se. Kenya/n. Tanzania. May–Nov. Uncommon in open bush and woodland. Nocturnal. Shape and head pattern suggest Crowned Plover.
- 6 TWO-BANDED COURSER** *Rhinoptilus africanus gracilis* **Page 333**
Uncommon on short-grass plains and alkaline flats in s. Kenya/n. Tanzania. Two black breast bands; pale buff superciliary stripe. (Larger-eyed and often paler than shown.)
- 7 HEUGLIN'S COURSER** *Rhinoptilus cinctus* **Page 333**
Uncommon in dry bush and semi-desert scrub. Largely nocturnal. Cryptic pattern, chestnut neck and breast bands.
- 8 CREAM-COLOURED COURSER** *Cursorius cursor* **Page 334**
Vagrant to Lake Turkana. Sandier-coloured than smaller Somali Courser, with different tail and under wing pattern, relatively shorter bill and tarsi. **8a and 8b. Adults.**
- 9 TEMMINCK'S COURSER** *Cursorius temminckii* **Page 334**
The commonest courser; widespread on short-grass plains mainly south of the Equator. Dark brown above; rufous belly with black central patch.
- 10 SOMALI COURSER** *Cursorius somalensis littoralis* **Page 334**
Locally common on short-grass plains and semi-desert in n. and e. Kenya. Pale, with distinctive head pattern, whitish legs and feet. **10a and 10b. Adults.**
- 11 SPOTTED THICK-KNEE** *Burhinus capensis* **Page 332**
Locally common in dry bush. Largely nocturnal. Boldly spotted upperparts; relatively unpatterned closed wing. **11a and 11b. Adults.**
- 12 EURASIAN THICK-KNEE or STONE-CURLEW** *Burhinus o. oedicnemus* **Page 331**
Scarce palearctic migrant, Oct.–March, regular in n. Kenya; scarce elsewhere. Narrow white wing-bar bordered above and below by black. **12a and 12b. Adults.**
- 13 SENEGAL THICK-KNEE** *Burhinus senegalensis inornatus* **Page 332**
Local near rivers and lakeshores in n. and nw. Kenya (e.g. lakes Turkana and Baringo). Nocturnal. Finely streaked; no white bar on closed wing. Bill large, yellow at base; legs and feet yellowish. **13a and 13b. Adults.**
- 14 WATER THICK-KNEE** *Burhinus v. vermiculatus* **Page 332**
Widespread along river banks and lakeshores. Broad grey wing panel, narrowly streaked with black. Base of bill greenish; legs and feet olive. **14a and 14b. Adults.**
- 15 EGYPTIAN-PLOVER** *Pluvianus aegyptius* **Page 333**
Vagrant to northern shores of Lake Turkana. **15a and 15b. Adults.**



PLATE 18: LARGE PLOVERS

- 1 BROWN-CHESTED PLOVER** *Vanellus superciliosus* **Page 337**
 Vagrant, mainly in Lake Victoria basin and w. Serengeti NP. **1a and 1b. Adults.** Broad chestnut breast band, black crown. **1c. Juvenile.** Brownish crown, yellow on face.
- 2 BLACK-WINGED PLOVER** *Vanellus melanopterus minor* **Page 337**
 Locally common above 1500 m on short-grass plains, cultivated fields. Broader breast band and larger, more diffuse white forehead patch than smaller Senegal Plover; legs and feet dull red; orbital ring purplish red. Broad diagonal white wing-stripe in flight. **2a and 2b. Adults.**
- 3 SENEGAL PLOVER** *Vanellus lugubris* **Page 336**
 Local and nomadic, mainly below 1500 m, on open or bushed grassland in the Lake Victoria basin, Mara GR, Tsavo, Arusha NP and the coastal lowlands. Small. Sharply defined white forehead, white trailing wing edge; legs and feet dark slate-grey; faint orbital ring dull yellow. **3a and 3b. Adults.**
- 4 BLACKSMITH PLOVER** *Vanellus armatus* **Page 336**
 Common in highlands and on Rift Valley wetlands north to Lake Baringo. White cap and hindneck patch; black flight feathers. **4a and 4b. Adults.**
- 5 BLACK-HEADED PLOVER** *Vanellus tectus* **Page 336**
 Locally common in dry thorn-bush. Long crest; wing pattern as in Crowned Plover. **5a and 5b. V. t. latifrons.** Ne. Kenya, Meru and Tsavo NPs. Large white forehead patch. **5c. V. t. tectus.** Nw. Kenya south to Lake Bogoria. Small forehead patch.
- 6 CROWNED PLOVER** *Vanellus c. coronatus* **Page 337**
 Widespread. Fairly common on dry plains and cultivated land. Ringed crown; broad diagonal white wing stripe includes primary coverts. Highly vocal. **6a, 6b and 6c. Adults. 6d. Juvenile**
- 7 AFRICAN WATTLED PLOVER** *Vanellus senegallus lateralis* **Page 337**
 Western. Local on moist short-grass plains. **7a and 7b. Adults.**
- 8 SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** *Vanellus spinosus* **Page 336**
 Common on n. river banks and lakeshores; uncommon at coast; rare on s. Rift Valley lakes, where replaced by Blacksmith Plover. **8a and 8b. Adults.**
- 9 LONG-TOED PLOVER** *Vanellus c. crassirostris* **Page 335**
 Local in marshes and swamps. Forewing (incl. primary coverts) white. **9a and 9b. Adults.**
- 10 PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva* **Page 338**
 Uncommon coastal migrant, scarce inland. **10a. Adult in nearly full breeding plumage. 10b. Immature.** (Winter adult similar, but less yellowish.)
- 11 GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* **Page 338**
 Common coastal migrant, occasional inland. Black axillaries (grey in Pacific Golden Plover). **11a and 11b. Adults in non-breeding plumage. 11c. Adult in nearly full breeding plumage.**



Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*. Vagrant in Kenya. See text.



1a

2a

3a

1c

2b

3b

1b

6a

5a

6b

6c

4a

4b

5b

6d

7a

8a

9a

7b

8b

9b

11b

10a

10b

11a

11c

PLATE 19: SMALL PLOVERS

- 1 KITTLITZ'S PLOVER** *Charadrius pecuarius* **Page 339**
Common around Rift Valley lakes. **1a. Adult.** Rich buff underparts. **1b. Juvenile.** Buff superciliary stripe and collar.
- 2 WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER** *Charadrius marginatus tenellus* **Page 339**
Locally common on sandy n. Kenyan coast and on sandbars in Galana/Athi Rivers. Sporadic at Lake Turkana. Thin black eye-line; white of forehead extends behind eye. **2a. Adult. 2b. Juvenile.**
- 3 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius curonicus* **Page 338**
Uncommon but regular, Oct.–April, along rivers, lakeshores and saltpans. Yellow orbital ring; no orange on bill; legs and feet pinkish or yellowish. **3a. Spring adult. 3b. Winter adult.**
- 4 CHESTNUT-BANDED PLOVER** *Charadrius pallidus venustus* **Page 339**
Locally common on Rift Valley soda lakes. Small, with narrow chestnut breast band, long-legged appearance. **4a. Adult male.** Black frontal bar and eye-line. **4b. Juvenile.** Narrow, broken greyish breast band. **4c. Adult female.** Broader breast band than male; no black on head.
- 5 KENTISH PLOVER** *Charadrius a. alexandrinus* **Page 339**
Migrant in small numbers, regular at Lake Turkana, Oct.–April; rare elsewhere. Small, slim. Pale, with dark bill, dark patch or bar at side of breast. **5a. Spring male.** Rufous nape. **5b. Spring female.**
- 6 RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae* **Page 338**
Common and widespread along coast and inland waters, Sept.–early May; some over-summer. Portly, with stubby bill, orange legs. No prominent orbital ring (unlike Little Ringed Plover). **6a. Spring adult.** Dense black facial area and breast band; base of bill orange. **6b. Juvenile.** Paler, incomplete breast band. **6c. Winter adult.** Bill largely dark.
- 7 THREE-BANDED PLOVER** *Charadrius t. tricoloris* **Page 339**
Widespread on inland waterways. Pale-eyed, with red orbital ring and bill base; double breast band. **7a. Juvenile.** Greyish forehead. **7b. Adult.** White forehead.
- 8 GREATER SANDPLOVER** *Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris* **Page 340**
Common along coast, Aug.–early May; many first-year birds oversummer. Scarce inland. Bill larger and tarsi longer than in Lesser Sandplover. **8a. Spring male.** Chestnut breast band, black ear-coverts. **8b. Winter adult.** Grey-brown breast band and ear-coverts. **8c. Spring female.** Trace of rufous breast band, grey-brown ear-coverts.
- 9 CASPIAN PLOVER** *Charadrius asiaticus* **Page 340**
Regular, Aug.–April, on short-grass plains in Mara GR/Serengeti NP, where large numbers winter; mainly passage migrant elsewhere (often common on muddy shores at Lake Turkana, and on short grass in Tsavo East NP). Slim, with small head, slender bill. **9a. Spring male.** (Female usually has grey-brown breast band.) **9b. Winter adult.**
- 10 LESSER or MONGOLIAN SANDPLOVER** *Charadrius mongolus pamirensis* **Page 340**
Common along coast, Aug.–early May; many first-year birds oversummer. Scarce but regular inland, especially along Rift Valley Lakes. A smaller, shorter-legged and smaller-billed version of Greater Sandplover. **10a. Spring female.** Sooty-brown mask, trace of rufous on nape and breast. **10b. Winter adult.** Same pattern as 8b, but with different proportions. **10c. Spring male.**