

# Seychelles Bird Records Committee

*Adrian Skerrett, Michael Betts, John Bowler, Ian Bullock, David Fisher, Rob Lucking & John Phillips*

The following records were accepted during October 2012:

## **Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* or Indian Pond Heron *A. grayii***

Two near the airstrip, Assumption on 16 February 2012 (CJ Feare).

This is the first record in this category. There have been 5 accepted records of Squacco Heron and 7 of Indian Pond Heron.

## **Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae***

One immature at the centre of south Assumption on 4 March 2012 and possibly the same individual at the settlement 13-17 March 2012 (CJ Feare).

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> record at an island other than Aldabra, where this species breeds.

## **Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

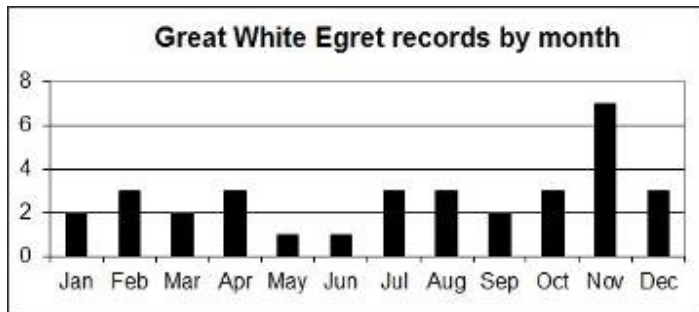
One juvenile at the western beach, Assumption on 2 November 2012 (CJ Feare).

This is the first record west of the Amirantes, where it is an annual visitor.

## **Great Egret *Egretta alba***

One adult at Middle Camp, Malabar, Aldabra on 27 January 2012 (M Šúr). This is the 18<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.

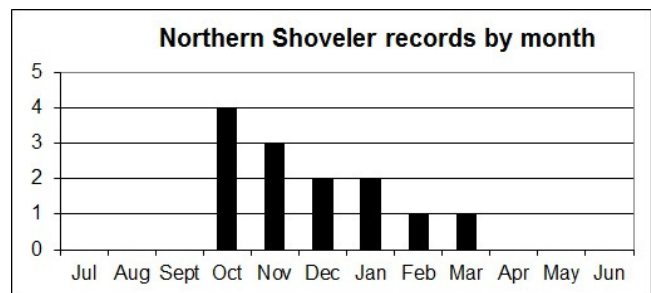
*Photo: Michal Šúr*



## **Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata***

One female at Denis Island on 23 November 2011 (M Unrath, J Chang Tave).

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



*Photo: James Chang Tave*

**Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* or Sooty Falcon *F. concolor***

One above the settlement, Assumption on 8 December 2011 (C Onezia, CJ Feare).

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record in this category. There have been 33 records of Eleonora's Falcon and 5 of Sooty Falcon.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

One adult at the Settlement, Picard, Aldabra 12-15 February 2012 (A Gouffe, S Denis, M Green, C Onezia, M van Dinther and J van de Crommenacker).

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



Photo: Catherina Onezia

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

One adult and one first-winter at Denis Island on 23 November 2011 (M Unrath, J Chang Tave)

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.

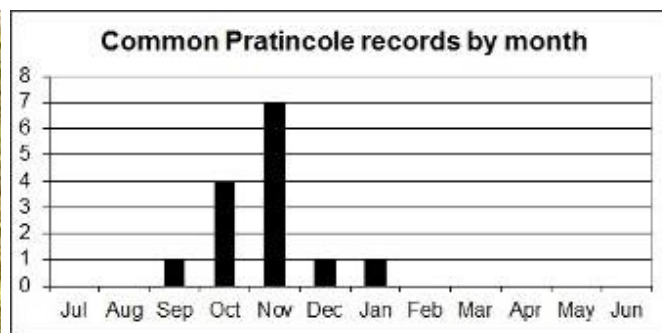


Photo: James Chang Tave

**Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos***

One at the airstrip and canteen area, Alphonse 18-20 January 2012 (A Duhec, R Jeanne)

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



Photo: Aurélie Duhec

**Greater Crested Tern**

*Sterna bergii velox*

One adult at One Palm Island, St Francois on 15 February 2012 (R Jeanne, A Duhec)

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Seychelles of this race.



*Photo: Richard Jeanne*

**Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis***

One sub-adult female near the settlement, Assumption 16-17 January 2012 (CJ Feare, J Linnebjerg, I Labrosse, T Mahoune, P Benoit).

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Seychelles.

**Comoro Blue Pigeon *Alectroenas sganzini***

One immature at the north of the airstrip, Assumption 18-22 March 2012 (CJ Feare).

This is the first record outside Aldabra for more than a century. The species probably bred throughout the Aldabra Group prior to the arrival of man and possibly also in the Farquhar Group.



*Photos: Chris Feare*

**Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

One adult female at Anse Grand Police, Mahe on 18 November 2011 (U Samedi).

One at the Helipad, Aride on 26 December 2011 (T Catry, I Catry)

One first-winter (2CY) at La Cour, Aride on 4 January 2012 (T Catry, I Catry)

This brings the number of Seychelles records to 44.

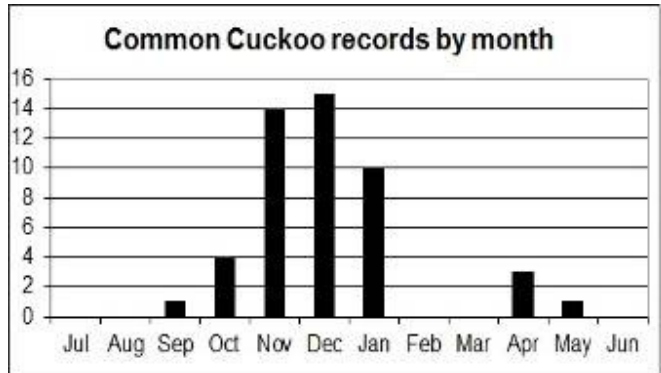


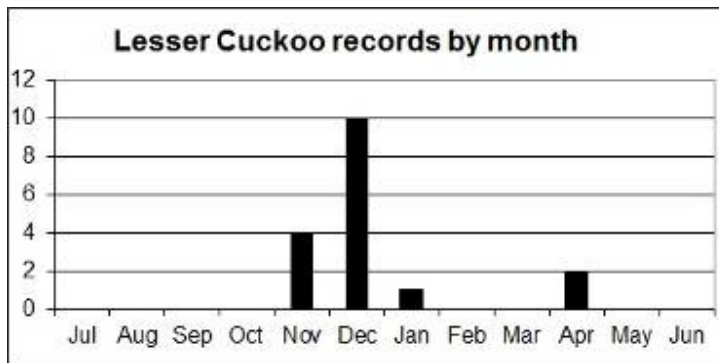
Photo: Uzice Samedi

**Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus***

One at the coastal path, Picard, Aldabra on 24 December 2011, accepted with a caveat that Madagascar Cuckoo *C. rochii* could not be ruled out (M Šúr)  
 This is the 17<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



Photo: Michal Šúr

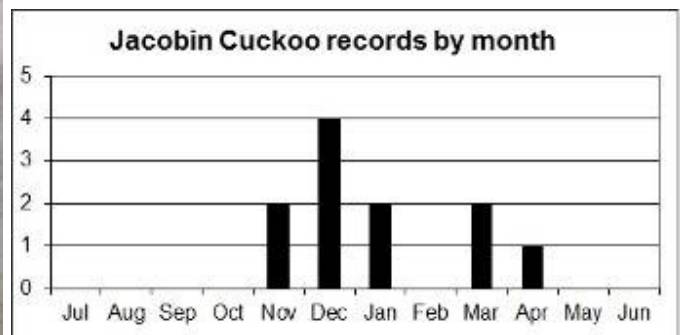


**Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus***

One first-winter at the Rangers' block, Aride on 25 December 2011 (T Catry, I Catry, A Barra, A Underwood).  
 This is the 11<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



Photo: Teresa Catry



**Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius***

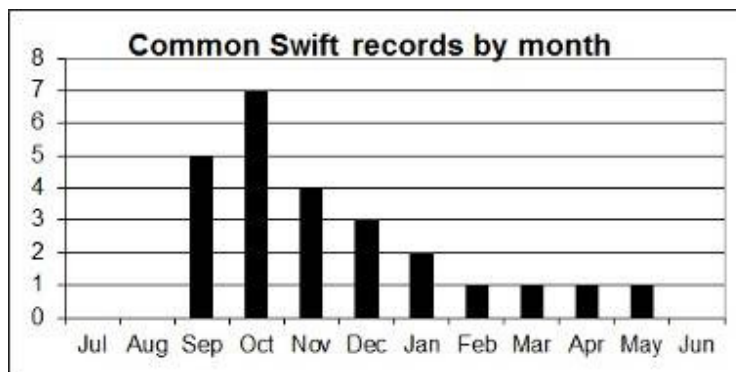
One first-winter near Old Settlement, Picard, Aldabra on 30 December 2011-1 January 2012 (M Šúr).  
This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Seychelles.

*Photo Michal Šúr*



**Common Swift *Apus apus***

One at Point Dot, Alphonse 22-23 January 2012 (A Duhec, R Jeanne).  
This is the 25<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.



**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus***

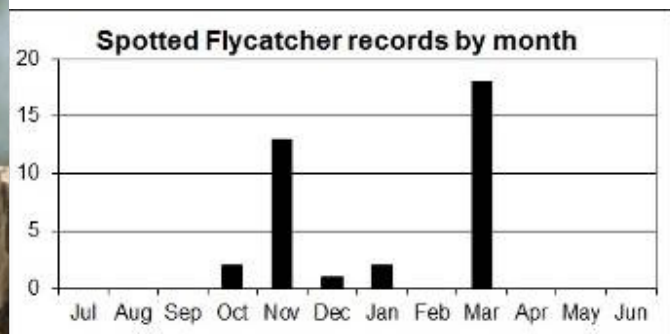
Two at Glacis Cerf next to Spa, Frégate 17-23 December 2012 (G Canning).  
This is the 18<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles apart from in four years of invasion when up to several hundred or even thousand have occurred.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

One first-winter (2CY) at the Settlement, Picard, Aldabra on 31 January 2012 (M Šúr)  
This is the 35<sup>h</sup> record for Seychelles.



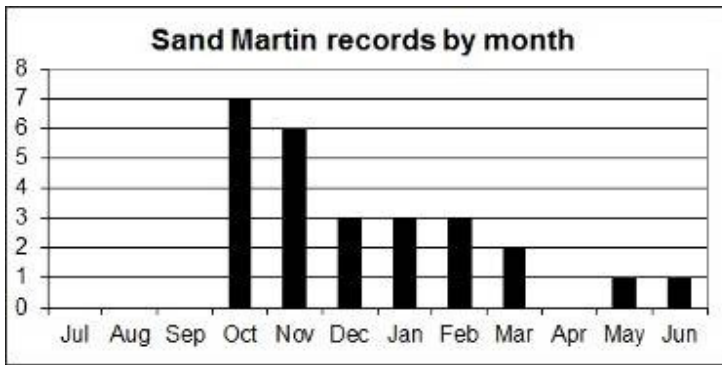
*Photo: Michal Šúr*



**Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica***

One immature north of the airstrip, Assumption 3-4 April 2012 (CJ Feare, J van der Crommenacker, J Hoareau, T Mahoune).  
This is the 8<sup>th</sup> record for Seychelles.

*Photo: Chris Feare*



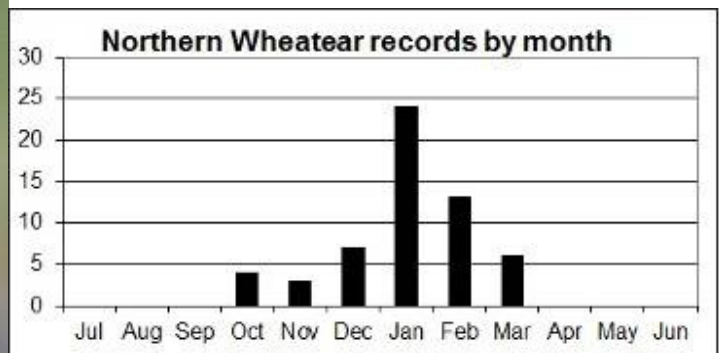
**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

One flying over and roosting in settlement, Assumption on 4 January 2012 and probably the same individual 12 January 2012 (CJ Feare, J Linnebjerg, T Mahoune, I Labrosse, P Benoit).  
One at the back and northern end of the settlement, Assumption 31 January-4 February 2012 (CJ Feare, T Mahoune, I Labrosse, P Benoit).  
One at the northern end of the settlement, Assumption 2 March 2012 (CJ Feare).  
This brings the number of Seychelles records to 25.

**Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

One male at the Back Path, Picard, Aldabra on 21 December 2011 (M Šúr).  
One adult male at the airstrip, Alphonse 20-27 January 2012 (A Duhec, R Jeanne).  
One first-winter (2CY) male at end of Zone 3 turtle track count area, Picard, Aldabra on 1 March 2012 (S Denis, A Gouffe and C Onezia).  
This brings the number of Seychelles records to 53.

*Photo Aurélie Duhec*



***Ficedula sp.***

One at the Lodge, La Cour, Aride on 21 November 2011 (I Bullock, G Lewis)

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> record in this category.

**White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus***

One at the island ridge, Aride on 21 November 2011 (I Bullock, L Calabrese)

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> Seychelles record.