

THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SEYCHELLES BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Adrian Skerrett and the Seychelles Bird Records Committee

Summary

Seychelles Bird Records Committee, formed in 1992, published its first report in 1996. This second report includes records accepted to 31 December 2000 and emphasises vagrants (species recorded less than annually). Changes in status to species other than vagrants since 1996 are noted. Two new species have commenced breeding and proposed taxonomic changes, if accepted, would add one further breeding species to the Seychelles list. One species previously classed as annual has been reclassified as vagrant.

Including these changes the number of breeding species in Seychelles is increased from sixty-three listed at 31 December 1995 to sixty-six, annual migrants is reduced from twenty-five to twenty-four and extinctions unchanged at seven. The number of vagrants has increased to 127, with twenty-two species added to the list. The number of species recorded in Seychelles at 31 December 2000 is 224. This figure includes three species accepted with the caveat "origin unknown" implying possible ship-assisted passage and/or deliberate introduction.

All species of less than annual occurrence are listed giving the number of accepted records, months recorded, locations (by island) and number of individuals. An asterisk appears by the common name of each species recorded since publication of the first report and for these species, more details are given.

Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) was formed in 1992 and published its first report in 1996². The current committee members are Michael Betts, Ian Bullock, David Fisher, Ron Gerlach, Rob Lucking, John Phillips, Bob Scott and Adrian Skerrett with consultants Phil Chantler (swifts), James Ferguson-Lees (raptors), John Marchant (waders), Tony Palliser (seabirds) and Robert Prys-Jones (museums).

A summary of notable sightings received by SBRC is published every six months in the Recent Reports section of the *African Bird Club Bulletin* while accepted records are listed in *Birdwatch* magazine (the quarterly journal of the Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles). The decision was taken at an Annual Meeting of SBRC to publish full reports every four or five years in a leading international journal. This second report includes all records accepted up to 31 December 2000.

The first report of SBRC included every species recorded in Seychelles (with the exception of extinctions), with the aim of publishing the first status report and first authoritative checklist of the birds of Seychelles. There was however still a significant number of historical records that had not been assessed. This second report therefore constitutes a complete record of the vagrants, defined as species recorded less than annually, recorded in Seychelles up to 31 December 2000.

The status of species other than vagrants has changed since 31 December 1995 as follows:

1. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* was listed as a vagrant with just four accepted records up to December 1995¹. Remarkably, it has now colonised Seychelles by natural means with indications of breeding on Mahé (since 1996), Silhouette (since 1997) and confirmed breeding on Cousin (since 2000).
2. No reports of Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* were submitted to SBRC at 31 December 1995, though there have been sightings of unidentified green parakeets on Mahé, almost certainly this species, dating back to 1974. Subsequent sightings have been confirmed as this species and the first indication of probable breeding was on Mahé in 1997. The species has also been noted on Silhouette.
3. Sinclair and Langrand (1998) first suggested taxonomic changes to several species breeding in

Seychelles³. One proposal is that Souimanga Sunbird *Nectarinia sovimanga* (generally regarded as having three races in Seychelles) should be split between two species. Under this change, race *aldabrensis* of Aldabra remains as a subspecies of Souimanga Sunbird, while the other two races, *abbotti* of Assumption and *buchenorum* of Cosmoledo and Astove form a second species, Abbott's Sunbird *N. abbotti*.

4. Other proposed taxonomic changes of Sinclair and Langrand (1998) do not change the number of breeding species. However, three species may be upgraded from endemic race to full endemic species (Aldabra Rail *Dryolimnas (cuvieri) aldabranus*, Seychelles Black Parrot *Coracopsis (nigra) barkyli*, and Aldabra Fody *Foudia (eminentissima) aldabrana*). The status of another might be changed from a race of Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* to a race of Madagascar Sacred Ibis *T. bernieri*.
5. Seychelles Magpie-robin *Copsychus sechellarum* is resident on four islands at 31 December 2000 (Frégate, Cousin, Cousine and Aride), compared to two islands at 31 December 1995, due to a BirdLife reintroduction programme. It breeds on the first three islands listed.
6. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* was originally listed as an annual migrant. However, following the increased recognition of Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* and the close scrutiny of Seychelles records it became clear that while both these species had occurred in Seychelles. The vast majority of sightings could not be assigned to one species or the other. SBRC has reclassified Lesser Black-backed Gull as a vagrant.

Including Black-crowned Night Heron and Ring-necked Parakeet and if Abbott's Sunbird is confirmed as a valid species (DNA studies are underway in Seychelles for several species) then the number of breeding species in Seychelles is increased from sixty-three listed at 31 December 1995 to sixty-six. The number of annual migrants is reduced by the deletion of Lesser Black-backed Gull from twenty-five to twenty-four. The number of extinctions has remained unchanged at seven and hopefully, will stay that way. The number of vagrants has increased to 127, with twenty-two species added to the list since 31 December 1995.

The number of species recorded in Seychelles (again including Abbott's Sunbird) as at 31 December 2000 is 224. This figure includes three species accepted with the caveat "origin unknown" implying possible ship-assisted passage and/or deliberate introduction (Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Ring-necked Parakeet and Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*).

The following list details all species of less than annual occurrence giving the number of accepted records the months recorded, the locations (by island) and in parentheses the number of individual birds recorded. An asterisk appears by the common name of each species recorded since publication of the first report and for these species, more details are given.

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

One record: July-Oct. Mahé (1).

Pintado Petrel *Daption capense*

One record: Sept. Between Cosmoledo and Assumption (1).

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*

Twelve records: Feb, Mar, April, June, July, Nov, Dec. Eight at sea between the Aldabra, Farquhar and Amirantes groups, four near Bird (18).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*

Two records: May, Oct. One between Frégate and Récif, one near Farquhar (2).

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Three records: Oct, Nov. One near Bird, one near Desnouefs, one near Farquhar (7).

***White-faced Storm-petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*

One bird ten miles off Boudeuse on 9 May 1995, one eight miles off Desroches on 10 May 1995 and five birds five miles off Remire on 12 May 1995.

***Swinhoe's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis*

One bird found dead at Cote d' Or, Praslin in October 1996. One bird at sea between Aldabra and Assumption 12 October 1996 and one in the same location 6 December 1998.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two records: Dec. One South-east Island/Mahé, one Platte (2).

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

Two records: all months. Jan-Dec. One Bird, one Aride (2).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One record: Jan. Near Cousin (1).

***Long-tailed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

A series of sightings at various locations at Aldabra in 1999 commenced with individuals from 26 January, to 31 March, four on 1 April, twenty-one on 21 April, ten 29 April, four 29 June, two on 3 August then singles up to 25 November. Also one at Hodoul Island, Mahé 28 July to 22 October 1999.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Twenty-two records: April, May, July-Feb. Seven Mahé, three La Digue, three Bird, three Silhouette, two Frégate, one Praslin, one Curieuse, one Aride, one Platte (23).

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*

Seven records: all months. Three Mahé, three Aldabra, one Praslin (7).

***Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

One at Plantation Club marsh, Mahé from 22 March to 7 April 1996 (1).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Sixteen records: all months. Thirteen Mahé, one La Digue, one Frégate, one Silhouette (31).

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

One record: Oct. Frégate (1).

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Two records: Oct, Nov. One Aride, one Praslin (2).

Indian Pond-heron *Ardeola grayii*

Three records: May to November. One Mahé, one Bird, one Frégate (3).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Four records: Dec-Feb. Two Mahé, one Bird, one D'Arros (8).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

One record of nominate race: Feb. Aldabra (1).

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Four records: Apr, June, Sept. Three Aldabra, one Assumption (6).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One record: Dec. Mahé (1).

***Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

One adult female at Dauban Marsh, Silhouette 12 December 1998 to 16 January 1999. Silhouette. Accepted with caveat "origin unknown".

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Four records: Feb, Nov, Dec. Two Mahé, one Aride, one Cousin (10).

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Five records: Oct-Mar. Two Mahé, one Frégate, one Bird, one Assumption (6).

***Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

One adult male at Police Bay marsh, Mahé 26 May 1998.

***Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

One at Fond L'Anse, Praslin on 12 September 1996.

Western Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Three records: Mar-May, Sept, Oct. One Praslin, one Félicité, one D'Arros. One accepted with caveat that Crested Honey-buzzard *P. ptilorhyncus* could not be ruled out (3).

***Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

One at La Passe Silhouette 24 December 1997 and one at Cousin 25 December 1997; possibly the same bird.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

Six records: Jan, Feb, Aug, Sept, Oct-Dec. Aldabra (8).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Two records: Jan, Feb. Frégate, Mahé (2).

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

One record: November. Mahé (1).

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Two records: April, May, December. Praslin, Bird (2).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Three records: Nov, Dec. Two Aride, one Bird (3).

***Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

One first-winter and one adult female at the airstrip, Desroches from 1 to 3 March 1995. One first-winter at Cousine 2 December 1995 to early February 1996. One first-winter at the Plantation House garden, Frégate 6 December 1995 to 5 January 1996. One first-winter found alive but exhausted at Victoria Mahé 27 November 1998, died the following day.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Seven records: Nov-Jan. Two Mahé, two Cousin, two Aride, one Cousine (7).

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

Thirteen records: Nov-Feb. Seven Aldabra, four Aride, one Cousin, one Frégate (14).

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

Four records: Nov. Two Aride, one Frégate, one Aldabra (4).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One record: Nov. Cousin (1).

***Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

One at Bel Air, Mahe 20th May 1998 and one at Aride from 25 December 1998 to 17 January 1999.

Previous reports of this species had been assumed to be escapes of Japanese Quail *C. japonica*, kept in captivity in Seychelles, but measurements of both birds proved otherwise.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Three records: Oct, Nov, Jan. One Bird, one Aride, one Frégate (3).

***Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*

One adult at Roche Caiman Bird Sanctuary from 8 December 1996 to 6 February 1997.

***Striped Crane** *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*

A bird collected on Picard, Aldabra 10 December 1904 and preserved at the American Museum of Natural History, New York had been pending by SBRC until the specimen could be inspected. This record appears in previously published literature as a male¹. The inspection confirmed the species identification, though the skin is a female, not a male.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

One record: Dec. Mahé (1).

***Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyryla alleni*

One adult at Basin Flamant, Aldabra 15 February 1995. One immature at Plantation Club marsh 4-9 July 1996. One adult at the Research Station, Picard, Aldabra on 10 January 1999. One adult at La Passe, La Digue on 10 March 1999.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Five records: All months. Four Mahé, one Aldabra (7).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Two records: Sept, Oct. One Mahé, one Praslin (2).

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Four records: Jan, Oct, Nov. Two Praslin, one Mahé, one Frégate (4).

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarus*

Six records: Oct-Dec. Four Mahé, one Praslin, one La Digue (8).

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

Four records: One Mahé, one Frégate, one Bird, one Alphonse (4).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Eight records: Sept-Nov, Jan. Four Mahé, two Bird, one Frégate, one Cousin (10).

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

Thirteen records: Aug-Apr, June. Four Praslin, four Bird, two Mahé, two Frégate and one Farquhar (18).

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

Three records: Oct, Nov. Two Praslin, one Frégate (3).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Two records: Mar, Apr. Mahé (2).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Five records: Sept, Oct, Dec. Three Mahé, one Praslin, one Bird (6).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

One record: Nov. Mahé (1).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Two records: Oct. One Praslin, one Bird (2).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Three records: Sept-Feb, July. Mahé (3).

***Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Tryngites falcinellus*

One at Anse Madge, Praslin from 15 to 16 October 1985. One first-winter at Baie St Anne Praslin on 3 October 1996. One first-winter at Oceangate mudflats, Mahé from 10 to 29 October 1996. One adult at Baie St Anne, Praslin on 19 October 1997.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Eighteen records: Aug-Nov. Eight Mahe, three Frégate, three Bird, two Praslin, two Cousin (19).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Three records: Mar, Oct, Nov. Two Bird, one Platte (3).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Eleven records: Oct-Feb. Five Frégate, three Mahé, one Praslin, one La Digue, one Aride (11).

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Two records: Oct-Dec. One Praslin, one Frégate (2).

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

Three records: Mar, Apr, Nov. Two Mahé, one Aldabra. One accepted with the caveat that Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala* was not ruled out (3).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Three records: Oct, Nov. Two Bird, one Alphonse (3).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*

One record: Oct-Apr. Bird (1).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

One record: Feb. Mahé (1).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seven records: Jan, May, Oct, Nov. Six Mahé, one Cerf (9).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seven records: Oct, Nov, Jan. Three Mahé, two Praslin, one Frégate, one Silhouette (7).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

Two records: All months. One Mahé, one Bird (2).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two records: Nov. One Mahé, one Denis (2).

***South Polar Skua** *Catharacta maccormicki*

One immature intermediate morph, at sea between Booby Island and Aride from 9 to 25 July 1998. One immature intermediate morph off the south side of Aride from 18 to 28 July 1999.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Two records: Jan, Feb. One Bird, one Frégate (2).

***Heuglin's Gull** *Larus heuglini*

Two first-winter birds at Providence, Mahé from 4 to 5 February 1992.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Two records: Oct, Dec. One Aride, one Bird (2).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Twelve records: Dec-Feb. Seven Mahé, four Praslin, one between Praslin and Cousin (22).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Four records: Oct, Dec, Mar. Three Mahé, one Cousin (4).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Four records: Oct, Mar, Apr. Two Mahé, one Praslin, one La Digue (4).

***Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

Three birds in adult breeding plumage (and probably a total of fifteen including birds in non-breeding plumage alongside, which could not be separated from Saunders' Tern *S.saundersi*) at Oceangate mudflats, Mahé from 23 to 24 April 1997.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Three records: Nov, Dec. Aride, Bird, Aldabra (3).

Jacobin Cuckoo *Oxylophus jacobinus*

Five records: Nov-Jan, Mar. Two Frégate, one Praslin, one Bird, one Aride (5).

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

One record: Oct. Bird (1).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Ten records: Apr, May, Sept, Nov, Dec. Eight Mahé, one Aride, one Cousine. Two accepted with slight caveat regarding other possible *Cuculus* species (10).

Asian Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Four records: Apr, Nov, Dec. Two Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousine (4).

***Eurasian Scops-owl** *Otus scops*

One between Au Salon and Grand Anse, Frégate 1 November 1992, accepted with the caveat that other Scops-owl species were not ruled out. One immature on the plateau, Aride from 8 to 11 December 1996. One ship-assisted on a tuna fishing vessel which it boarded at 5°N on 8 October 1998, arriving Mahé on 18th November 1998, where it died 23rd November 1998. One found dead on Aride on 2 November 1998.

Brown Fish-owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*

One record: Nov. Mahé. Accepted with caveat "origin unknown" (1).

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

One record: Dec. Bird (1).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Two records: Oct, Nov. One Mahé, one Bird (3).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Fifteen records: Feb, Mar, May, Sept-Dec. Five Bird, three Frégate, three Aldabra, three Assumption, one St Francois. Ten records accepted with a caveat re other possible all-dark swifts (16).

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

Twelve records: Jan, May, Oct, Nov. Eight Bird, two Frégate, one Farquhar, one St Francois (16).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Two records: Nov, Dec. One Mahé, one Aride (2).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

Fourteen records: Mar-May, Nov, Dec. Four Bird, three Aldabra, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousin, one Denis, one Desnoeufs, one Marie Louise, one Platte (31).

***European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

One adult on East North Island, Cosmoledo Atoll on 25 November 1998.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Twenty-four records: Oct-Mar. Seven Mahé, six Aldabra, five Praslin, three Bird, two Aride, one African Banks (28).

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Thirty-six records: Feb, Mar, Oct-Dec. Twenty-seven Aldabra, three Cosmoledo, three Bird, two Frégate, one Providence (44).

***Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

One adult race *africana* on near the Settlement, Picard, Aldabra from 20 to 22 October 1993. One adult race either *epops* or *senegalensis* at the Research Station, Picard, Aldabra 14 October 1999.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One record: Nov-Dec. Frégate (1).

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Fifteen records: Jan, Mar, May, June, Oct-Dec. Five Frégate, three Mahé, three Bird, two Aride, two, Aldabra (17)).

Mascarene Martin *Phedina borbonica*

Five records: May, Oct, Nov. Two Aldabra, one Bird, one Desnoeufs, one Assumption (5).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Fifty-two records: Sept-May. Twenty-six Aldabra, eight Frégate, five Aride, four Bird, four Mahé, one Praslin, one at sea between Praslin and Cousin, one Denis, one Alphonse, one Assumption. Thirty-one records accepted with the caveat that other similar species were not ruled out by the description (119).

Common House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Four records: Mar, Oct. Two Aldabra, one Farquhar, one Bird (5).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Fifteen records: Feb-May, Oct-Dec. Six Aldabra, four Mahé, three Bird, one Frégate one Alphonse (15).

***Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

One adult female at the Plantation House garden, Frégate on 16 April 1999.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Four records: Oct, Nov. One Bird, Frégate, one Silhouette, one Marie Louise (6).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Twelve records: Nov-Mar. Five Mahé, two Frégate, two Aldabra, two Aride, one Bird (14).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Forty-seven records: Oct-Jan. Mar. Thirteen Frégate, thirteen Aldabra, six Bird, four Mahé, four Aride, two La Digue, one Cousin, one African Banks, one Etoile, one Alphonse, one Assumption (65).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Twelve records: Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar. Six Frégate, two Praslin, two Bird, one Mahé, one Alphonse (22).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Four records: Oct-Nov. Two Aride, one Cousin, one Bird (4).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One record: Nov. Bird (1).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Thirty-two records: Oct, Dec-Mar. Twenty-four Aldabra, five Bird, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Aride (36).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

One record: Nov. Aride (1).

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Two records: Oct. One Frégate, one Farquhar (2).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One record: Nov. Cousin (1).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One record: Nov. Aride (1).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Three records: Nov, Feb, Mar. One La Digue, one Frégate, one Aldabra (3).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two records: Nov, Dec. One Cousin, one Aldabra (2).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

One record: Dec. Curieuse (1).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

One record: Oct. Aldabra (1).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Twenty-eight records: Oct-Dec, Mar. Twenty Aldabra, four Bird, two Aride, one Cousin, one D'Arros (38).

European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Ten records: Sept-Nov, Mar, Apr. Seven Aldabra, two Bird, one Aride (10).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Six records: Mar. Five Aldabra, one Cosmoledo (7).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

One record: Mar. Aldabra (1).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One record: Apr. Aride (1).

***Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

One female or immature near the Lodge, Bird from 13 July 1995 to 23 February 1996. Two at Bassin Cabris, Picard, Aldabra from 29 September to 2 November 1998. A series of sightings of non-breeding adult or immature birds also at Bassin Cabris, commenced with fourteen birds on 2 September 1999 and

smaller numbers up to 24 June 2000, the last sighting, when five birds were present

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Three records: Oct-Feb. Two Frégate, one Bird (3).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

One record: Nov. Aride (1).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One record: Oct. Aride (1).

In addition to records of species of less than annual occurrence in Seychelles, SBRC collects records of out-of-range species within Seychelles. In this category, the following records have been accepted:

Madagascar Pond-heron *Ardeola idae*

Breeds Aldabra, vagrant east of Aldabra. One record: Nov-Mar. Aride.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Breeds Aldabra, vagrant east of Aldabra. Three records: Jan-May, Oct, Dec. One Mahé, one Frégate, one Farquhar.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Breeds Aldabra and annual throughout Aldabra group, vagrant eastward. One record: Nov. At sea between Aride and Bird.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

Breeds Amirantes westward, vagrant eastward. Three records: Jan, June, Oct. One Bird, one Aride, one Cousin.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Breeds Amirantes from Remire south to St Francois. Vagrant elsewhere. One record: Aug Aride.

A final category of records has been created to collect records that cannot be tied down to species level, but nevertheless are of interest. It is possible that with increasing knowledge some of these records may be reassessed. For example, at the time of the first report a report of Scops-owl Sp. *Otus sp.* was noted. Following the confirmation of records of Eurasian Scops-owl, by far the most likely member of the family to reach Seychelles, this record was reassessed and accepted as probably Eurasian Scops Owl with a caveat regarding other possible species not ruled out by the description. The following groups of records exist as at 30 September 2000.

Ardeola sp.

Five records. Two Bird, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousin.

Montagu's/Pallid Harrier

One adult female: Aldabra.

Gallinule sp.

One record: Aldabra

Collared/Oriental Pratincole

Two records. Both Praslin.

Pratincola sp.

Nine records. Four Bird, three Praslin, one Mahé, one Frégate.

Black-winged/Oriental Pratincole

One record. Bird.

Knot sp.

Two records. Both Mahé.

Snipe sp.

Seven records. Two Bird, two Frégate, one Mahé, one Praslin, one Aride.

Caspian/Oriental Plover

One record. Bird.

Pomarine/Arctic Skua

One record. Aride.

Brown-/Black-/Grey-headed Gull

Five records. One Aldabra, one Mahé, one Praslin, one Frégate, one Desroches

Oriental/European Turtle Dove

One record Frégate.

Cuculus sp.

Twenty-three records. Six Mahé, five Frégate, four Cousin, three Aldabra, two La Digue, one Silhouette, one Félicité, one Bird.

Alcedo sp.

One record: Frégate. Probably Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* though other related species could not be ruled out.

Blue-cheeked/Madagascar Bee-eater

Two records. One Mahé, one Cosmoledo.

Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff

Two records. One Aldabra, one Astove.

All visitors to Seychelles and residents are encouraged to send in sightings of any species listed here or indeed any new species not listed. Record forms are available from Adrian Skerrett, PO Box 336, Seychelles or Hazeley Brook, Keele Road, Keele, Staffs, ST5 5AL, UK, e-mail: askerrett@hotmail.com.

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