

diagnostic for *P. subaureus*. This species should, therefore, be added to the list of the birds of Somalia published by Ash & Miskell (1983).

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## Courtship feeding in Yellow-rumped Tinker-birds *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Although the breeding biology of some tinker-birds (Capitonidae, genus *Pogoniulus*) is fairly well known (Short & Horne 1988), their courtship behaviour does not seem to have been described.

At 08:35 on 10 September 1989 at the edge of stunted hillside forest in North Kinangop, Kenya (36° 28'E, 0° 38'S) I heard a Yellow-rumped Tinker-bird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* calling loudly. It responded immediately to a whistled imitation by flying down to within a few metres of me, then flew off some 10 m and called again. This time it was answered faintly from a small tree nearby. It flew there directly and in a flurry of wings mounted a female that was perched there and copulated briefly. The male then flew off but returned in a few minutes. Holding a regurgitated berry in his beak, he copulated once again then flew to a twig just above the female, leaned down to her and fed her the berry, which was about 1 cm long, oval in shape and bright red in colour. In quick succession he fed her four more identical berries, regurgitating them one after the other. The female was passive except for lifting her head to accept the berries. The male flew off again, but shortly returned and fed the female 13 berries in succession, this time without copulating. After another brief absence he returned and fed six more berries. The seventh berry was repeatedly offered but the female refused to take it. Eventually the male came and perched next to her, puffed out his throat, leaned towards her and offered the berry again; this time it was accepted, but an eighth was steadfastly refused. The male flew away and the female sat quietly mandibulating one berry after another; now and again she would bend down and deposit a sticky whitish seed on the branch where she sat. After some time she flew to a lower branch in denser vegetation. At 08:55 the male returned, flew directly to the female and copulated once more, then sat by her and fed her eight more berries before leaving. At 09:00 the female was still sitting quietly. In 25 min she had been fed 32 berries and had copulated with her mate three times.

## Reference

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