

First record of Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus* for Kenya

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Les auteurs examinent l'identification d'un spécimen de l'Aigle de Cassin *Spizaetus africanus*, collecté au Mont Elgon, Kenya, en avril 1926, et découvert au Musée de la Nature à Malmö, Suède. Bien que catalogué comme Aigle botté *Hieraaetus pennatus*, le plumage et les mensurations indiquent qu'il s'agit en fait d'un Aigle de Cassin juvénile. Ce spécimen constitue ainsi la première mention de l'espèce pour le Kenya.

In September 1997 WSC found a specimen of an eagle (Figs 4–5) in the Naturmuseum (Nature Museum) in Malmö, Sweden, that had been collected on Mt. Elgon, in 1926. It had been identified and labelled as a Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* but does not have the appearance of that species. Following careful study and comparisons of plumage characters and measurements, we are convinced that it is a juvenile Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*. As such, it is the first record of the species from Kenya.

The specimen label reads: 'tag no. M. M. Kat.av exot nr. 1.1131 17 April 1926 Male Mt. Elgon. Collection of Dr. H. Granvik Expedition. Iris: Kaffe Braun Bill: Blue grey, 26 Wing: 345 Tail: 260 Tarsi: 83 mm Feet: Lemon yellow Cere: Lemon yellow Entire culmen: 35 mm.' CE re-measured the tail as 240 mm, not 260 mm as on the label.

Simon Thomsett provided us with the following quote from the trip report written by Dr Hugo Granvik, the collector: 'I am not sure about the identification of this specimen, because of the differences between it and all other specimens in the British Museum. As in *Accipiter melanoleucus*, the spots on the under surface [of this specimen] are very broad and almost oval, but in all other specimens [of *pennatus*] I have seen, the birds are striped and have no spots at all. In typical and true *pennatus* only the throat and chest are striped, whereas in my specimen the whole underside, the undertail-coverts and the tarsus are spotted.'

The specimen in question has tarsi feathered down to the toes, therefore it can only be one of the 'booted' eagles. It is not an *Aquila* or a Long-crested

Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* because it is not overall dark. It is too small and has wings too short to be a Bonelli's *Hieraaetus fasciatus*, Crowned *Stephanoaetus coronatus* or Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*, or African Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus spilogaster*. The only other possibilities are Booted Eagle, Ayres' (Hawk) Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresi*, or Cassin's Hawk-Eagle; all three have wing measurements similar to the specimen. Measurements of the specimen are longer than those of Booted Eagles for tarsi (83 vs 59–63 mm²) and tail (240 vs 186–204 mm²); further, the tail pattern (Fig 5) and breast markings (Fig 4) are different, as noted by Granvik. Juvenile Ayres' (Hawk) Eagle appears similar in plumage to the specimen, having a pale head and underparts, and a similar tail pattern; however, the tarsi (56–78 mm)¹ and tail (Table 1) of Ayres' (Hawk) Eagle are appreciably shorter. Additionally, the specimen lacks the white feathers at the base of the forewing possessed by both Ayres' (Hawk) Eagle and Booted Eagle. The only candidate, therefore, on both plumage characteristics and measurements, is juvenile Cassin's Hawk-Eagle. The mensural data in Table 1, taken by CE when preparing moult protocols for nine of the 11 museum specimens of Cassin's Hawk-Eagle known to him, support this identification, especially the 'Kipp index' or 'primary projection' and the wing/tail ratio, which are both within the range of Cassin's and outside that of Ayres' (Hawk) Eagle. The pale head, brown back and upperwing-coverts, and lack of black areas on the flanks of the specimen are juvenile characters of this species.

Table 1. Comparison of measurements (in cm) of the Malmö specimen with Ayres' Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresi* and Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus africanus*

	n	Wing	Wing tip*	Tail	Wing/tip*	Wing/tail
<i>H. ayresi</i>	17	37.4 (32–42)	13.5 (11.5–16.0)	19.4 (17–21)	2.7 (2.5–2.8)	1.9 (1.8–2.0)
<i>S. africanus</i>	10	34.8 (32–36)	10.2 (9–11)	23.5 (21–25)	3.4 (3.0–3.6)	1.5 (1.4–1.6)
Specimen		34.5	10	24	3.5	1.4

* n = 5, Cassin's and n = 9, Ayres

Cassin's Hawk-Eagle is resident in tropical rain-forests of central and West Africa, ranging east to western Uganda^{1,3}. Presumably this juvenile had wandered east to the forests (now gone) at the base of Mt. Elgon where it was collected. Photographs of the ventral and dorsal of this specimen have been deposited with the East Africa Natural History Society.

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Bergeronnette citrine *Motacilla citreola* à Dakar:
première mention pour le Sénégal

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We describe and document with photographs the first record of Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* in West Africa, near Dakar, in Senegal, from 16 to 29 January 1999. The individual was a first-winter female and probably overwintered at the locality. The observation is discussed in the light of the 12 previous records from continental Africa. Most have been in the north-east, with single records in Morocco and South Africa.

Le 16 janvier 1999, lors d'une visite au parc de Hann Let de la 'Petite Niaye', située à l'est du Collège des Pères Maristes et le plus à l'ouest de l'ensemble Pikine-Dagoudane, Dakar, l'attention de CG est attirée par un cri de bergeronnette très râpeux. L'identification est immédiate au premier contact visuel; elle est confirmée par SC: il s'agit d'une Bergeronnette citrine *Motacilla citreola* femelle en plumage de premier hiver. Une description complète de l'oiseau est réalisée sur place. Le lendemain, l'oiseau est toujours présent et peut être photographié. Deux semaines plus tard, le 29 janvier, en compagnie de BP, l'oiseau est relocalisé sans aucune difficulté au même endroit, laissant supposer un hivernage complet.

Description

De taille similaire à la Bergeronnette printanière *Motacilla flava*, dont de nombreux individus, essentiellement des sous-espèces *flava* et *flavissima*, sont présents aux alentours. Les pattes noires sont légèrement plus longues donnant à l'oiseau un aspect 'haut sur pattes'. Un large sourcil jaune contourne les parotiques sombres, de couleur grisâtre, rejoignant l'espace sous-mustacien également jaune. Calotte gris perle (non olive comme chez *M. f. flavissima*) se fondant avec le manteau de même couleur, confirmant

qu'il s'agit d'un individu femelle. Dos et croupion gris perle (olive chez *M. f. flavissima*). Queue sombre avec les rectrices externes blanches (similaire à celle de *M. flava*). Une barre alaire blanche (jaunâtre chez *M. f. flavissima*) sur les moyennes couvertures est nettement visible; elle n'est pas de dimension symétrique, indiquant un oiseau en mue. Une deuxième barre alaire moins distincte est visible au niveau des grandes couvertures. Tertiaires de couleur brunâtre frangées de crème, indiquant un individu de première année. Gorge et haut de la poitrine jaunes. Ventre et sous-caudales blanches (jaunâtres chez *M. f. flavissima*). Flancs grisâtres. Bec noir assez long, légèrement plus fort que chez *M. flava*. Œil noir.

Cri très râpeux, court et explosif pouvant être retranscrit par *tsïrr*; très différent de celui des Bergeronnettes printanières types. Certaines *M. f. flavissima* émettent un cri pouvant rappeler celui de *M. citreola*, mais plus long, moins puissant et surtout moins râpeux.

Lors des trois visites, l'oiseau était toujours présent dans la même zone (à dix mètres près) et défendait son territoire en chassant vigoureusement les Bergeronnettes printanières, poussant son cri caractéristique à chaque poursuite. Il était, la plupart du temps, occupé à se nourrir.



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