

1982–84, none was caught. Cramp & Simmons (1983) give a similar figure of 8 years and 10 months for the oldest known ringed individual of this species. This was a bird ringed in Finland as a juvenile on 30 August 1963 and retrapped on 25 July 1972 (Rydzewski 1978). It is therefore noteworthy that on 23 September 1989 a Little Stint was retrapped at the Magadi site which had been ringed 11 seasons previously, on 19 May 1979 (3780 d between ringing and retrapping). This individual was ringed as a full-grown bird, and was therefore at least 11 years and 2 months old when retrapped, probably a longevity record for this species. It had also been retrapped in March 1983. The catch of Little Stints of 23 September 1989 totalled 40 birds. This included four retraps: apart from the individual noted above, these had been ringed in December 1988, October 1986 and October 1983.

The same September 1989 Magadi catch included a Chestnut-banded Sandplover *Charadrius pallidus* which had been ringed as an adult ten seasons previously, in February 1980 (3514 d). This is not, however, the longest retrap interval in this species. An adult ringed at Magadi on 1 October 1972 was caught again in May 1983 (3877 d), while another adult ringed in August 1973 was caught 13 years later in October 1986 (4824 d).

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A second Kenya record of the Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

During the afternoon of 19 July 1987 a small wader was noticed feeding beside the causeway at Lake Magadi, Kenya. It was in full plumage, and evidently an adult Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*. The only Palaearctic wader present in the area at the time, it was watched in excellent light at distances down to 25 m with a Bushnell x20 telescope.

The head was all round brick red, uniform from the sides of the face to the upper chest, and sharply demarcated against the white of the underparts. Fine black streaks were confined to the sides of the chest. There was a small white patch on the chin. The supercilium was practically obscured by the brick-red face. The crown was finely streaked, the ground colour more buff than the rest of the head. The overall appearance of the upperparts was very dark with extensive blackish centres to mantle and scapular feathering and to buffy-edged wing coverts. The bill was entirely black; it tapered to the tip from a broad base, and appeared stouter than in Little Stints *Calidris minuta* found nearby next day. The legs were black. In overall appearance, the bird seemed more solidly built, shorter necked and perhaps shorter legged than a Little Stint. It was eventually disturbed by children and left the area. It could not be located next day.

The only previous known occurrences of this species in eastern Africa, apart from birds in Natal, South Africa, were in Kenya at Ngomeni (coast) in May 1981 (Taylor

1981), and in Somalia in April 1979, May 1980 and May 1981 (Ash 1983).

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A new Kenyan breeding site for the Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Populations of the Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* that are resident in the Afrotropical region are known to breed in several areas of southern Africa, in Kenya and north-eastern Tanzania, and in the Awash Valley of north-eastern Ethiopia (Urban *et al.* 1986). Instances of breeding in Kenya are confined to an old record from Lake Nakuru (Jackson 1938), and annual nesting of small numbers around Lake Magadi (Britton 1980, EANHS nest record cards). Another old record, of large numbers breeding on freshwater marshes near Nyeri, 0°25'S, 36°57'E, (Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1957), is considered doubtful (Lewis & Pomeroy 1989).

A third Kenyan breeding site was discovered on 28 June 1989 about 1.5 km west of Amboseli Lodge (2°39'S, 37°16'E), along the main Ol Tukai–Namanga road. The habitat consisted of a deeply rutted stretch of this road, which had been flooded to form small lagoons within which the road's ridges between the wheel-ruts, emerged a few centimetres above the water level to form long narrow islands of bare mud.

About ten adult Avocets were present, including two individuals which, sitting motionless on the narrow spits, may have been incubating. Positive evidence of breeding was provided by two flightless chicks, about one third grown, that were moving together along one of the muddy margins.

Although the other Kenyan breeding records are from the shores of large, permanent soda lakes within the rift valley, the low islands in these temporary lagoons provide a similar habitat. The water is most probably saline, since the soils of the Ol Tukai area are generally salty, and saline encrustations were present on the soil surface nearby. The date conforms to the June–July breeding peak given for Kenya and Tanzania by Brown & Britton (1980).

The road has diverted around this flooded area, and the birds showed no sign of being disturbed by the passage of numerous motor vehicles only 10 m or so away. Since this area is within the Amboseli National Park, however, very few, if any, pedestrians pass along this stretch.

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