

UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM
SUDAN

Natural History Museum

(Formerly Natural History Section of the Sudan Museum)

BULLETIN No. 1

THE BIRDS OF KHARTOUM PROVINCE

BY

K. N. G. MACLEAY



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1960

THE BIRDS OF KHARTOUM PROVINCE

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University of Khartoum

Khartoum Province is ideally situated for the study of birds. It stands at the junction of the Blue and White Niles and is on the great migration route of most of the summer visitors to Europe and the rest of the Palaearctic region. It is also an important centre for many African migrants which spend their summer, and more especially the "Kharif" in the northern part of their range, returning south to central and southern Africa during October after their breeding has finished.

Khartoum itself, with its evergreen irrigated gardens, is a permanent attraction for birds, both resident and migrant, and the density of bird life, even in a small garden, is high by British standards where the attraction of birds to private and public gardens is a long established and widespread practice.

As is to be expected, in an arid country like the Sudan, water is the main factor in controlling the bird population. Apart from the town gardens, the highest density of birds will be found to be on the river banks and in irrigated cultivation. Especially noteworthy are the "Sunt Forest" and the bird sanctuary which extends from the Omdurman Bridge upstream, on both sides of the White Nile, to Gordon's Tree. Here birds are, by European standards, almost indecently tame and allow one to approach to within a few yards. This applies even to those species which are shot or otherwise persecuted elsewhere. During the winter and especially after the sluices have been opened about the end of December, the mud-banks and rough water below the dam at Jebel Aulia is a wonderful sight with hosts of waders, gulls, terns, wagtails and hawks in large variety.

Every day before the sun becomes too hot, large flocks of birds of all kinds visit the river banks to drink. Anyone who has observed the vast flocks of sand-grouse, to be numbered in thousands, which daily visit the river for their quick drink before returning to the arid regions inland, or has seen the even vaster flocks of duck passing northward in February and March during the spring migration, must have realised that this area is exceptional in its interest as a centre for bird observation.

PODICIPIDAE

GREEBES

Potiocephalus ruficollis (Pallas) .. Little Greebe

Not uncommon resident in the south and occasionally seen on the Nile as far north as Khartoum in the winter months, January to May.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

CORMORANTS

Phalacrocorax africanus (Gmelin) .. Reed Cormorant

Common resident on the rivers; numbers are increased during the summer by migrants from further south. To be seen daily drying its wings on Tuti Island.

ANHINGIDAE

DARTER

Anhinga rufus (Lacépède and Daudin) Darter

Common resident on the rivers, especially in the summer when numbers are much larger due to migrants from the south.

PELICANIDAE

PELICANS

Pelicanus rufescens Gmelin Grey Pelican

Fairly common resident, usually to be seen at the Mogren and Jebel Aulia dam, throughout the year.

Pelicanus onocrotalus Linnaeus .. White Pelican

Common winter visitor, October-April, when large flocks of up to one thousand birds are often seen on the White Nile, stragglers may remain throughout the summer.

ARDEIDAE

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS

Ardea melanocephala Vigors and Children Black-headed Heron

Common on river banks and in trees along rivers, more frequent in the summer when the numbers are increased by migrants from south. Nests in riverside trees, July-October.

Ardea cinerea Linnaeus Grey Heron

Common winter visitor to the rivers, September — April, a few may remain as residents during the summer and may breed.

Ardea goliath Cretzschmar Goliath Heron

Uncommon summer visitor from the south but may occasionally be seen on the south bank of the Blue Nile and on sandbanks of the White Nile.

Pyrherodia purpurea (Linnaeus) .. Purple Heron

Frequent winter visitor when it is common along the rivers, especially the White Nile, non-breeding birds occasionally remaining in the summer.

Casmerodius alba (Linnaeus) Great White Egret

Frequent summer visitor from the south ; commonly seen along the muddy banks of rivers, rarely seen during the winter.

Mesophoyx intermedia (Wagler) Yellow Billed Egret

Frequent summer visitor from the south to the banks of the rivers, rarely remains through the winter.

Egretta garzetta (Linnaeus) Little Egret

Common winter visitor to the rivers and cultivations in the province ; occasionally remains throughout the summer.

Egretta schistacea (Ehrenberg) Reef Heron

Uncommon visitor to the Nile and then usually the white form is seen.

Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus) Cattle Egret, Buff-backed Heron

Abundant resident throughout the year ; roosts on trees at the Mogren and nests in summer. Visits river banks and cultivations throughout the province.

Ardeola ralloides (Scopoli) Squacco Heron

Frequent summer visitor and passage migrant to the river banks, less commonly seen during the winter months.

Butorides striata (Linnaeus) Green-backed Heron

Common summer visitor from the south, breeds **May-August** in riverside trees.

Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus) .. Night Heron

Fairly common resident on the rivers, most frequently seen at dusk during the summer months flying out to feed.

Ixobrychus minutus (Linnaeus) Little Bittern

Uncommon passage migrant to the upper reaches of the Nile from Europe, more frequently seen in autumn than in spring and occasionally observed in winter.

Botaurus stellaris (Linnaeus) European Bittern

Uncommon winter visitor from Europe to the Blue and White Niles, more frequent further north.

CICONIIDAE

STORKS

Leptoptilos crumenifera (Lesson) Marabou

Common resident. Scavenger, frequenting rubbish dumps throughout the year and commonly seen on the river banks above the "Sunt Forest" in the early winter. Some birds migrate south during the winter.

Sphenorynchus abdimii (Lichtenstein) Abdim's Stork

Very common summer visitor, May-October; nests in large trees in Khartoum gardens and on river banks; occasional birds remain throughout the winter.

Anastomus lamelligerus (Temminck) Open-bill

Frequent resident on rivers; numbers are increased in summer by migrants from the south.

Dissoura episcopus (Boddaert) Woolly-necked Stork

Infrequent summer visitor from the south; occasionally observed on river banks and irrigated ground.

Ibis ibis (Linnaeus) Wood Ibis

Common summer visitor from the south to river banks, may easily be mistaken for the White Stork.

Ciconia ciconia (Linnaeus) White Stork

Common passage migrant in September and March, occasional birds remain during the winter and summer as stragglers, on the river banks.

PLATALEIDAE

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS

Threskiornis aethiopicus (Latham) Sacred Ibis

Common resident on river banks, flooded ground and cultivations; more frequent in summer when numbers are increased by migrants from the south; roosts in trees at the Mogren.

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus) Glossy Ibis

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor on the river banks ; more frequently seen on the autumn migration from Europe.

Platalea leucorodia Linnaeus Black-legged Spoonbill

Common winter visitor from Europe, October-March, on river banks ; most common during the autumn migration; a few birds may remain as non-breeding summer residents.

Platalea alba Scopoli Red-legged Spoonbill

Uncommon summer visitor from the south ; may occasionally be seen on the mud-banks of the White Nile.

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

FLAMINGOS

Phoenicopterus ruber Linnaeus .. Greater Flamingo

Regular autumn and winter visitor to the river banks of the White Nile, occasionally in flocks of up to two hundred.

Phoeniconaias minor (Geoffroy) .. Lesser Flamingo

Probable occasional summer visitor to the White Nile ; very difficult to identify in the field with certainty.

ANATIDAE

DUCKS AND GEESE

Aythya fuligula (Linnaeus) Tufted Duck

Occasional winter visitor, October-March, from Europe on the rivers.

Aythya nyroca (Güldenstädt) White-eyed Pochard

Occasional winter visitor, October-March ; on the rivers

Aythya ferina (Linnaeus) European Pochard

Uncommon winter visitor, October-March, from Europe; on the rivers.

Anas querquedula Linnaeus Garganey

Common winter visitor from Europe, October-March ; on the rivers. Frequently seen in very large flocks during the migration periods as most birds winter further south than Khartoum.

Anas crecca Linnaeus European Teal

Winter visitor, to the rivers; September—April, less common than the previous species and stays later in the year, a few remain in summer and may breed.

Anas penelope Linnaeus Widgeon

Common winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers, especially on the White Nile; large flocks may be seen on northward migration from the Omdurman bridge during March.

Anas clypeata Linnaeus Shoveler

Common winter visitor, October—March, on pools beside the rivers; occasionally remaining throughout the summer.

Anas acuta Linnaeus Pintail

Very common winter visitor, October—March; vast flocks to be seen during the spring migration.

Anas strepera Linnaeus Gadwall

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March; usually only observed during the migration periods.

Anas platyrhynchos Linnaeus .. Mallard

Very rare winter visitor, October—March; on the rivers.

Sarkidiornis melanotos (Pennant) .. Comb-duck, Knob-billed Duck

Not uncommon summer visitor from the south, April—September; to be seen on the river banks and islands on the White Nile.

Plectropterus gambensis (Linnaeus) .. Spurwing Goose

Uncommon summer visitor, April—September, from the south on the river banks; occasionally visits flooded ground and cultivations.

Dendrocygna vulgata (Linnaeus) .. Whistling Teal

Common summer visitor, April—September, from the south; occasionally seen in large flocks roosting on the islands in the rivers.

Dendrocygna bicolor (Viellot) Fulvous Duck

Frequent summer visitor, April—September, from the south; frequenting the rivers and often seen flying in flocks of fifty or more birds.

Alopochen aegyptica (Linnaeus) .. Egyptian Goose

Common resident, frequenting rivers; roosts by day on the islands and visits the cultivations during the night and early mornings.

Casarca ferruginea (Pallas) Ruddy Sheld Duck

Uncommon winter visitor October—March. Khartoum seems to be about the southern limit of its migration.

AEGYPTIDAE

VULTURES

Nephron peronopterus (Linnaeus) .. Egyptian Vulture

Common resident; to be seen daily flying overhead and bathing in large numbers on Tuti Island; very common at rubbish dumps.

Torgos tracheliotus (Forster) Nubian Vulture

Frequent resident, especially to be seen at rubbish dumps and bathing on Tuti Island.

Pseudogyps africanus (Salvadori) .. White Backed Vulture

Frequent throughout the year, but appears to be more common in the vicinity of Khartoum during the dry season.

Gyps rüppellii (Brehm) Rüppell's Vulture

Fairly common resident, especially during the winter dry season.

Trigonoceps occipitalis (Burchell) .. White-headed Vulture

Not uncommon resident, especially during the dry season

Necrosyrtes monachus (Temminck) .. Hooded Vulture

Very common throughout the year.

FALCONIDAE

FALCONS, EAGLES, HAWKS ETC.

Falco peregrinus Tunstall Peregrine, Barbary Falcon

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, often seen roosting on bridges and large buildings.

Falco biarmicus Temminck Lanner

Common resident, more especially in the arid regions outside towns.

Falco cherrug Gray Saker

Frequent winter visitor, October—March, especially in the arid regions; very often to be seen perching on telegraph poles.

Falco subbuteo Linnaeus Hobby

Occasional passage migrant in autumn and spring though has not often been recorded.

Falco ardosiaceus Bonnaterre and

Vieillot Grey Kestrel

Occasionally seen in the arid regions near Khartoum, more frequent in summer.

Falco vespertinus Linnaeus Red-legged Kestrel

Occasional passage migrant in autumn and spring, sometimes seen perching on telegraph poles.

Falco chicquera Daudin Red-headed Falcon

Not uncommon summer visitor from the south during the rains, occasionally seen in Khartoum gardens.

Falco tinnunculus Linnaeus Kestrel

Common winter visitor from Europe, October—March, some may remain during the summer; often seen hovering in search of food in the scrub regions.

Falco naumanni Fleischer Lesser Kestrel

Common autumn and spring passage migrant; frequently seen perching on telegraph wires.

Elanus caeruleus (Desfontaines) .. Black-shouldered
Kestrel

Frequent resident in arid regions around Khartoum.

Milvus migrans (Boddaert) Kite

Abundant resident, large flocks may be seen soaring over the Blue Nile in the late afternoon, and bathing on Tuti Island during the heat of the day.

Bulco rufinus (Cretzschmar) Long-legged Buzzard
Occasional winter visitor, October—March, especially near the jebels round Khartoum.

Pernis apivorus (Linnaeus) Honey Buzzard
Occasional winter visitor, October—March, most often observed during the migration periods.

Bulastur rufipennis (Sundevall) .. Grasshopper Hawk
Not uncommon summer visitor from the south especially during years when locusts and grasshoppers are plentiful, usually during the rains.

Terathopius ecaudatus (Daudin) .. Bateleur
Occasional wanderer from further south and may be seen at any time of the year.

Cuncuma vocifer (Daudin) River Eagle, Fish Eagle
Common resident on the rivers, especially the White Nile, more frequently seen in summer. Used to nest in the garden of the Council of Ministers.

Aquila rapax Teminck Tawny Eagle
Frequently observed on Tuti Island and on trees near the White Nile; resident.

Aquila nipalensis (Hodgson) Steppe Eagle
Occasional winter visitor, October—March, in the arid regions of the province and sometimes to be seen with Vultures and Kites bathing on Tuti Island.

Accipiter badius (Gmelin) Shikra, Rüppell's Goshawk
Occasional visitor from the south to the Acacia scrub areas, most often seen during the summer.

Accipiter nisus (Linnaeus) Common Sparrowhawk
Frequent winter visitor from Europe, October—March; often to be seen during the migration periods in autumn and spring.

Melierax metabates Heuglin Chanting Goshawk

Common resident in arid regions round Khartoum, occasionally seen in town gardens and often perching on telegraph wires.

Micronisus gabar (Daudin) Gabar Goshawk

The commonest hawk in the Khartoum district, to be seen all the year round in gardens and flying overhead.

Circus macrourus (Gmelin) Pallid Harrier

Frequent winter visitor from Europe, October—March; often seen along the river banks and in the neighbouring cultivations searching for food.

Circus aeruginosus (Linnaeus) Marsh Harrier

Winter visitor from Europe, October-March; frequenting river banks and more often observed during the migration periods as most individuals winter further south.

Circus pygargus (Linnaeus) Montagu's Harrier

Common winter visitor from Europe, October—March; often seen in large numbers in the scrub and grasslands during the autumn migration and along the rivers during winter.

PANDIONIDAE

OSPREY

Pandion haliaëtus (Linnaeus) Osprey

Frequently seen on the rivers during the winter and nearly always to be observed fishing below the dam at Jebel Aulia; may occasionally remain in summer.

PHASIANIDAE

GAME BIRDS

Coturnix coturnix (Linnaeus) European Quail

Common winter visitor from Europe, October—March; frequently seen in the cultivations, especially in berseem, during the migration periods in autumn and spring.

Numida meleagris (Linnaeus) Tufted Guinea—Fowl

Uncommon resident in the western part of the province in the Acacia-scrub; numbers vary considerably from year to year.

RALLIDAE

RAILS, CRAKES

Gallinula chloropus (Linnaeus) Moorhen

Occasional winter visitor from Europe, October—March; along the rivers and in the neighbouring cultivations.

Fulica atra Linnaeus Coot

Uncommon winter visitor from Europe, October—March ; usually only observed during the migration periods of autumn and spring as most birds winter further south.

Limnocorax flavirostra (Swainson) . . Black Crake

Occasional wanderer from the south, usually in summer ; has been seen at Jebel Aulia and Khartoum.

Crex crex (Linnaeus) Corncrake

Frequent winter visitor and passage migrant, October—March, but not very often seen due to its secretive habits ; occasionally in Khartoum gardens.

Porzana porzana (Linnaeus) Spotted Crake

Probably a common winter visitor from Europe, September—May, usually only seen during the autumn and spring migration periods along the main rivers but its secretive habits render status uncertain.

Porzana parvus (Scopoli) Little Crake

Winter visitor, October—May ; rarely seen and then only during the autumn migration as it probably winters further south.

JACANIDAE

LILY-TROTTERS

Actophilornis africana (Gmelin) Lily-trotter, Jacana

Summer visitor from further south and not infrequently seen along the banks of the main rivers.

BALEARICIDAE

CRANES

Balearica pavonia (Linnaeus) Crowned Crane

Occasional summer vagrant from the south and usually seen near rivers.

Anthropides virgo (Linnaeus) Demoiselle Crane

Common winter visitor from Eastern Europe, October—March ; normally seen near Khartoum only as a passage migrant as it usually winters further south.

Megalornis grus (Linnaeus) European Crane

Common winter visitor, September—March, frequenting cultivations and dura-plantations in the neighbourhood of Khartoum ; especially evident during the autumn and spring migration periods.

OTIDIDAE

BUSTARDS

Ardeotis arabs (Linnaeus) Arabian Bustard

Not infrequent wanderer in the Acacia scrub west of Omdurman, most common during and just after the rains.

Neotis nuba (Cretzschmar) Nubian Bustard

Uncommon resident to the east of the Nile and has been observed in the northern part of Khartoum province.

CHARADRIIDAE

PLOVERS

Charadrius hiaticula Linnaeus .. Ringed Plover

Common winter visitor from Europe, September—May, to the muddy banks of the rivers; has occasionally been seen on flooded ground and in gardens in the towns.

Charadrius dubius Scopoli Little Ringed Plover

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, September—May, on river banks and dry ground further afield.

Charadrius alexandrinus Linnaeus .. Kentish Plover

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, September—May, on the muddy banks of the rivers, seldom straying further.

Charadrius varius Vieillot Kittlitz's Sand Plover

Uncommon resident on the margins of rivers and rain pools, usually in pairs and never in flocks.

Charadrius asiaticus Pallas Caspian Plover

Very common winter visitor, August—April. More commonly seen away from water than the other plovers.

Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus) .. Grey Plover

Uncommon winter visitor, October—March, to the river banks; has only rarely been observed in the province.

Hoplopterus spinosus (Linnaeus) .. Spurwing Plover

Common resident on the river banks and in the nearby cultivations, usually to be seen in pairs.

Vanellochetusia leucura (Lichtenstein) .. White-tailed Plover

Frequent winter visitor, October—March, on or near river banks.

Chettusia gregarius (Pallas) Sociable Plover

Rare winter visitor, October—March, usually seen in the more arid regions well away from the river banks.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

STILT AND AVOCET

Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus) . . Stilt.

Common winter visitor, October—March, to shallow water specially during the migration periods ; occasionally remaining throughout the summer.

Recurvirostra avosetta (Linnaeus) . . Avocet

Uncommon winter visitor, October—April, to the river banks ; occasionally remaining throughout the summer.

SCOLOPACIDAE

SNIPE, SANDIPIPERS

Capella gallinago (Linnaeus) Common Snipe

Common winter visitor, October—March, to marshy ground and the river banks. Most individuals are observed as passage migrants in autumn and spring.

Capella media (Latham) Great Snipe

Rare passage migrant, October and March ; has been identified in the bird sanctuary on several occasions.

Limnocyptes minima (Brünnich) . . Jack Snipe

Frequent winter visitor, October—March, to marshes and river banks ; only recorded from Khartoum as a passage migrant in autumn and spring.

Calidris minuta (Leisler) Little Stint

Common winter visitor, October—March, to the banks of the rivers ; the smallest of the waders to be seen on the Nile.

Calidris temminckii (Leisler) Temminck's Stint

Common winter visitor, October—March, to the banks of the rivers and, more especially, the smaller pools.

Calidris alpina (Linnaeus) Dunlin

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, to the muddy banks of rivers and rain pools.

Calidris testacea (Pallas) Curlew Sandpiper

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, October—May, to the muddy banks of rivers and pools.

Crocethia alba (Pallas) Sanderling

Uncommon winter visitor, October—March, to the river banks.

Philomachus pugnax (Linnaeus) .. Ruff

Very common winter visitor, October—April, to the cultivations and river banks; commonly seen in flocks of 20-50 birds flying to and from water in the evening and morning.

Xenas cinerea (Güldenstädt) Terek Sandpiper

Frequent passage migrant in autumn and spring to the Red Sea coast; stragglers are occasionally observed on the Nile near Khartoum.

Arctitis hypoleucas (Linnaeus) .. Common Sandpiper

Common winter visitor, September—April, to the river banks; occasionally a bird may remain during the summer.

Tringa ocropus Linnaeus Green Sandpiper

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers and rain pools and most frequently observed during the spring and autumn migration periods.

Tringa totanus (Linnaeus) Redshank

Uncommon winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers and pools; usually seen only during the autumn migration season.

Tringa erythropus (Pallas) Spotted Redshank

Winter visitor, October—March, to the river banks; frequency uncertain owing to lack of observers, probably not uncommon.

Tringa stagnatilis (Bechstein) .. Marsh Sandpiper

Common winter visitor, October—March, to river banks and pools and, occasionally, to flooded gardens in Khartoum; especially frequent during the migration periods.

Glareola pratincola (Linnaeus) Pratincole

Common winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers and their immediate neighbourhood where they may be seen hawking for flies in large flocks of up to several hundreds of birds.

Glareola nordmanni Nordmann .. Black-winged Pratincole

Not uncommon passage migrant, autumn and spring, on the main rivers.

Pluvianus aegyptius (Linnaeus) .. Egyptian Plover,
Crocodile Bird

Very common resident on the river banks.

BURHINIDAE

STONE CURLEWS

Burhinus senegalensis (Swainson) .. Senegal Stone Curlew

Common resident on sandy river banks and dry ground nearby, largely nocturnal in habit.

LARIDAE

GULLS AND TERNS

Larus fuscus Linnaeus Lesser Black-backed Gull

Frequent winter visitor, September—May, to the rivers. To be seen throughout the winter months at Jebel Aulia.

Larus argentatus (Pontoppidan) .. Herring Gull

Uncommon winter visitor to the rivers; has rarely been seen in Khartoum province.

Larus ridibundus Linnaeus Black-headed Gull

Infrequent winter visitor and has not often been positively identified.

Chlidonias hybrida (Pallas) Whiskered Tern

Common winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers; to be seen daily at the Mogren.

Chlidonias leucoptera (Temminck) .. Pied Tern

Common winter visitor, October-March, to the rivers has been recorded in every month of the year.

Chlidonias nigra (Linnaeus) Black Tern

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, to the rivers but not so common as the other square-tailed terns.

Hydroprogne capsica (Pallas) Caspian Tern

Occasionally seen in winter, October—March, on the White Nile.

Gelochelidon nilotica (Gmelin) Gull-billed Tern

Common winter visitor, October—March, on the rivers ; frequent at the Mogren and Jebel Aulia.

Rhyncops flavirostris Vieillot Skimmer

Common resident on the rivers and more frequent on the White Nile than on the Blue Nile ; to be seen in parties of from half a dozen upwards ; more frequent in the summer months.

PTEROCLIDAE

SANDGROUSE

Pterocles seneglauius (Linnaeus) .. Spotted Sandgrouse

Common resident in the arid regions round Khartoum ; flies in to its gritting grounds and the rivers early in the mornings.

Pterocles exustus Temminck and .. Chestnut-bellied Sand-
Langier .. grouse

Very common resident in the arid regions near Khartoum. Flies in to grit and water in vast flocks rather later than the previous species and sometimes drinks in the evening as well.

Ermialector coronatus (Lichtenstein) .. Crowned Sandgrouse

The common Sandgrouse of the old Dongola Province but has recently been recorded near Wadi Seidna watering with the previous species, probably not infrequent.

Ermialector lichtensteini (Temminck) .. Lichtenstein's Sand-
grouse

Resident ; much less frequent in the Khartoum area than the first two species. Drinks before sunrise and after sunset and spends the days under bushes in wadis.

COLUMBIDAE

DOVES AND PIGEONS

Columbia livia Gmelin Rock Pigeon

Frequent resident in the neighbourhood of rocky ground ; has nested on the Omdurman bridge.

Streptopelia vinacea (Gmelin) Vinaceous Dove

Common resident in the province; more frequent in country districts than in the towns though it does visit gardens and may be seen perching on trees and overhead wires.

Streptopelia decipiens (Finsch and
Hartlaub) Mourning Dove

Common resident in the Khartoum area and more common in the towns than any other ring-necked dove.

Streptopelia decaocto Frivaldsky .. Pink-headed Dove

Common resident near Khartoum, usually associated with the more arid regions and commonly observed in the Sunt Forest.

Stigmatopelia senegalensis (Linnaeus) .. Laughing Dove

Very common resident, especially near houses; much smaller than the previous doves.

Oena capensis (Linnaeus) Long-tailed Dove

Resident, more common in the towns during dry weather than in the rains.

Streptopelia turtur (Linnaeus) Turtle Dove

Common winter visitor, October—March; more frequent in the arid regions than in the towns.

Turtur abyssinia (Sharpe) Abyssinian Wood-dove

Common resident but more often heard than seen and easily recognised by its call on a falling scale.

CUCULIDAE

CUCKOOS AND COUCALS

Cuculus canorus Linnaeus Common Cuckoo

Frequent passage migrant in autumn and spring; may occasionally winter in the Khartoum area but most pass further south.

Clamator glandularis (Linnaeus) .. Spotted Cuckoo

Infrequent passage migrant in autumn and spring; an occasional bird may be resident in the savannah scrub in the west of the province.

Centropus superciliosus Hemprich

and Ehrenberg White-browed Coucal

Uncommon resident as far north as Khartoum ; has been occasionally recorded from the acacia-scrub region.

Centropus senegalensis (Linnaeus) . . . Senegal Coucal

Uncommon resident and wanderer from the south ; replaces the previous species in swamps and along river banks.

CORACIIDAE

ROLLERS

Coracias abyssinica Hermann . . . Abyssinian Roller

Summer visitor from further south, especially during the rains, frequently seen flying overhead and perching on telegraph posts and wires.

Coracias garrulus Linnaeus European Roller

Frequent passage migrant in autumn and spring.

ALCEDINIDAE

KINGFISHERS

Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus) Pied Kingfisher

Very common throughout the year along the river banks.

Corythornis cristata (Pallas) Malachite Kingfisher

Uncommon wanderer from the south in summer ; has been observed at Jebel Aulia recently.

Halcyon senegalensis (Linnaeus) . . . Senegal Kingfisher

A very rare wanderer from the south but has been seen near Khartoum during the rains.

MEROPIDAE

BEE-EATERS

Merops nubicus Gmelin Carmine Bee-eater

Commonly seen near the river banks and in the Acacia scrub throughout the year but more frequent in summer ; often perching on overhead wires.

Merops orientalis Latham Little Green Bee-eater

Common resident to be seen along the river banks and in the adjacent scrub throughout the year.

Merops superciliosus Linnaeus .. Large Green Bee-eater

Winter visitor, October—April, often seen hawking overhead in parties of up to thirty birds especially during the migration periods.

Merops apiaster Linnaeus .. European Bee-eater

Commonly observed as passage migrant in October and March.

Merops albicollis (Vieillot) .. White-throated Bee-eater

Common resident, more frequent in the Acacia-scrub region than near the rivers.

Melitophagus pusillus (Müller) .. Little Bee-eater

A southern bird which is not common near Khartoum but has occasionally been recorded in the desert scrub.

BUCEROTIDAE

HORNBILLS

Tokus nasutus (Linnaeus) .. Grey Hornbill

Not uncommon in the scrub region round Khartoum frequently visits gardens where there are large trees.

Tokus erythrorhynchus (Temminck) .. Red-billed Hornbill

Generally common in the scrub region but seldom visits the towns, probably moves north with the rains.

UPUPIDAE

HOOPOE

Upupa epops Linnaeus .. Hoopoe

Frequently seen even in Khartoum gardens throughout the year; numbers are increased by migrants on passage in autumn and spring.

STRIGIDAE

OWLS

Tyto alba (Scopoli) .. Barn Owl

Seldom seen but not infrequently heard calling at night at all seasons of the year, apparently common.

Asio flammea (Pontoppidon) .. Short-eared Owl

Occasional winter visitor, October—March, from Europe; most likely to be seen in the grasslands some distance from the river; hunts by day.

Otus senegalensis (Swainson) African Scops Owl

Not uncommon, often seen roosting in large trees in and near Khartoum throughout the year.

Otus scops (Linnaeus) European Scops Owl

Winter visitor, October—March, less frequent than the previous species but roosts in similar places.

Bufo africana (Temminck) African Owl

Occasionally seen and heard in the vicinity of Khartoum especially by the light of car headlights in the scrub region.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

NIGHTJARS

Caprimulgus eximius (Temminck) .. Golden Nightjar

Not uncommon resident in the desert regions round Khartoum; often put up from their roosts on the ground by cars in the early evening.

Caprimulgus europaeus Linnaeus .. European Nightjar

Common winter visitor, October—March, frequently seen flying overhead at dusk and throughout the night in the Three Towns and neighbourhood.

Caprimulgus aegyptius Lichtenstein .. Egyptian Nightjar

Winter visitor from October—March; very difficult to identify in the field and real frequency uncertain.

Scotornis climacurus (Vieillot) .. Long tailed Nightjar

Common summer visitor from the south especially during the rains, usually to be seen in the desert-scrub regions at dusk.

COLIIDAE

MOUSEBIRDS

Colius macrourus (Linnaeus) .. Blue-naped Mousebird

Common in and around Khartoum flying in small family parties of up to a dozen birds; frequently seen in hedges and gardens.

CAPITONIDAE

BARBETS

Lybius vicilloti (Leach) .. White-bellied Barbet

Occasionally seen in the scrub regions near Khartoum which is the northern limit.

Pogoniulus chrysoconus (Temminck) .. Gold-spot Tinker-bird

Increasingly common south of Khartoum in savannah regions especially where large trees occur near the river.

Trachyphonus margaritalus

(Cretzschmar) Common Pearl-spot

Frequent among scrub and especially along the rivers throughout the province.

PICIDAE

WOODPECKERS

Campethera nubica (Boddaert) .. Spotted-breasted
Woodpecker

Frequent in the savannah regions, less common in the towns; difficult to indentify with certainty in the field.

Mesopicos goertae (Müller) Grey-cheeked Wood-
pecker

Not uncommon in gardens of Khartoum and in the surrounding scrub; the commonest of the northern woodpeckers.

Jynx torquilla Linnaeus Wryneck

Winter visitor, October—March; occasionally seen in Khartoum gardens but most birds apparently winter further south.

APODIDAE

SWIFTS

Apus apus (Linnaeus) European Swift

Common passage migrant in August—September and again in March—April; a very few remaining throughout the year but apparently not breeding.

Apus pallidus (Shelley) Mouse-coloured Swift

Common winter visitor, October—March; some remain, but do not breed, throughout the summer.

Cypsiurus parva (Lichtenstein) .. Palm Swift

Very common resident in and around Khartoum, especially where there are palm trees in which they nest.

ALAUDIDAE

LARKS

Mirafra cantillans Blyth Singing Lark

Frequent on the grassy plains near Khartoum, often in large flocks.

Alaemon alaudipes (Desfontaines) .. Hoopoe Lark

Not uncommon resident in the desert scrub near Khartoum.

Ammomanes cinctura (Gould) .. Sandy Lark

Not uncommon in the hard, gravelly desert regions in Khartoum province.

Galerida cristata (Linnaeus) .. Crested Lark

Very common everywhere outside the towns; the commonest lark in the province throughout the year.

Melanocorypha bimaculata (Ménétriés) Black-breasted Lark

Common non-breeding winter visitor, October—March, often in large flocks in the desert regions.

Calandrella brachydactyla (Leisler) .. Short-billed Lark

Frequent winter visitor, October—March; usually in small parties in the desert regions.

Eremopterix leucotis (Stanley) .. Chestnut Finch-lark

Common resident in the arid regions, on roads and especially near cultivations throughout the province.

Eremopterix nigriceps (Gould) .. Pallid Finch-lark

Common resident in the more arid regions; less common than the previous species.

MOTACILLIDAE

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS

Anthus campestris (Linnaeus) .. Tawny Pipit

Common winter visitor, October—March, especially in the drier parts of the province.

Anthus trivialis (Linnaeus) .. Tree Pipit

Passage migrant, October and March, a few may remain throughout the winter.

Anthus cervina (Pallas) .. Red-throated Pipit

Common winter visitor, October—March, frequent in the cultivations along the river.

Motacilla alba Linnaeus .. White Wagtail

Very common winter visitor, September—April, frequenting the riverside and irrigated ground, especially in gardens in Khartoum.

Motacilla aguimp Dumont African Pied Wagtail

Resident along the rivers but far less frequent than the previous species; numbers are probably increased during the summer by migrants from the south.

Motacilla cinerea Tunstall Grey Wagtail

Uncommon passage migrant, October and March; easily overlooked especially in the autumn.

Budytes flava (Linnaeus) Blue-headed Wagtail

Very common non-breeding winter visitor, October—April, along the rivers and in Khartoum gardens on watering days; the commonest of the Yellow Wagtails.

Budytes thunbergii (Billberg) Thunberg's Wagtail

Not common; an easily overlooked winter visitor along the river banks.

Budytes feldegg (Michahelles) Black-headed Wagtail

Common winter visitor, especially along the river banks.

Budytes superciliaris Brehm Brehm's Wagtail

Very similar to the previous species and probably equally common as a winter visitor, October—March, but easily overlooked.

Budytes luteus (Gmelin) Yellow Wagtail

Common winter visitor throughout, October—March; less often seen away from the river banks than the other Yellow Wagtails.

TURDOIDIDAE

BABLERS AND CHATTERERS

Turdoides leucocephala Cretzschmar .. White-headed Babbler

Not uncommon resident in the Acacia-scrub throughout the province, usually in small parties of five or six birds.

Argya fulvus (Desfontaines) Fulvous Chatterer

Common resident in the Acacia-scrub especially in the western part of the province near "Sidr" (*Zizyphus*) trees.

PYCNONOTIDAE

BULBULS

Pycnonotus barbatus (Desfontaines) .. White-vented Bulbul

Very common resident everywhere in the province, especially in town gardens.

MUSCICAPIDAE

FLYCATCHERS

Muscicapa striata (Pallas) Spotted Flycatcher

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, September—March, especially frequent during the autumn migration period and seldom observed in spring.

Ficedula hypoleuca (Pallas) Pied Flycatcher

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, October—March; occasionally seen in Khartoum gardens and the Sunt Forest.

Bradornis pallida (Müller) Common Bradornis

Common resident south of Khartoum, occasionally seen in gardens especially in the summer.

TURDIDAE

THRUSHES AND CHATS

Turdus ericetorum Turton Song Thrush

Uncommon winter visitor, October—March; has occasionally been recorded from the province.

Turdus torquatus Linnaeus Ring Ouzel

Uncommon winter visitor, October—March; has been recorded from Khartoum.

Monticola saxatilis (Linnaeus) Rock Thrush

Common winter visitor, October—March, ubiquitous during migration periods.

Monticola solitarius (Linnaeus) Blue Rock Thrush

Common winter visitor, October—March, in the drier parts of the province; occasionally seen in Khartoum gardens.

Oenanthe oenanthe (Linnaeus) Common Wheatear

Very common winter visitor and passage migrant, October—February; especially evident in the drier regions during the spring migration.

Oenanthe isabellina (Temminck and

Laugier) Isabelline Wheatear

Common winter visitor, September—April, frequenting the semi-desert regions.

Oenanthe deserti (Temminck) Desert Wheatear
Common winter visitor, September—March, in the drier parts of the province.

Oenanthe lugens (Lichtenstein) Mourning Wheatear
Fairly common winter visitor as far south as Khartoum which is its southern limit.

Oenanthe leucomela (Pallas) Pied Wheatear
Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, more obvious during the spring migration when the male is very noticeable.

Oenanthe hispanica (Linnaeus) Black-eared Wheatear
Winter visitor, October—March; common but easily mistaken for other species.

Phoenicurus phoenicurus (Linnaeus) . . Redstart
Common winter visitor and passage migrant, September—March, especially in the autumn migration period.

Phoenicurus ochuros (Gmelin) Black Redstart
Occasional winter visitor; has not often been recorded with certainty.

Saxicolus torquata (Linnaeus) Stonechat
Common winter visitor, October—March, especially in the Acacia-scrub region.

Saxicolus ruberta (Linnaeus) Whinchat
Common winter visitor, October—March; in similar places to the previous species.

Cercotrichas podobe (Müller) Black Bush Robin
Common resident in bushy places throughout the province, occasionally seen in Khartoum gardens; easily recognized by its erect tail.

Cynosylvia svecica (Linnaeus) Bluethroat
Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, October—April; often seen in Khartoum gardens during the autumn migration.

Luscinia megarhynchos Brehm .. Nightingale

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, October—April; frequently seen in Khartoum gardens especially during the autumn migration.

Luscinia luscinia (Linnaeus) Sprosser

Very common passage migrant in October, less commonly observed during the spring.

SYLVIIDAE

WARBLERS

Sylvia curruca (Linnaeus) Lesser Whitethroat

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, October—April; very easily overlooked as it frequents thick hedges and thorny bushes.

Sylvia communis Latham Whitethroat

Very common winter visitor, October—March, to be seen in gardens and bushy places most days during the winter.

Sylvia borin (Boddaert) Garden Warbler

Common passage migrant in autumn and spring though a few may remain through the winter in the Acacia-scrub.

Sylvia atricapilla (Linnaeus) Blackcap

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, though most birds pass through Khartoum to their winter quarters in the south and west.

Sylvia ruppelli (Temminck) Rüppell's Warbler

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March, especially among "Tundub" bushes and desert scrub.

Hippolais pallida (Hemprich and

Ehrenberg) Pallid Warbler

Faily common winter visitor, October—March, frequenting shrubby savannah.

Phylloscopus trochilus (Linnaeus) .. Willow Warbler

Common winter visitor, October—March, in Khartoum gardens and scrub areas.

Phylloscopus collybita (Vieillot) .. Chiffchaff

Very common winter visitor, October—March, in Khartoum gardens and scrub.

Phylloscopus sibilatrix (Bechstein) .. Wood Warbler

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March; usually seen in trees and bushes. Most of those observed in the Khartoum area are passage migrants only.

Erythropygia galactotes (Temminck) .. Rufous Warbler

Common resident and winter visitor, often seen skulking at the foot of hedges and bushes on the river banks.

Apalis rufifrons (Rüppell) .. Red-fronted Apalis

Not uncommon resident in the Acacia-scrub and especially on the jebels throughout the province.

Prinia subflava (Gmelin) .. Tawny Prinia

Very common resident in garden hedges and thick scrub.

Prinia gracilis (Lichtenstein) .. Graceful Prinia

Common resident of the Northern Sudan which overlaps here with the previous species but tends to keep to the drier scrub areas.

Cisticola juncidis (Rafinesque).. Zitting Cisticola

Common resident, especially in the winter crops in the Khartoum area.

Cisticola aridula (Witherby) .. Desert Cisticola

Common resident, inhabiting drier regions than the previous species.

Spiloptila clamans (Temminck) .. Scaly Warbler

Common resident of the desert edge especially where there are acacia bushes.

(A number of other warblers may from time to time be seen as passage migrants or be observed as rare or casual visitors. Most are very difficult, if not impossible, to identify in the field.)

HIRUNDINIDAE

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS

Riparia paludicola (Vieillot) .. African Sand-martin

Common resident, to be seen hawking for flies along the rivers on most days throughout the year.

Riparia riparia (Linnaeus) European Sand-martin

Very common winter visitor and passage migrant along the rivers; has a whiter throat than the previous species.

Ptyonoprogne rupestris (Scopoli) .. Large Crag Martin

Rare winter visitor which has been recorded from Jebel Aulia.

Hirundo aethiopica Blandford Ethiopian Swallow

Common resident, the swallow most frequently seen in the summer.

Hirundo smithii Leach Wire-tailed Swallow

Fairly common resident less frequent in Khartoum than the previous species.

Hirundo rustica Linnaeus European Swallow

Very common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially along the rivers.

Delichon urbica (Linnaeus) House Martin

Common passage migrant in autumn and spring, a few may remain throughout the winter.

LANIIDAE

SHRIKES

Lanius excubitor Linnaeus Grey Shrike

Common resident and winter visitor in the Acacia-grass plains; occasionally visits Khartoum gardens.

Lanius minor Gmelin Lesser Grey Shrike

Fairly common winter visitor, October—March; found everywhere in the Province.

Lanius nubicus Lichtenstein Nubian Shrike

Common winter visitor, October—March, especially in the Acacia-scrub; a few seem to remain throughout the summer and may breed.

Lanius collurio Linnaeus Red-backed Shrike

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; often to be seen during the autumn migration period in Khartoum gardens, less frequently seen in spring.

Lanius senator Linnaeus Woodchat

Common winter visitor, September—March, in open scrub throughout the Province.

Lanius cristatus Linnaeus Red-tailed Shrike

Common winter visitor, October—March, in the Acacia-scrub ; occasionally visits Khartoum gardens.

Nilaus afer (Latham) Brubru Shrike

Common resident in the Acacia-scrub throughout the year ; rare visitor to the gardens in Khartoum.

Tchagera senegallus (Linnaeus) .. Black-headed
Tchagera

Common resident in the bush along the river banks and in the Acacia-scrub ; rare visitor to Khartoum gardens.

ORIOLIDAE

ORIOLES

Oriolus oriolus (Linnaeus) European Oriole

Common passage migrant ; very common in Khartoum during the autumn migration in September and October but less often observed during the spring.

CORVIDAE

CROWS

Corvus corax Linnaeus Brown-necked Raven

Resident in desert and arid regions of the north, occasionally seen in the region of Khartoum, especially near rubbish dumps.

Corvus albus (Müller) Pied Crow

Common resident, occasionally seen flying overhead in Khartoum, often observed near rubbish dumps ; probably migratory as it is more often seen during the winter.

STURNIDAE

STARLINGS

Creatophora cinerea (Menschen) .. Wattled Starling

Occasional straggler from the south where it is common ; has only been seen in dry open country.

Spreo pulcher (Müller) Beautiful Starling

Seldom observed in Khartoum province although it is such a common bird in the Gezira and Kordofan.

NECTARINIIDAE

SUNBIRDS

Nectarinia pulchella (Linnaeus) .. Beautiful Sunbird

Very common resident throughout the province; the commonest sunbird to be seen in town gardens throughout the year; loses its bright colours during the winter.

Hedydipua platura (Vieillot) .. Pigmy Sunbird

Common resident in the Acacia-scrub and along the river banks; much less frequently seen in Khartoum gardens than the previous species.

PLOCEIDAE

WEAVERS AND SPARROWS

Passer domesticus (Linnaeus) .. House Sparrow

Very common resident in gardens and villages throughout the Province.

Passer grisea (Vieillot) .. Gréy Sparrow

Common resident in villages and in all types of country near Khartoum; occasionally visits Khartoum gardens especially just before the rains.

Auripasser lutea (Lichtenstein) .. Golden Sparrow

Common resident in cultivations and scrub near the rivers. Visits Khartoum gardens during the dry weather but returns to the country with the onset of the rains.

Plocus luteola (Lichtenstein) .. Little Weaver

Very common resident throughout the Province. To be seen most evenings in flocks returning to roost in trees and gardens near the rivers.

Quelea quelea (Linnaeus) .. Sudan Dioc

Very common summer visitor from the south and east where it does so much damage to crops and roosting trees in Kassala and Blue Nile Provinces.

Euplectes orix (Linnaeus) .. Durra Bird

Common throughout the cultivated areas especially in seeding grass and grain crops; occasionally visits Khartoum gardens.

Euodice cantans (Gmelin) .. Silver Bill

Common throughout the Province, often seen in large flocks; a frequent visitor, usually in pairs, to gardens in Khartoum.

Amadina fasciata (Gmelin) Cut-throat Weaver

Fairly common resident throughout in the Acacia-scrub regions.

Pytilia melba (Linnaeus) Yellow-breasted
Pytilia

Another inhabitant of the dry scrub areas; Khartoum seems to be about the northern limit of its range.

Lagonosticta senegala (Linnaeus) .. Rosy Fire-finch

Common resident of the grassy savannah and Acacia-scrub. Pairs regularly visit gardens in Khartoum especially during January—July.

Estrilda rhodopyga (Sundeval) Red-rumped Waxbill

Common resident of the drier savannah; not infrequent visitor to gardens in Khartoum, especially before the rains.

Euraeginthus bengalus (Linnaeus) .. Cordon-bleu

Uncommon visitor to Khartoum, where it is at its northern limit, and then usually just before the rains. Very common in the Gezira and further south.

Hypochera ultramarina (Gmelin) .. Purple Indigo-birds

This conspicuous dark-blue bird is an occasional visitor to Khartoum gardens in the dry weather and is quite common in the vegetation near the rivers.

Vidua macroura (Pallas) Pin-tailed Whydah

A frequent summer visitor from the savannah regions of the south where it is very common.

EMBERIZIDAE

BUNTINGS

Emberiza caesia Cretzschmar Blue-headed Ortolan

Common winter visitor to regions further south, occasionally seen as a passage migrant.

Fringillaria tahapisi (Smith) Rock Bunting

Occasionally seen in the neighbourhood of the rocky jebels but not common as Khartoum is at the northern limit of its range.

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