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## Where does Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi* breed?

Weyns's Weaver *Ploceus weynsi* is confined to central Africa, occurring mainly around the shores of Lake Victoria and along the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is primarily reported to inhabit forests (Fry & Keith 2004), but is also regularly recorded from lake-shore vegetation

(Carswell *et al.* 2005). It wanders seasonally, apparently being absent from the northern shores of Lake Victoria from June to early September (Carswell 1986), although its movement patterns are not understood. Fry & Keith (2004) report fruits as the only dietary item, although its behaviour of gleaning in the forest canopy (Fishpool 1993, pers. obs.) suggests it is insectivorous.

Very little is known of the breeding habits of this species (Fry & Keith 2004). Ash *et al.* (1991) reported the collection of a possible nest from Budongo Forest, but did not describe either the nest or its location in any way. No other nest has been found, although, due to its flocking habits, it is assumed to be a colonial breeder. In Uganda, young birds are reported to form a large proportion of flocks seen around Lake Victoria in September and are also reported in November, and young birds have been observed begging in April (Fishpool 1993). Birds are apparently known to be in breeding condition in July (Carswell 1986). In March–April, many males are in fresh plumage. Since *Ploceus* weavers generally undergo a post-breeding moult (Oschadleus & Osborne 2005, D. Oschadleus pers. com.) this suggests January–March breeding. It has further been suggested that birds move to forests to breed (Carswell 1986), although this is a somewhat puzzling statement if the species really is frugivorous, and begs the question: what are they doing in swamps?

On 2 February 2006 I visited the Mabamba Bay Important Bird Area, which encompasses an extensive marsh fringed with papyrus on the shores of Lake Victoria (Byaruhanga *et al.* 2001). Although I had never recorded Weyns's Weaver here on several previous visits, it does apparently occur here from time to time according to a local guide (K. Hannington pers. comm.). Monospecific flocks of Weyns's Weaver, numbering *c.* 50–200 birds, were flying in and out of a particular patch of papyrus bed from 10:00 to 11:00. Most seemed to be commuting between the swamp and nearby forest, with flocks repeatedly moving in both directions. When in the swamp, the flocks were focussing their attention on a tree *c.* 5 m high, with a large, spreading crown. The characteristic whizzing calls of displaying weavers were audible from the vicinity of this tree and a single nest was visible. At a distance of *c.* 100 m (the nature of the swamp prevented closer approach) the nest appeared to be a circular grass structure (typical of *Ploceus* weavers) with no extended entrance tunnel, placed on the edge of the tree *c.* 1 m above the top of the papyrus. No bird was seen displaying at the nest.

As Weyns's Weavers were the only species present at this site, and since hundreds of birds were seen flying in and out of the swamp vegetation, it is assumed that the single visible nest belonged to Weyns's Weaver. Given the number of birds attending the site, other nests must have been placed mostly within the papyrus.

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## First record of Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* and Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* for Tanzania and other notes from Latham Island (Fungu Mubarak)

On 19–20 November 1993 we visited Latham Island (06°54'S, 39°56'E) as part of our general survey of marine life along the coast of eastern Africa (Richmond 1997). The latest summary of this site is given in Baker & Baker (2002). During our visit we took note of the birds we could identify and photographed those of interest and present here a summary of key observations.

**Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra*.** An active breeding colony occupied the entire central plateau. We estimated 7000 active nests, with perhaps the majority holding eggs. Regurgitated fish found by some of the nests included flying fish (*Parexocetus* sp.) and juvenile dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*).

**Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*.** At least two birds were present on the eastern edge of the Masked Booby colony. They were photographed and the record has been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee as the first documented for Tanzania.

**Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*.** At least two birds were present on the