

NOTICE

Records wanted of vagrant birds in Seychelles

Over 210 species of birds have been identified in the Republic of Seychelles, which also includes the coral limestone atolls of the Amirantes, Providence, Farquhar and Aldabra groups. Apart from a few now extinct, some 65 of these breed (notably seabirds and mainly either endemic or introduced landbirds), and the rest are regular migrants (mostly waders and more seabirds), rare migrants or vagrants. Some of the last are annual; others are of particular interest as the only records for the whole of the Afro-Malagasy region. There has been no systematic attempt to assess these reports and as visitors to Seychelles increase, casual collection is becoming more difficult.

A Records Committee has therefore been established to collate data on birds in Seychelles. It will assess and publish records of vagrants, as well as monitoring the populations of breeding species and migrants, with the ultimate aim of producing a full check-list. It is hoped that this will, in turn, lead to greater local appreciation of the importance of bird conservation. The members are Ian Bullock, Chris Feare, James Ferguson-Lees (chairman), David Fisher, Ron Gerlach, John Phillips, and Adrian Skerrett (secretary). Two live in Seychelles, two more are former island reserve wardens, and the other three have all spent much time there.

We need past and present observations of any species that have been reported less than annually. Lists of records of which we are aware are available from me at P.O. Box 336, Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, to which address we ask that all observations and supporting evidence be sent.

Adrian Skerrett

[I have a copy of the lists mentioned - Ed.]