

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*: breeding season and prey

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This note is written in response to Kashfi *et al* (2019), who state that the Sooty Falcon is mostly insectivorous. This may be true outside the breeding season, or in certain geographical areas. However, on the Dahlac Islands off the coast of Eritrea, they breed at a time to take advantage of the Palearctic migrant birds passing through which they prey on to feed their nestlings. With three companions I spent some weeks on these islands in August-September 1962. A full account of the results of our study of the nesting species is found in Clapham (1964), and the Palearctic migrants in Mann (1971). Most islands visited had one pair, or a loose colony of pairs of Sooty Falcon, and most had hatched young. The prey included an unidentified small wader, wheatears *Oenanthe* spp., Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, European and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and *M. superciliosus*, Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* and Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

LITERATURE CITED

- Clapham, CS. 1964. The birds of the Dahlac Archipelago. *Ibis* 106: 376-388.
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- Mann, CF. 1971. Migration in the Dahlac Archipelago and the neighbouring mainland of Ethiopia, autumn 1962. *Bull. Br. Orn. Cl.* 91: 41-46.

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