

First record of Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* for Amsterdam Island, Indian Ocean

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Première mention de la Glaréole à ailes noires *Glareola nordmanni* pour l'Île Amsterdam, Océan Indien. Une Glaréole à ailes noires *Glareola nordmanni* de premier hiver à été observée sur l'Île Amsterdam, dans le sud de l'Océan indien, les 12–16 novembre 2013. Il s'agit de la première donnée de cette espèce paléarctique pour l'île. Les mentions antérieures les plus proches proviennent de l'île d'Alphonse, aux Seychelles, à environ 4.200 km de l'Île Amsterdam.

On 12 November 2013, a Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* was observed within a Subantarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus tropicalis* colony on Amsterdam Island (37°S 77°E). The 55 km² volcanic island lies in the southern Indian Ocean Subtropical zone and, since 1949, has a scientific station hosting 20–30 people annually, but there are no permanent inhabitants. The seal colony is on a shore with large rocky boulders, inland of which is a level-

ground area sparsely covered by non-native Velvet Grass *Holcus lanatus*. The pratincole was mainly present near a temporary shallow pond in the centre of the grassy area. The bird was not shy and could be approached to within 2 m. The black bill had some red at the base of the maxilla and the wingtips clearly reached beyond the tail (Fig. 1). In flight, the bird displayed a black underwing and no white trailing edge to the wing. These features point to Black-winged Pratincole



Figure 1. First-winter Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*, Amsterdam Island, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, 13 November 2013 (Rémi Bigonneau)

Glaréole à ailes noires *Glareola nordmanni*, premier hiver, Île Amsterdam, Terres australes et antarctiques françaises, 13 novembre 2013 (Rémi Bigonneau)

and exclude Collared *G. pratincola* and Oriental Pratincoles *G. maldivarum* (Hayman *et al.* 1986). The dark olive-tinged replaced mantle feathers further support the identification (Beaman & Madge 1998). The dark brown subterminal bands on the inner greater and median coverts, tertials and a few first-generation scapulars are typical of a first-winter bird. On 16 November the pratincole was 1 km south of the seal colony. It was not seen thereafter.

Black-winged Pratincole breeds from Ukraine to Kazakhstan with an estimated population of 76,000–95,000 pairs (Kamp *et al.* 2009). It migrates through Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa to winter mainly in southern Africa, where it arrives in October–November (Hockey *et al.* 2005, Maclean & Kirwan 2019). It is a vagrant to the Malagasy region, with 20 records in Seychelles prior to 2018 (Safford & Hawkins 2013, Skerrett *et al.* 2017, R. Skerrett *in Bull. ABC* 24: 113 & 245, 25: 104). No records are available for other territories in the region (Safford & Hawkins 2013, Sinclair & Langrand 2013, Safford *et al.* 2015). This is the first record of this Near Threatened species (BirdLife International 2019) for Amsterdam Island and the French Subantarctic Territories (Roux & Martinez 1987; Centre d'Études Biologiques de Chizé–Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique unpubl. data). The closest previous records are from Alphonse, Seychelles (Skerrett *et al.* 2017), c.4,200 km from Amsterdam Island, which is also the distance to the nearest South African coast.

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