

WHITE-HEADED MOUSEBIRD

Colius leucocephalus

Reichenow, 1879



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Aves

Order: Coliiformes

Family: Coliidae

2 subspecies recognized



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Adults can reach a total length of 31 cm (including a 20 cm long tail) for a weight of 42 g. Easily recognized by its white crest on crown. Plumage grayish with beige belly and black and white thin stripes on neck and nape. Red legs.

Range: This species occurs in eastern Africa from South-east Ethiopia and South Somalia to east and central Kenya, south to extreme north Tanzania.

Habitat : Thornbushes in semi-arid areas, often close to water, to 1400 m.

Behavior: This species has been little studied. It lives in small groups and feeds in trees on leaf buds, flowers and fruits. Nest is a cup of twigs located in a thorny bush.

Status in the wild: This species is globally uncommon within its fragmented range. It is locally common in southern coastal Somalia.

In captivity: This is one of the rarest species of its family in captivity, currently known from a single collection in Europe and possibly not kept anywhere else in zoos. Might be kept in private collections in Europe and America. First bred in Europe in 1998.