



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
Aeronautical Information Services**

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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The following circular is hereby promulgated for information, guidance and necessary action.

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Director General

BIRDS CONCENTRATION AND MOVEMENT WITHIN TANZANIA.

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of bird strikes in Tanzania. The following is material for the guidance of pilots compiled from information collected from various aerodromes in Tanzania.

1. BIRDS THAT MIGHT CONSTITUTE A HAZARD:

Birds that might constitute a hazard to aircraft include types and species of birds found in Tanzania. Some of the most common ones are listed below. Their sizes vary from the large marabou stork to the humble quelea.

2. MIGRATION ROUTES:

Many of the birds which are involved are migrants from Eurasia and pass through East Africa moving south in September / October and moving North in March/April. Other are local migrants with far from regulated local movements and mostly seasonal. The main flight line appears to be along the Ethiopian chain of lakes down the Rift valley to Natron and Manyara in Tanzania. There is evidence of a westerly route, little known, which follows the Nile and so to Lake Victoria.

3. HAZARD ZONE:

Generally, all lake areas and plain game areas should be considered hazard zones, e.g. Masai-Mara, Serengeti, Lake Victoria etc. Wherever game concentrates, there will be found vultures and eagles as residents scavenging on game kills. These birds often fly at considerable altitude making use of thermals and wander over great distances.

4. CONCENTRATION AND MOVEMENTS OF VARIOUS TYPES:

- a) **Pelicans:** In Tanzania, breeding concentrations are in Lake Manyara. Mature birds weight up to 10 kgs. They use thermals and large parties may be encountered near breeding and fishing grounds.
- b) **Marabou Storks:** These frequent rubbish dumps and abettors in and near most towns e.g. Dodoma, Manyara, Moshi, Serengeti, Arusha etc.. Generally, they travel by day using thermal, searching great heights. Recorded weights lay between 5 to 7 Kgs.
- c) **Eagles and Vultures:** These are mainly found over the plains where game animals are present. They are generally gregarious with known nesting colonies at various places e.g. Manyara. They may travel great distances for feed.
- d) **Flamingos:** These are found a great concentration up to hundreds of thousands in some lake areas in the Great Rift Valley. Their movements are unpredictable.
- e) **Kites:** These are familiar birds at all airports and town strips. They are active by day scavenging usually in association with vultures and crows.
- f) **Quelea:** They are small grain eating agricultural pest often nesting in thousands especially after good rains. They move in immense flocks. Known concentration areas are West Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Singida etc. They could constitute a great hazard after good rains when breeding takes place.

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