

Project Update: August 2012

We conducted surveys of blue swallow populations in both Busia Grasslands and Ruma National Park. In Busia, we surveyed Matayos, Sio River bridge area, Nambale and at Kisoko (Mzee Lino's farm). We used opportunistic observations to search for Blue Swallows between 0600 hrs to 1600 hrs from 27th to 29th June 2012. However, we did not record any blue swallows during this survey. The surveyed sites were observed to be fragmented and interrupted by sugarcane and maize crop farms. In Ruma NP, a team of four observers surveyed blue swallows along access roads within the park from 29th to 31st July 2012. We counted populations of blue swallows only to the north-eastern part of the park in the park's low use zone area. They occurred in mixed flocks of other species including mosque swallows, barn swallows, little swifts, Angola swallows and Madagascar bee-eaters.



Left: Blue Swallow perching at Ruma NP. Right: Female Blue Swallow with worn-out feathers at Ruma NP.



Project Co-ordinator (right) with team members at Ruma NP