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further collecting in the montane forests of eastern Congo and Rwanda will show that *Apalis rufogularis kigezi* is more widespread. It is noteworthy that White (1962) states that populations of *nigrescens* in the south-west part of its range have females lighter and more grey-brown above, which may be a distinct form. This would, however, be many hundred miles from the territory of *A. r. kigezi* and in between the two occur birds assignable to *nigrescens*.

Our thanks go to John Williams and Tony Archer for actual collection of specimens of this new race.

Reference:

White, C. M. N., 1962. A Check List of the Ethiopian Muscicapidae (Sylviinae). Part III. *Occasional Papers of the National Museums of Southern Rhodesia*, vol. 3, No. 26b, pp. 653-694.

## A new race of the Little Bee-eater from the South West Arid District of Africa

by P. A. CLANCEY

*Received 5th September, 1967*

Studies of variation in the southern African populations of the Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Statius Müller carried out over the past few years have culminated in a decision to recognise two races in this region, one of which requires a name:

*Merops pusillus argutus*, subsp. nov.

*Description:* Similar to *M. p. meridionalis* (Sharpe), 1892: Pinetown, Natal, but separable on the basis of a paler, less saturated, olive-green dorsal surface. Below, yellow of throat paler and gular spot much smaller, this more laterally compressed and sagittate or rounded in form; blue edging to the anterior plane of the gular spot caerulean rather than ultramarine; upper breast and sides of lower throat paler reddish brown [Ochraceous-Tawny (Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. xv.), as against Hazel (pl. xiv)], and rest of underside much lighter and less washed with saturated golden olivaceous in newly moulted condition. Similar in size.

*Distribution:* The northern and north-eastern periphery of the South West Arid District from south-western and southern Angola, northern and north-eastern South West Africa, east to Ngamiland and northern and north-eastern Botswana (in south-east to the Tuli River), extreme western Matabeleland, Rhodesia (especially at Wankie and Kazungula), and south-western Zambia; also perhaps to the north-western Transvaal. There may be a temporary seasonal shift to the east on the part of some individuals or marginal populations, as a ♀ from Newington, in the eastern Transvaal lowveld, dated 5th August, 1953, is typical of this dry country form.

*Type:* ♂, adult. Nata River, Nata, north-eastern Botswana (Bechuanaland Protectorate). 11th August, 1966. Collected by Peterhouse School Nat. Hist. Soc. In the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo. N. M. No. 60631.

*Measurements of the Type:* Wing 81 (tip missing), culmen (from base) 30.5, tail 62 mm.

*Material examined:* *M. p. argutus*, 23 [South West Africa, 6; Botswana, 6

(Shakawe, near Muhembo, Kwikamba, Nata, Kasane); western Rhodesia, 10 (mainly Kazungula); Transvaal, 1 (Newington)]. *M. p. meridionalis*, 70. *M. p. cyanostictus*, 9.

*Remarks:* By September, birds of all the southern African populations of this bee-eater are too blued above and weathered to be of such use in work, on subspecification, though the throat-spot variable is unaffected. I have based my conclusions on the adequate samples taken between May and August which presently lie before me.

With the recognition of *M. p. argutus*, the South African range of *M. p. meridionalis* will now be: coastal Natal, eastern Zululand, eastern Swaziland, the Transvaal, Rhodesia (except extreme west), and Moçambique. Farther north extends to Tanzania, parts of Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia (except south-west), the southern and eastern savannas of the Congo, Angola north of *M. p. argutus*, and the Portuguese Congo.

For the loan of material to augment that in the Durban Museum, I am grateful for assistance rendered by Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin, Ornithologist of the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo, and Professor J. M. Winterbottom, Director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, in Cape Town.

## Taxonomic notes on some African Sylviinae

by C. M. N. WHITE

Received 26th April, 1967

The present notes form part of a series as already explained in some earlier contributions.

### *Euryptila*

In my *Check List* (1962) I placed this genus after *Camaroptera* but expressed uncertainty as to its affinities. Recent field data, I am informed, suggests that it is very like *Camaroptera* and that it could be merged with that genus.

### *Eremomela icteropygialis* (Lafresnaye)

In view of the various conflicting views about the variation in this species in its south-western range, I have examined material again. I agree with Clancey (1962, Bull. B.O.C. 82, pp. 44-45) that there is no convincing reason for rejecting the lower Orange River as the type locality, and that *perimacha* must become a synonym of the nominate form. I am however doubtful about recognising *E. i. sharpei* Rchw. for birds from northern South West Africa and most of Botswana. Some material seems to exhibit differences whilst other does not. For instance I cannot see any constant differences between birds from the north-west Cape Province and a series from Ovamboland. Specimens from the Kaokoveld are paler below and have very little yellow on the abdomen. Wear and abrasion is also rapid in these areas which makes comparison difficult. At present I therefore prefer to unite these populations.

### *Eremomela scotops* Sundevall

I am now satisfied that the populations which in 1962 I united under the nominate consist of three subspecies. *E. s. chlorochlamys* Clancey (1965, *Arnoldia*, 2, no. 3, p. 2. Sabi-Lundi confluence) has a brighter and yellower crown, and a more pronounced citrine wash on the grey upper surface,