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Page(s): Page 13, Page 14, Page 15, Page 16

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*Pæoptera lugubris major* Neumann. A new record for Uganda, though previously taken in the Ituri. Said by Sclater to be doubtfully distinct from the nominotypical *P. lugubris* Bonaparte.

## A Note on the Larks of the *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Group.

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the following note, with a description of a new race :—

In Bull B. O. C. lxiv. 1943, p. 21, I commented on specimens of *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* (Salvadori) from western Balovale which were much paler than *M. r. zombæ* O.-Grant. I have now been able to examine additional material and also study further allied forms, and, therefore, offer the following notes. The Clapper Larks, which make the characteristic wing-claps when high in the air, form a distinctive group. Although currently placed under several species, I believe that probably only two species are involved in South and Central Africa, and it is questionable whether these overlap. I would rearrange them as follows :—

### MIRAFRA APIATA APIATA (Vieillot).

General aspect above very grey.

*Distribution.*—South-western Cape Province. (Two examined.)

### MIRAFRA APIATA ALGOENSIS (Roberts).

Similar to *M. a. apiata*, but with the outer web of the primaries much more extensively rufous.

*Distribution.*—Eastern Cape Province. (Five examined from Knysna, Paarl, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Hopetown.)

### MIRAFRA APIATA ADENDORFFI Roberts.

Differs from the preceding in the strong admixture of rufous on the upper side, especially on the head-top.

*Distribution.*—Little Namaqualand to van Rhynsdorp district. (Six examined.)

*Note.*—This bird cannot be anything but a race of *M. apiata*, and forms a link between the grey-backed *M. apiata* group and the rufous-backed *M. a. hewitti* (Roberts) group.

### MIRAFRA APIATA HEWITTI (Roberts).

General aspect above deep rufous : some birds show a quite defined blackish barring above, especially when worn, indicating the affinity of this form to the preceding, which has much more grey above and is darker rufous below. Birds from the Transvaal are the darkest in this series, but there is too much individual variation to justify the recognition of further geographical races.

*Distribution.*—Orange Free State to North-west Cape Province at Vryburg, Barkley West, and Western Transvaal (Rustenburg, Pretoria, Waterberg, Nylstroom). (Thirty-eight examined.)

MIRAFRA APIATA DESERTI Roberts.

Very similar to *M. a. hewitti* but rather paler rufous on the upper side; somewhat variable, and a few birds hardly separable.

*Distribution.*—Damaraland Plateau (Gobabis to Okahandja, Omatako and Otjisundu). (Eight examined.)

*Note.*—Lynes (Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxxi. fasc 1, 1938, p. 73.) lists birds from Kilembe and Petianga in the Belgian Congo and Chisengue and Missao de Luz in Angola as *Mirafra fasciolata*, of which Gyldenstolpe regards *M. hewitti* as a synonym. These specimens require re-examination before they can be regarded as *M. a. hewitti*. I am not satisfied that *M. fasciolata* does in fact refer to this form. Levaillant's figure of *Alauda rufipilea* appears to me to be unidentifiable.

MIRAFRA APIATA KALAHARICA (Roberts).

In pattern like *M. a. hewitti*, but in colour quite different, being a pale pinkish sandy colour on the upper side.

*Distribution.*—Central Kalahari (Gemsbok Pan, Damarapan, Kuke). (Three examined.)

*Note.*—Two from Damarapan agree with the description of this race, but the third, from Gemsbok Pan, the type-locality, is actually more like *M. rufocinnamomea* in the pattern of the upper surface, though it has the tail pattern of *M. a. hewitti*. More evidence may show that the two species link up in Bechuanaland through this form and *M. rufocinnamomea mababiensis* (Roberts), which is remarkably like the present race in general tone.

The present assemblage of six races, in addition to having the characteristic wing-clapping habit, are larger than the next group—wings 78 to 94 mm.—and also whistle on the wing, a habit not found in most forms of *M. rufocinnamomea*.

MIRAFRA RUFOCINNAMOMEA ZOMBÆ O.-Grant.

*Distribution.*—Zululand and Swaziland to the Eastern Transvaal (as far west as Olifants River, Pretoria), Southern Rhodesia (Bulawayo and Beatrice), Portuguese East Africa, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia east of the railway strip and via the Katanga west to Mwinilunga and north to the Kasai region of the Belgian Congo. (Fifty-six examined, including a series from Nyasaland.)

*Note.*—This is a remarkably uniform series as regards depth of colour, being distinctly reddish rufous on the upper side. One bird from Bulawayo

and one from the Transvaal are very dark and approach *M. a. hewitti* in colour.

**MIRAFRA RUFOCINNAMOMEA MABABIENSIS** (Roberts).

Very much paler than *M. r. zombæ*, being a very pale brownish sandy colour on the back, almost the same tone as *M. a. kalaharica*, but rather browner and less sandy coloured.

*Distribution*.—Ngamiland. (One examined.)

**MIRAFRA RUFOCINNAMOMEA DAMARENSIS** Sharpe.

Much paler than *M. r. mababiensis*, the general aspect above being a whitish sandy colour.

*Distribution*.—Ovamboland. (Five examined.)

**Mirafra rufocinnamomea lwenarum**, subsp. nov.

*Description*.—Differs from *M. r. zombæ* O.-Grant in being much paler above and below, the general aspect of the upper surface being a pale pinkish clay colour; differs from *M. r. mababiensis* (Roberts) in being darker, and lacking the sandy pallor of that race.

*Distribution*.—Balovale district west of the Zambesi River, Northern Rhodesia. East of the Zambesi River intergrades with *M. r. zombæ*.

*Type*.—In my collection. Male adult, collected between the Kasisi and Litapi Rivers, West Balovale district, Northern Rhodesia, on June 17, 1943, by K. Muzeya.

*Measurements*.—Wing, six males 80 to 85 mm.; seven females 77 to 82 mm., tail 52 to 57 mm.; culmen from base 17 to 18 mm., tarsus 23 to 25 mm., hind claw 6 to 7 mm.

**A new Race of Shrike from Algeria.**

Mr. W. H. PAYN sent the following :—

**Telephonus senegalus meinertzhageni**, subsp. nov.

*Description*.—Differs generally from *Telephonus senegalus cucullatus* (Temminck) in being larger and darker, with longer and stouter bill and longer wing. Male and female.—Upper parts: hind neck and mantle deeper brown, less olive; rump darker, ashy brown, fringes of secondaries and primary coverts with rich chestnut as compared with the buff fringes of *T. s. cucullatus*; central tail feathers darker ash-brown and with more prominent barring. Underparts: breast and flanks considerably darker grey than *T. s. cucullatus*; grey colouring extends further up the throat; belly greyer, less white; cheeks and sides of neck darker grey. Soft parts: bill black, feet and legs dark grey, iris dark grey.

*Distribution.*—Only known at present from type-locality, but almost certainly occurs in suitable terrain in northern Tunisia and probably westwards into north-western Algeria. Occurs in thick *Arbutus*, *Erica* and *Ilex* scrub, on foothills of coastal range.

*Type.*—In my collection. Adult male obtained at Ain Mokra, 40 kilometres west of Bone, Algeria, and not far from the Tunisian frontier, February 22, 1944.

*Remarks.*—A series of five specimens, two males and three females, in unworn plumage, of the Bush-Shrike collected by me in north-eastern Algeria during the winter of 1943–44 exhibit such marked differences from the only other North African race of this bird, *T. s. cucullatus*, that I have described it as a new race after comparing it with a freshly moulted autumn series of the latter from Morocco. *Measurements.*—*T. s. cucullatus*: bill 11.5 to 13.5 mm., depth 7.5 to 8 mm., both sexes. Wing: male 85–89 mm., female 84 mm. *T. s. meinertzhageni*: bill from nostril to tip: male 14 to 14.5 mm., female 13.5 mm. Depth, both sexes, 8.5 mm. Wing: male 88 to 96 mm., female 87 to 90 mm.

### New Name for *Cisticola lais nyikæ* Benson.

Mr. C. W. BENSON sent the following:—

***Cisticola lais mariæ***, nom. nov.,

for *Cisticola lais nyikæ* Benson, Ostrich, August, 1941, p. 28: Nyika Plateau, Nyasaland; not *Cisticola aberrans nyika* Lynes, Ibis, 1930, Suppl. p. 564: Nyika Plateau, Nyasaland. The new name is in honour of my wife, Florence Mary Benson.

### Notice.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, on Wednesday, November 21, 1945. Dinner at 7 P.M., following which Mr. J. G. Harrison will read a paper on Bird Migration.

