

CLASSIFICATION OF S. AFRICAN BIRDS

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES

BY AUSTIN ROBERTS

SINCE the publication of my recent paper on the nomenclature of S. African birds (*Ann. Transvaal Mus.* VIII, Part IV, pp. 187-272, 1922), a few more changes made by other writers have come to my notice and a few have also been found to be necessary in continuation of my own work. Up to the present I have seen no reviews of my paper above-mentioned in ornithological journals, and it is therefore possible that a few more changes will be found to be necessary as a result of critical examination by workers abroad. In the meantime, however, I propose to deal with the changes so far found to be necessary, and in a few months' time intend to publish a "Synoptic List" of our birds, as a "Check List" and useful compendium for workers in the field.

Numida papillosa limpopoensis subsp. nov.

Type: T.M. No. 12519, collected by F. Streeter in the lowcountry east of Pietersburg, Transvaal, August 14th, 1920. In the main very similar to *Numida papillosa transvaalensis* Neumann from the western Transvaal, but differing in having no papillae at the base of the culmen.

Last year I procured two specimens of *Numida* on the White Umfolosi in Zululand, and both of these agree with a specimen from Fish River, C.P., in having the feathers of the neck striped with white; but the casque in both slopes backwards more and is not so broad in the upper part as in the Fish River specimen, which seems to show a trend towards the shape found in *N. mitrata* of the lower Zambesi. A specimen from near Hector Spruit, eastern Transvaal, has the casque much the same as in the Zululand specimens, but has the feathers of the neck barred as in the western species and the type of *limpopoensis*. It was the shape of the casque in this specimen which led me to state that *coronata* was a subspecies of *mitrata* (cf. *Ann. Transvaal Mus.* vol. VI, p. 3, 1917). The striping of the neck feathers, however, may still be found to constitute a specific difference, although the evidence of the specimen from near Hector Spruit seems to show that all three of the supposed species occurring within our limits link up where they meet. The evidence is not conclusive, however, and until it is I am retaining the old arrangement.

With regard to the names in current use, some discussion is necessary. Gray was the first to apply the name of *Numida coronata*, but gave no description and it was not until J. H. Gurney, Senior (*Ibis*, 1868, pp. 253 and 463) gave a recognisable diagnosis that the name could be accepted as valid. Gurney had before him a specimen from Durban, and although quoting Gray as the author of the name, this Durban specimen must be regarded as the type of the species. The supposed type in the British Museum was presented by General Hardwicke, and is apparently either from Potchefstroom, or Rhinoster River a little south of that place, where what is now known as *N. p. transvaalensis* occurs. The description given in the *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* vol. XXII, p. 377, agrees with the western Transvaal form, and Finsch and Hartlaub (*Vög. Ostafrik.* p. 568, 1870) also give a similar description. Gurney merely stated that *N. coronata* "differs from the true *mitrata*...in markings

of the neck and wings and more particularly in the shape of the casque, which is broad throughout instead of being narrowed to a point at the upper end as in *N. mitrata*." In the type of *N. coronata* Gray the feathers of the neck are described as barred, as in *N. mitrata*, or, to be more exact, *transvaalensis*. The difference in the shape of the casque in the various forms is shown on the accompanying plate¹. Finsch and Hartlaub (*l.c.*) recognised that the south-eastern Guineafowl differed from the type of *N. coronata* Gray (which they described, overlooking that Gurney had described another specimen from another locality under the same name) and therefore gave the name of *N. cornuta* to the form occurring in the Cape Province, on a specimen in the Bremen Museum, which differs but little, if at all, from that described by Gurney. I am, unfortunately, not able to state whether the Durban form is identical with that found in Kaffraria, as this can only be settled by comparison of Gurney's specimen and that in the Bremen Museum, or by specimens from the same localities. Our specimen from Fish River is larger and darker, and has the casque differently shaped when compared with those from the Umfolosi River, and, if the latter do not represent the typical *coronata*, may have to be named, this form most likely extending north rather than south of that river.

Dendroperdix sephaena zuluensis subsp. nov.

A very small form, differing from *D. sephaena zambesiae* Praed (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XL, p. 140) in being still smaller and much darker in general effect; the lower hind neck and upper part of the back are hardly at all reddish, and the irregular bars on the under parts of the body are rather heavier, while the under tailcoverts are more consistently and more conspicuously barred on the average than other allied forms. The wings in three adult females examined have a length of 144–146 mm., as against 148–155 in *zambesiae*, and 156–162 in *sephaena*; other dimensions are also proportionately smaller, tail 77, tarsus 35–36, as against 86–95 and 38–42, respectively in the typical *sephaena*. Specimens from the eastern Transvaal are short-winged, about the same as in *zambesiae*, to which I am tentatively referring them, as this distribution would coincide with the distribution of quite a number of species.

Type: T.M. No. 12774, adult female, taken by me in the Umfolosi Game Reserve, July 22nd, 1922. "Length in the flesh 300 mm. Iris yellowish brown. Legs salmon red. Bill black above, pale brown below."

D. sephaena thompsoni subsp. nov.

Similar in colour above to the typical *D. sephaena* of the western Transvaal, but below very decidedly paler and with the fine irregular barring indistinct and the triangular dark brown marks of the chest smaller and fewer; the reddish markings below the earcoverts are also fewer and darker, and the earcoverts on the average darker. In size smaller than the typical *D. sephaena* and about the same as in *zambesiae*, namely, males 157–164, females 150–155; other dimensions in proportion.

Type: T.M. No. 13033, collected, and donated by Dr L. C. Thompson, at Grootfontein, S.W.A. Protectorate, July, 1916. "Iris brown. Bill black. Legs dark vermilion."

Turtur chalcospilos Wagler. Sclater (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XLII, p. 118, 1922) has pointed out that *T. chalcospilos* Wagler was based upon the Kaffrarian bird, none like it occurring in north-western Africa, and consequently the name must replace that of *T. chalcospilos caffra* of Reichenow.

¹ See Plate III, Part 3, of this volume.

The following subspecies from within our north-western limits are named or recognised by Grote (*J. f. Orn.* pp. 39-49, 1922):

Otis afroides etoschae Grote.

Dendropicos guineensis stresemanni Grote.

Philetairus socius geminus Grote.

Mirafra sabota waibeli Grote.

Harpolestes australis damarensis (Reichenow) (cf. *Orn. Monatsb.* p. 120, 1915).

Ploceus intermedius lubberti Reichenow (cf. *idem*, p. 77, 1902).

Poliospiza angolensis deserti Reichenow (cf. *J. f. Orn.* p. 438, 1918).

Cinnyris ovamboensis Reichenow (cf. *idem*, p. 133, 1904).

Erythropygia munda ovamboensis Neumann (cf. *idem*, p. 48, 1922).

By an oversight, I did not mention the name of *Nyctiperdix bicinctus multicolor* (Hartert, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XXI, p. 53, 1908), a very well-marked form occurring in the eastern districts (Rustenburg, etc.), which has the underparts more heavily barred, the general coloration much darker and the white bar across the forehead interrupted in the middle.

Hydrochelidon = *Chlidonias* Rafinesque (cf. Richmond, *Auk*, p. 197, 1912).

Haematopus unicolor = *H. moquini* (cf. Sclater, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XLII, p. 72, 1922).

Upon maturer consideration, I propose to place *Stephanibyx melanopterus* (Cretschmarr) and *S. lugubris* (Less.) in a new subgenus, ΤΙΤΙΘΙΑ, of which the former species will be the genotype. The name is adopted from the Zulu name, which is derived from the call-note.

Erolia ferruginea = *E. testacea* Vroeg (cf. Mathews, *Austr. Av. Rec.* v, p. 34, 1923).

Abdimia = *Sphenorhynchus* Lcht. (cf. Bannerman, *Rev. Zool. Afr.* x, p. 134, 1922).

Phoenicopterus antiquorum = *Ph. major* Dumont (cf. Mathews, *Austr. Av. Rec.* IV, p. 154, 1921).

Lophogyps = *Trigonoceps* Lesson (cf. Kirke-Schwann, "Synoptic List of Accip." p. 10, 1921).

The Transvaal Museum has been fortunate in receiving a specimen of *Aquila nipalensis*, rather smaller than the western subspecies *orientalis*, from Damaraland, kindly donated, together with many other specimens, by Mr R. D. Bradfield, "Quickborn," north of Okahandja. This species was long ago recorded by Gurney (*Ibis*, p. 224, 1877) from Damaraland; but for some inexplicable reason has never since been mentioned. The late J. H. Gurney (junior) very kindly furnished me with a description of the bird in question, which is still preserved in the Norwich Museum, and there can be no question of its identity. Both birds are rather smaller than recorded dimensions of *orientalis* of western Asia, north-east Africa and eastern Europe, and having regard to the great distance between Abyssinia and Damaraland, it seems probable that the Damaraland bird will be found to be constantly smaller. This eagle, while having the dimensions of wing and tail much the same as in *Aquila rapax*, has the bill and feet altogether smaller, and I therefore propose to place it in a new genus PSAMMOAETUS, genotype *Aquila nipalensis* Hodgson. Possibly this species has a wider extension than has been suspected, as it is remarkably like *Aquila rapax*; in fact, Mr Bradfield sent the specimen thinking it was the Tawny Eagle, and has since sent a specimen of the Tawny Eagle from the same place thinking it was another specimen of the Steppe Eagle.

I note from a recent publication that the name of *Micraetus* which I applied to Wahlberg's Eagle is pre-occupied and I therefore rename the genus AFRAETUS.

Buteo rufiventer = *B. vulpinus* Gloger (cf. Kirke-Schwann, *l.c.* p. 73).

Melierax canorus = *M. musicus* (Daudin) (cf. Sclater and Praed, *Ibis*, p. 702, 1919).

Haliaetus vocifer = *Cuncuma vocifer* (cf. Kirke-Schwann, *l.c.* p. 143).

Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis (Hartlaub) alone occurs within our limits, according to Kirke-Schwann, the typical form being found only north of our limits.

At p. 211 of my recent review a line has been left out in typing the manuscript, and the second line in the third paragraph should read "northern hemisphere should be retained in the genus *Erythropus* and the other migratory species, *C. naumanni*, in the genus *Tichornis*."

Pseudhalcyon swainsoni (A. Smith) was based upon a specimen of *P. leucocephala*, according to van Someren (cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxix, p. 76, 1922) and the name of *P. pallidiventris* (Cabanis) must therefore be used for the bird occurring within our limits.

Hartert (*Nov. Zool.* xxviii, p. 106, 1921) recognises western specimens of *Chelicutia chelicuti* as a subspecies, *damarensis* Strickland, on the greater average wing length. His figures for the typical eastern bird are apparently misprinted and should read "75-79," not 85-79, those for *damarensis* being given as 82-88. A long series in the Transvaal Museum confirms these figures, western specimens in complete feathering measuring in wing length 82-86 mm. and in an exceptionally large one from Bulawayo as much as 90 mm.

In the *Ibis*, p. 54, 1922, Colonel Meinertzhagen has given figures showing the wing length in series of specimens of *Clamator glandarius* from various areas, to show the possible existence of eastern and western subspecies, which he does not admit; but, while it seems possible that there is a difference between eastern and western specimens in the north, a different and more interesting point appears to be revealed, namely, that the South African birds do not migrate to North Africa, nor the North African birds to South Africa. Comparing only the figures for Europe and North Africa we find that the wing length is 200-220 in males and 194-203 in females, whereas in South African birds the same dimensions are, respectively in males and females, 191-210 and 180-198; if the figures for the Uganda birds be included the males have a wing length of 222-224 and females 198-211; while those given for Tropical East and West Africa can be divided and allocated to both northern and southern birds, seeming to point to the tropics being the common winter resort of both forms.

In the *Ibis*, p. 92, 1921, Bannerman states that the really immature plumage of *Surniculoides clamosus* is not known, and it is therefore to be recorded that there are two specimens in the Transvaal Museum collection, one from Bagamoyo, E. Africa, taken by Marais in July, 1903, and the other from Dargle District, Natal, taken by me in March, 1908, which seem to represent this stage of plumage. Both specimens differ from the adults in having no white on the tips of the tail feathers and under tailcoverts and in having a purplish instead of a green gloss; the tail feathers are also more pointed in shape.

In the same collection is a remarkably pale *Cuculus* taken by Major F. Vaughan Kirby on the Maputa River (south of Lourenço Marques) that may perhaps represent the immature plumage of *C. gularis*, as the bill is for the greater part yellow, only the tip being brown. It has a large white nape-patch and all the primaries and secondaries are tipped with white; there is

no trace of rufous in the plumage, such as is seen in other immature and dark-billed specimens from South Africa that I presume are referable to *C. canorus*. I find that in adults of *C. gularis* the tail is about 70 % of the wing length, in *C. canorus* about 75 % or over. Presumably this difference arises from a greater demand upon speed in the African bird.

With regard to *Chrysococcyx*, van Someren (*Nov. Zool.* xxix, p. 55) has named the South African bird *C. auratus sharpei*, stating that the type of *intermedius* Hartlaub came from Gaboon. In this connection I might point out that the type of *intermedius* was taken by Verreaux, and some caution should be exercised in accepting the locality, several birds said to have been collected in Gaboon, in Verreaux's collection, having proved subsequently to have been taken elsewhere. Hartlaub gave the length of the tail as 3" 5'" (= 92 mm.), which is the average of South African birds. Bannerman has more recently (*Nov. Zool.* xxix, pp. 413-420) written a special article to correct van Someren's usage of the specific name of "*auratus*" and to throw more light upon these birds. While welcoming this further information, I must admit to a feeling of disappointment in the conclusions arrived at, since there must be some explanation for the wide range in variation in the length of tail of what he regards as a single species; there must also be some explanation for the banding of the under tailcoverts being absent in some birds found beyond our limits, while those found in S. Africa are constantly banded. I have already given a subgeneric name to the South African bird, to emphasise the importance of the proportions of the tail to the wing; but this could not have been in the hands of the author at the time his article went to press. To make myself clear, the following dimensions will serve to show how constant those of the same sex are when adult:

Locality	Sex	Wing	Tail	% of difference
Knysna	♂	113	90	80
"	♂	113	91	80.5
"	♂	115	93	81
"	♂ juv.	110	82	75
"	♀	107	76	71
Humansdorp	♂	114	92	80.5
Grahamstown	♂	111	87	78.5
Port St John's	♂	108	87	80.5
	♂	116	93	80
Flagstaff	♂	109	91	83.5
Umtamvuma River	♀	109	78	71.5
Woodbush	♂	110	92	83.5

These figures prove interesting in two respects, firstly, the constancy of the length of the tail as compared with the wing, in males, and secondly that females and immature males have the tail proportionately shorter, indicating a greater activity being necessary to the female, presumably to escape the onslaughts of the owners of the nest in which she has deposited her egg. This remarkable difference might be given special attention by those who may study these birds again. I might mention that a full plumaged male obtained in January at Woodbush had the testes very small. A point which Bannerman appears to have overlooked is that the S. African bird is a migrant and may therefore be looked for in the same ground as the resident species in the tropics, and also that there may be a migratory form in the north as well as south of the continent. Hartert has already suggested such a case in the commoner Didric (*Lampromorpha cuprea*, i.e. the corrected spelling of *caprius* Boddaert), the northern form bearing the name of *chrysochlora* Heine (cf. *Nov. Zool.* xxviii, p. 100).

In support of this, Hartert gave the wing dimensions of northern birds as, in males 108-115, in females 110-117, and of southern birds as, males 108-121, females 124-125. Bannerman (*Rev. Zool. Afr.* x, p. 121) disagrees with this view, and gives the following figures from fifty specimens in the British Museum:

N.W. Africa: ♂♂ 106-118, ♀♀ 114-115, not sexed 113-118.
S. Africa: ♂♂ 109-119, ♀♀ 111-122, ,, 113-118.

Eliminating immature specimens, I find the following figures for fifty specimens in the Transvaal Museum collection from south of the Tropic of Capricorn: males, 115-122; females 115-124.

Bannerman's figures include specimens from Rhodesia, which I am by no means sure are identical with those from the south, and I suggest that the low figures quoted are due to incomplete feathering or to such more northern birds. In some cases our immature specimens give a wing length of over 120 mm., but it is safer to ignore them. Females are easily separated from males when adult on the duller coloration. I find that our adult males from Knysna are easily picked out from the rest by their more bronzy sheen, and at the other extreme a specimen from the Limpopo is more shot with violet blue than specimens from the south. A specimen from Beira (the only other specimen we have from north of the Tropic of Capricorn) is an erythroid and very remarkably coloured, the whole of the upper parts being light reddish pink, the tail and wing quills darker reddish, the head uniform, but the back sparingly barred with metallic green; while below it differs from ordinary immature specimens from Union Territory in being white with scattered greenish markings, which take on a reddish suffusion towards and on the throat, where there is hardly a trace of green. It has a wing length of 112 mm., and is apparently immature.

Sc Slater (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XLII, p. 63, 1922) has described *Tricholaema leucomelan namaqua* from Klipfontein, Namaqualand, which is said to differ from the typical form in having the underparts thickly marked with spots of black; birds from Deelfontein are said to be intermediate between this new form and the typical one, which has the underparts plain. A specimen of the Namaqualand form is said also to be in the S. African Museum from Clan William. I mention this because it seems to me possible that what he has described as new may after all prove to be the typical form, the first description of the bird bearing the title of "Le Barbu du Cap d'Espérance." The series in the Transvaal Museum collection contains specimens from Klaver, a little north of Clan William, and Port Elizabeth, which would be referable to *namaqua* and specimens from Barkly West and Orange Free State might be regarded as to some extent intermediate between the southern birds and those from farther north; but one specimen from Weenen, and other individuals from the Transvaal are marked with blackish on the flanks, while the majority from the same localities are plain. In Damaraland the greatest uniformity prevails, and doubtless the same will be found in Benguella. I trust that this matter will be looked into again by someone having all the literature available.

With regard to Grote's name of *Dendropicos guineensis stresemanni* (*l.c.*), I have gone over the long series in the Transvaal Museum collection and conclude that, far from there being only one form in S. Africa, or two if we admit the small north-eastern form which has been recorded as *hartlaubi*, there are quite a number of recognisable races within our limits. The north-eastern form occurring along the coastal tract extends southwards to the eastern Cape Province. A small form also extends southwards on the west as far south as the Orange River. Over the central area the birds are larger

from the Karrooide districts to north-western Rhodesia. Eastern specimens are yellower than western and southern darker than northern, according to the prevailing conditions of climate. The difference is often more clearly seen in the males than females on the colour of the forehead; but the females can nevertheless be distinguished fairly well on the other characters and they are only on the average smaller than males, the difference between the sexes in size being very slight.

Dendropicos fuscescens fuscescens (Vieillot).

The typical form was procured at a number of places by Le Vaillant in the southern region only, and Grootvaders Bosch may be chosen as the type locality. Le Vaillant figures and describes the bird as having the forehead in the male, and to a less extent in the female, reddish brown, the upper-parts very broadly striped and dark and the under-parts heavily striped. In size it has the wing length probably over 95 mm., normally about 98 to 100 mm. We have no specimens from the southern region, though I have seen the bird in the bush above the Olifants River at Klaver, one of the localities mentioned by Le Vaillant.

D. fuscescens orangensis subsp. nov.

This subspecies occurs from the Orange River, O.F.S., northwards to the border of the "bushveld," and differs from the typical form in having the forehead dark grey brown in the male. The upper-parts are dark and the under-parts broadly striped on a dull white ground over the chest, the striping becoming thinner over the abdominal region.

Type: T.M. No. 9860, adult male, taken by F. D. Ayres at Potchefstroom, January 29th, 1913. "Iris rose colour. Bill bluish horn. Legs dark bottle-green. Length in the flesh $6\frac{1}{8}$ inch" (= 155 mm.). Wing length 96 mm., tail 50, culmen 19. Other specimens from Modder River, O.F.S., and Pretoria are normally larger, the wing length sometimes over 100 mm.

D. fuscescens intermedius subsp. nov.

This form differs from *orangensis* in being yellower above and below, the forehead in the male dark buffy grey, the chest and under-parts more thinly striped and over a rather light ground. The dimensions are the same, and there can be little doubt that the form has been driven over the Drakensberg from the rivers of the highveld by the prevailing dry north-westerly winds of the late winter and early spring months and the grass fires which follow the same direction. Many of the highveld species are distributed in the same way over the Drakensberg, where they have established themselves and become permanently affected by the conditions of environment prevailing there.

Type: T.M. No. 3989, adult male, taken by E. P. B. Arnold at Weenen, Natal, August 1st, 1908.

D. fuscescens transvaalensis subsp. nov.

This form is much like *intermedius*, but differs in being paler and more thinly striped below, less yellowish above and with only a faint trace of yellowish below; the forehead in the male is greyer than in both *orangensis* and *intermedius*. It ranges over the "bushveld" of the upper Limpopo valley, the lowcountry of the north-eastern Transvaal and through Bechuanaland and western Rhodesia south of the Zambesi Delta.

Type: T. M. No. 7467, adult male, taken at Nylstroom by me on August 6th, 1909.

D. fuscescens capriviensis subsp. nov.

A long-winged form differing from the preceding in being narrowly striped on the chest, the striping practically disappearing on the abdomen, and narrowly and less distinctly barred above; the upper-parts are much yellower and the middle of the under-parts with a clear wash of yellowish; the forehead in the male is pallid grey. Dimensions the same as in the preceding forms. Type: adult ♂, from Caprivi Corner.

D. hartlaubi harei subsp. nov.

Differs from the preceding forms in its smaller size, and in colour hardly distinguishable from *transvaalensis*. This form extends northwards to Transvaal and Okanjanje on the west, its place being taken beyond that by the more narrowly striped form which Grote has described as *stresemanni*.

Type: T.M. No. 10890, taken at Barkly West by H. L. Hare, on May 24th, 1910. "Iris reddish brown. Legs dusky olive. Bill slate." Wing length 92 mm., tail 50, culmen 21.

D. hartlaubi noomei subsp. nov.

A short-winged form, allied to *centralis* Neumann (cf. *J. f. Orn.* p. 206, 1900, and *Nov. Zool.* xxix, p. 68, 1922), but differing therefrom in having the upper tailcoverts very distinctly and broadly tipped with bright red. The form found north of the Zambesi (*centralis*) of which the Transvaal Museum possesses a long series from Boror, appears never to have the upper tailcoverts red-tipped, and specimens from Beira are only slightly so. There is only one specimen of this new form in the collection, and it is possible therefore that the acquisition of longer series will disclose other differences.

Type: T.M. No. 8512, taken at Umbelluzi, just south of Delagoa Bay, by F. O. Noome, on May 27th, 1911. Wing length 93 mm., tail 52, culmen 18.5.

D. hartlaubi natalensis subsp. nov.

Differs markedly from *noomei* in having the under-parts profusely and more broadly striped, the upper-parts darker and strongly washed with deep golden yellowish, the under-parts also decidedly yellowish, and the forehead in males much darker grey.

This form appears to extend from the Natal and Zululand coast northwards below the foothills of the Drakensberg into the eastern Transvaal as far north as Zoutpansberg, overlapping the long-winged form that has come over the Drakensberg from the "highveld."

Type: Adult male, T.M. No. 7501, taken by E. P. B. Arnold, Red Hill, Natal coast, March 10th, 1910.

The forms of *Dendropicos* occurring within our limits may be identified by the following key:

A. Wing over 95 mm. in length = *D. fuscescens* group:

1. Under-parts heavily striped, especially on the chest, and striping extending to the abdomen on a dull whitish ground; upper-parts with dark, well-defined broad bands:
 - 1 a. Forehead in male reddish-brown: *D. f. fuscescens*.
 - 1 b. Forehead in male dark grey-brown: *D. f. orangensis*.
2. Under-parts whiter, with clearly-defined broad stripes on the chest, but diminishing on the abdomen; upper-parts with dark, well-defined broad bands:
 - 2 a. Less yellowish above and below: *D. f. transvaalensis*.
 - 2 b. More yellowish above and below: *D. f. intermedius*.

3. Under-parts mainly white with narrow, clearly-defined stripes on the chest, but striping practically absent on the abdomen; upper-parts yellower, more narrowly and indistinctly barred: *D. f. capriviensis*.
- B. Wing length under 95 mm. = *D. hartlaubi* group:
- B 1. Under-parts narrowly striped:
4. Upper-parts broadly barred, below whiter: *D. h. stresemanni*.
 5. Upper-parts narrowly barred, below yellower:
 - 5 a. Upper tailcoverts red tipped: *D. h. noomei*.
 - 5 b. Upper tailcoverts not red tipped: *D. h. centralis*.
- B 2. Under-parts broadly striped:
6. Under-parts yellower, upper-parts more golden yellow; forehead in male darker: *D. h. natalensis*.
 7. Under-parts hardly yellowish, upper-parts lighter yellowish; forehead in male paler: *D. h. harei*.

Phyllastrephus terrestris montanus subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical *P. terrestris* of the eastern Cape Province in having the upper-parts more rufous tinted, and the under-parts approaching the colour of *P. t. intermedius* of the coast near Delagoa Bay; it is readily distinguished from the latter by its much darker colouring above.

Type: Adult female, T.M. No. 12959, taken by me at Woodbush Forest Station in January, 1923. "Length in the flesh 200 mm.," wing length 83.5, tail 84, tarsus 21, culmen 19. "Iris pale brownish red. Bill dark brown above, basal half of mandible whitish. Legs and feet pale bluish brown."

In my recent review, several errors have crept in, either in re-typing the manuscript or for want of literature. At p. 228, at the foot of the third paragraph, the name of *Notiocichla* should read *Notiocinclla*. At p. 224, fourth paragraph, *Cecropis puella* has been spelt *Cecrops puella* in error. In consulting Swainson's works recently to hand I find that he placed the Mountain Chat (*Grillivora capensis*) in doubt in the genus, and *Grillivora* cannot therefore be said to include our species, so that we must use the name of *Dromolaea* for *monticola*; all references to *Grillivora* on pp. 229-231 should therefore be amended accordingly.

Only one form of *Erythropygia leucophrys* has so far been recognised in current text-books; but the "bushveld" of Transvaal form is more reddish on the back, the head is paler and the under-parts are less heavily striped, than in typical birds from the eastern Cape Province. The name of *E. leucophrys pectoralis* Smith is available for this more northern form, which is quite readily picked out when individuals are mixed in collections.

According to Meinertzhagen (*Ibis*, p. 28, 1922), *Saxicola torquata orientalis* Sclater is a synonym of *robusta* Tristram.

According to Mathews and Iredale (*Austr. Av. Rec.* v, p. 58, 1923), the genotype of *Sylvia* is *S. atricapilla*, and according to Hartert (*Vög. fauna Pal.* p. 585) the name of *Sylvia sylvia* must give way to *S. curruca* L.

Oberholser (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, xxxiii, p. 84) has re-named *Sylvia flaviventris* Burchell as *Eremomela griseoflava peremacha*, the former name being preoccupied, but in this connection I may mention that *Eremomela flaviventris* Sundeval was independently described, and the name might therefore stand. Oberholser has also in the same place re-named *Motacilla longicauda* as *M. rhadina*; but Sharpe had already re-named the species as *M. clara*, as noted in my previous paper, p. 255.

The subgeneric name of *Threnetes* at the foot of p. 238 of my recent paper is preoccupied in Trochilidae and may therefore be re-named THRENOLAIS

nom. nov. *Micropogonius* in the third paragraph of p. 221 is also preoccupied in Pisces and may be re-named MICROBUCCO. At p. 245 the subgeneric name of *Diplophoneus* has been wrongly spelt in typing the manuscript and should read *Diplophonus*, as spelt in the list. At p. 245 the name of *Laniarius ferrugineus stricturus* Hartlaub should read *Laniarius ferrugineus sticturus* Finsch and Hartlaub and the same name should take the place of "*guttatus* (Swainson)" at p. 249. At p. 248 the name of *Phaidrometopon* must give way to *Knestrometopon* Neumann (*J. f. Orn.* p. 77, 1920).

There appear to be two forms of *Prionops* occurring within our limits. Neumann long ago (*J. f. Orn.* p. 217, 1905) pointed out that *Prionops poliocephala* (Stanley) was based upon specimens from Mozambique, despite the statement of Stanley that they came from Abyssinia, and there can be little doubt that Neumann is correct. These east coast specimens have always been regarded as *P. talacoma* A. Smith, and no distinction made between them and specimens from the west, which are typical of *P. talacoma*; but a comparison of long series goes to show that the western bird is larger (wing length 108–117 mm., tail 88–98, as against 103–107 and 82–87 respectively in the eastern bird), and the western *talacoma* must therefore remain on our list as a subspecies of *P. poliocephala*.

The generic name of *Adelinus* Bonaparte (1854) is not available for the olive sunbirds, but having the same genotype as *Elaeocerthia* and being several times preoccupied in Coleoptera, may therefore be replaced by HAAGNERIA gen. nov., genotype *Cinnyris olivacea* A. Smith. At p. 254 in the list of species in my recent review, for *Aethocinnyris* read *Notiocinnyris*.

In the genus *Anomalanthus* must be added *Anthus leucocraspedon* Reichenow (*Orn. Monatsb.* p. 155, 1915).

Alauda crassirostris Vieillot would seem to be preoccupied by *Alauda crassirostris* Pennant (1776) (cf. Mathews and Iredale, *Austr. Av. Rec.* v, p. 65, 1923) and the name of *magnirostris* Stephens must therefore take its place. There appear to be two forms of this lark, specimens from the Central Cape Province and Orange Free State having the bill considerably smaller, in males 16–18 mm. in the length of the culmen, in females about 14–16, as against 19–21 in males, and about 18.5 in females, of specimens from the south-western Cape districts. To the smaller-billed form I propose to apply the name of

Calendula magnirostris harei subsp. nov.

Type: Adult male, T.M. No. 11949, taken by H. L. Hare at Phillipstown, C.P., in April, 1912.

At p. 260 I applied a new name to the Clapper Larks *Croteoptera*, overlooking that Gray had named the genus as *Megalophonus* many years ago, and his name therefore takes precedence.

According to Phillipps (cf. *Auk*, p. 347, 1923) *Dendrocygna fulva* (Gmelin) must give place to *D. bicolor* (Vieillot).