

ANNALS

MEDEDELINGEN

OF THE

VAN HET

Transvaal Museum.

VOL. IV.

JULY, 1914.

No. 4.

NOTES ON BIRDS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVERAL NEW SUBSPECIES.

By AUSTIN ROBERTS.

Charadrius rufocinctus, Rehw.

I find on examining the specimens of *C. venustus* mentioned in the "Check List" that they are referable to *C. rufocinctus*; in colour and measurements they agree with Reichenow's description of the latter.

Microparra capensis, (A. Smith).

So far this species has been recorded from the eastern parts of South Africa only; a specimen received from Potchefstroom (F. D. Ayres) is therefore a new record, and indicates the possibility of its occurrence considerably farther west along the course of the Vaal and Orange Rivers, Potchefstroom being situated on a tributary of the former.

Theristicus hagedash, (L.).

Neumann has recently shown ("Ornis," No. XIII) that there are four geographical forms of this species, the typical one being from the Cape and Union territory. Two of the three remaining forms described by Neumann are apparently represented by specimens in the Transvaal Museum collection, namely, two ♀♀ of *guineensis* from Sesheke on the Upper Zambezi, and one specimen (unsexed) of *erlangeri* from Beira. Both these forms should, therefore, be included in our list of South African birds.

Buteo augur, Rupp.

This species does not appear to have been recorded farther south on the western side of Africa than Angola; a specimen from Windhuk, German South-West Africa, therefore considerably extends its range.

This specimen is in the white-breasted phase of plumage, having the whole of the under surface of the body white, as also the throat, which has, however, a very few narrow streaks on the lower part and somewhat broader marks on the sides. The following notes are recorded of the bird in the flesh: length 470, wing 382, tail 195; cere and feet yellow.

Lophoceros nasutus maraisi, subsp. nov.

Similar in colour and general appearance to *L. nasutus*, but smaller in size in all respects: male (type), wing 202, tail 180, tarsus 35, culmen 80; female (cotype), wing 187, tail 175, tarsus 31, culmen 68.

Three forms of this species are recognized by Reichenow in his "Vögel Afrikas," namely, *L. nasutus*, (L.), *L. n. forskali*, (Hemp. Ehr.), and *L. n. epirhinus*, (Sund.). Of these, the first seems to be widely dispersed over North-West Africa and North-East Africa as far south as the Pangani River in German East Africa; the second occurs in North-East Africa only; and the third in South Africa (both on the west and east), its range apparently extending to German East Africa. From this it seems that there is a certain amount of overlapping of *forskali* and *nasutus* in North-East Africa and *epirhinus* and *nasutus* in German East Africa; but whether this is really so or merely the result of hasty identification can only be ascertained by more careful research. *L. forskali* differs from *nasutus* in having a longer wing, and *epirhinus* from *nasutus* in the casque being produced farther forward with a more pointed tip. The fourth form which I have here described is like *nasutus* in the shape of the casque, but in size is so very much smaller in all respects that I have no hesitation in describing it as new. Both the type and cotype are fully adult, and seem to have been a pair. The following figures (the lesser of which in each case are referable to females) are taken from "Die Vögel Afrikas" and the type and cotype of *maraisi*:—

	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.
<i>L. n. nasutus</i>	200-225	200-220	75-97
<i>L. n. epirhinus</i>	200-230	190-215	75-100
<i>L. n. forskali</i>	220-240	215-235	90-113
<i>L. n. maraisi</i>	187-202	175-180	68-80

The type and cotype of this new form are from the collection of the late J. v. O. Marais, but the labels bear no indication of the locality except "Rhodesia," and, as all the specimens he collected in East Africa on his ill-fated expedition were so labelled, that cannot be accepted as a guide. His note-book is in the Museum, however, and in it a pair of hornbills, with remarks on the colour of the bill in the two sexes, is recorded on the 29th June; no precise locality is given about that time, but he seems to have left Bagamojo on the 25th June, and after four days' marching he seems to have settled down to collect specimens, although he suffered considerably from recurring attacks of malarial fever. His notes on the two specimens agree exactly with the two now in the Museum, and as only two others of the family have been recorded in his diary and are obviously referable to *L. deckeni* in his notes, I do not think there can be any doubt as to the locality in which they were taken.

Irrisor erythrorhynchus brevirostris, Gunn. Rbts.

Three specimens of this species have recently been acquired from P. A. Sheppard, of Zimbiti, Beira, which, while closely resembling the typical form from the Transvaal, are still like *brevirostris* from Boror in the length of the wing and culmen. Two are sexed as males, but one of these and the other (not sexed) are so much smaller that I think, on analogy, the one must have been wrongly sexed and both are females. The largest measures: wing 137, tail 225, culmen 49; and in the two smaller ones: wing 132-134, tail 204-214, culmen 36.5-37. In the specimens from Beira the culmen is shaped as in the typical form, and they are in fact a link between the typical form and *brevirostris*; but for the present I do not propose to apply a new trinomial, thinking it advisable to wait for more material.

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas intermedius, subsp. nov.

Specimens of this species from the Orange Free State, Damaraland, and the western half of the Transvaal have the tail feathers uniform or with only a very little white on the outer ones, the longest feathers measuring in males 131-145 and in the females 120-136. These represent the typical form. Then from Beira northwards to East Africa we get the longer tailed subspecies (*schalowi*) giving measurements of 170-200 in the longest tail feathers and with a great deal of white on all but the middle ones, the white extending in most cases across both webs. In the eastern half of the Transvaal and the adjacent territories an intermediate form is found, which has less white on the tail feathers than *schalowi* and gives measurements in the longest feathers of 155-165 in males and 136-146 in females. To this form I am giving the name of "*intermedius*." The type is from the Koedoes River, Zoutpansberg District, taken on the 21st September, 1910, by F. O. Noomé. Wing 115, tail 165, culmen 50.

Pitta angolensis, (Vieill.).

This species has only once been recorded south of the Zambezi, namely, by Swynnerton, who saw and heard it in the forests of Gazaland. There are two specimens in the Transvaal Museum collection which prove that it sometimes occurs considerably farther south. The first of these is one taken at night by Mr. M. v. d. Ende in a house in Pietersburg on 6th December, 1909; and the second by Mr. F. D. Ayres (son of the late Thomas Ayres) in Potchefstroom on the 24th November, 1912. Both these records are remarkable, as there are no natural forests within a considerable distance of the towns in which they were taken, and it seems to be most probable that they strayed from their natural haunts in the north and were attracted by the trees of the towns. Mr. Ayres informs me that he picked up the specimen (dead) under the trees in his garden and that it was much emaciated.

Batis sheppardi, Haagner=*Batis fratrum*, Shelley.

W. L. Sclater (Ibis, 1911, p. 424) has recently recorded a single specimen of *B. fratrum* from Beira, the type locality of *B. sheppardi*. This led me to compare a series of skins from Beira, including the type of

sheppardi, with Shelley's description of *fratrum*, with the result that I think there can be no doubt as to the two species being synonymous. Sclater in writing of the specimen from Beira does not refer to *B. sheppardi*; but remarks that Shelley was wrong in stating that the type of *fratrum* was a female, the error having arisen on account of the label not indicating the sex, and the specimen not having a black breast band like its congeners in South Africa. It is evident that the type was a male, for the discoverers, after whom the species was named, expressly stated in their notes, to which the description was appended by Shelley, that the two specimens remitted (the type and cotype) were a male and a female respectively.

Anthus daviesi, spec. nov.

Most closely allied to *A. vaalensis*, Shelley, but differing in having a longer wing and a shorter and more curved hind claw. In colour it is like *A. leucophrys* on the under surface of the head and body, but like *vaalensis* on the upper parts. *A. vaalensis* formerly had the longest wing of any South African species of the genus, but the present species has an even longer wing, in three males from the type locality measuring not less than 111 mm. as against not more than 106 in *vaalensis*. Having regard to the little variation apparent in wing measurements of specimens of the same sex of other members of the genus, this difference of 5 mm. is of considerable importance, and having regard to the difference in the hind claw, I think its separation as a distinct species is warranted. The type is T.M. No. 8666, ex C. G. Davies, Matatiele, East Griqualand, 4th May, 1911. Wing 111, tail 83, tarsus 27, culmen 16; hind claw, dorsal length 9, ventral length 7.5.

Cossypha haagneri, Gunning.

There are good reasons for supposing this species to be a synonym of *C. bicolor*. There are in the collection at the present time sixteen typical specimens of *C. bicolor* from Ngqeleni or Port St. Johns District, all taken by the same collector (H. H. Swinny), from whom the type of *C. haagneri* was obtained; also another specimen from the same place and collector, which was identified by Haagner with *C. bicolor*, but which might equally well be placed with *C. haagneri*, as it has a yellow eyebrow and black ear-coverts ribbed with yellow. The yellow pigmentation of the feathers in the three allied species—*bicolor*, *natalensis*, and *heuglini*—is by no means always evenly dispersed over certain groups of feathers, but sometimes strays into the darker ones adjoining. This is frequently seen in the feathers of the hind neck in specimens of *bicolor*. There is a specimen of *heuglini* in the collection which has half of one eyebrow yellow in place of white, and a single yellowish plume in the midst of the black ear-coverts. Then, again, if we examine a number of specimens of *C. natalensis*, it is remarkable how much the yellow colouring runs into the slate colour of the back, the amount varying considerably in different individuals. Finally, the immature birds of all three species have a mottled yellow and black appearance. It is easy to conceive, therefore, of yellow having predominated in certain parts, either to the exclusion of black or slate

colour throughout life or, which is very likely, to be displaced at a later age by black or whatever colour the yellow may have encroached upon. This thesis is supported by the presence of black tips in the ear-coverts of the type of *C. haagneri*. Under the circumstances it seems to me to be evident that the type of *C. haagneri* is nothing more nor less than an abnormally coloured specimen of *C. bicolor*, which would very likely (having regard to the black tips to the ear-coverts) in the next moult have reverted to the normal coloration.

I may mention that the type of *C. haagneri* is a female, and the parti-coloured specimen a male; but it is not likely one species would be different in colour in the two sexes, seeing that this does not occur in any other species of the genus. We must, therefore, reject any hypothesis that may be brought forward on the grounds that these differences are typical of the two sexes of a species distinct from *C. bicolor*.

Cinnyris chalybeus, (L.).

There appear to be five forms of this species in South Africa, judging by the material available for comparison. According to W. L. Sclater (Ibis, 1911, p. 274), the typical form, of which he examined six males from Klipfontein, differs from *subalaris*, Reichenow, in having a shorter bill and no wash of yellowish on the lower breast. He does not seem to have had typical specimens of *subalaris* from Pondoland, and, therefore, placed specimens from Knysna (all females and juveniles), Durban, Zululand, and the eastern Transvaal under that name. With more material and the advantage of Mr. Sclater's notes, I have arrived at a different conclusion. A single specimen from Port Elizabeth agrees with his diagnosis of the typical form, having a short culmen and the abdominal region with hardly a trace of the yellowish suffusion found in specimens from farther east. I have found in many cases that the typical forms of species found in the neighbourhood of the Cape Peninsula extend their range eastwards as far as Knysna and Port Elizabeth, and beyond that are replaced by other forms; and I have no doubt that this is another instance. Six specimens from Port Alfred differ from the one from Port Elizabeth in having a faint wash of yellowish on the abdomen. One from Grahamstown is yellower than those from Port Alfred; and single specimens from Lusikisiki (East Pondoland) and Matatiele (East Griqualand) are like that from Grahamstown. Two from Port St. Johns District (probably the type locality of *subalaris*) are yellower than the last, and differ from all the others in having the under tail-coverts yellowish like the abdomen. Single specimens from Wakkerstroom and Haenertsburg (near Woodbush) differ from all the preceding in having darker grey on the abdominal region and hardly a trace of yellowish. All these specimens are males in full plumage, and, with the exception of the specimen from Port Elizabeth, give measurements of the culmen of about 22 mm. Briefly the outstanding characters of these forms are as follows:—

1. Culmen less than 20 mm.—Cape to Port Elizabeth.

Culmen more than 20 mm.—North and east of the Sundays River, Cape Province.

2. Abdominal region light grey, only faintly tinged with yellowish; under tail-coverts not yellowish—Port Alfred.
3. Like 2, but with a stronger wash of yellowish—Grahamstown, Lusikisiki, and Matatiele.
4. Abdominal region grey, with a very strong wash of yellowish which extends over the under tail-coverts as well—Port St. Johns.
5. Abdominal region dark grey, with a very slight wash of yellowish—Eastern Transvaal.

No doubt these forms will be found to merge into each other, having regard to the fact that there is some difficulty in placing specimens when they are taken in situations not far apart, as in the case of Port Alfred and Grahamstown.

Anthoscopus caroli, Sharpe.

In the eighteenth volume of Wytzman's "Genera Avium," Hellmayr has pointed out that specimens of *A. caroli* from the eastern parts of South Africa are subspecifically distinct from those found in the western parts. Those from the Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia he has placed as *A. robertsi*, the type of which came from Boror, north of the Zambezi, apparently under the impression that the north and south of Zambezi forms were identical. *A. robertsi* is creamy white (it should rather have been described as creamy yellow) on the throat and breast, and "above pale grey-brown, with a distinct yellow-olivaceous tinge." In specimens from the eastern Transvaal, the cream coloured parts are much paler (white, in fact, on the throat), and the upper surface of the body and head is almost devoid of the "yellow olivaceous tinge." This distinct subspecies from south of the Zambezi I am therefore naming

Anthoscopus caroli hellmayri, subsp. nov.,

after the author to whom is due the credit of drawing attention to the difference between the eastern and western forms of the species.

This subspecies is represented in the collection by two specimens from Mapagone and one from Klein Letaba, in the north-eastern Transvaal and two from the Buby River in south-eastern Rhodesia. The type (a ♂) is from Mapagone and was taken by Mr. F. O. Noomé on 19th September, 1913 (T.M. No. 10478).

Description of *A. c. hellmayri*: Upper parts, except the forehead, light greyish olive, the rump becoming more yellowish. Wings and tail browner than the back. Forehead and sides of the face white with a tinge of cream colour; chin and throat clearer white, merging gradually into pale ochraceous buff on the abdomen and under tail-coverts. Under wing-coverts white. Wing 52, tail 24, tarsus 12, culmen 9 mm.

The two specimens from the Buby River are slightly darker ochraceous buff than the three from Transvaal.

While writing of *A. caroli*, I may mention that Mr. Noomé procured two specimens of *A. minutus smithi* as well as the two of *A. caroli hellmayri* at Mapagone.

Tarsiger stellatus chirindensis, subsp. nov.

Larger than *T. s. transvaalensis*, but similar in that the bastard wing feathers are white on the outer webs. Type: ♂, ex coll. C. F. M. Swynnerton, Chirinda Forest, south-eastern Rhodesia, 27th June, 1906. "Bill black, iris dark brown, legs yellowish grey, length in the flesh 6.65 inches" (= 168 mm.), wing 93, tail 72, tarsus 25, culmen 15.5 mm.

Centropus pyymi, spec. nov.

In colour similar to *C. superciliosus* from North-East and East Africa, but considerably larger in size.

The occurrence of *C. superciliosus* in South Africa has on several occasions been called into question, and I am personally of opinion that most, if not all, the records have been based upon immature specimens of *C. burchelli*. Some years ago I had occasion to go over the large series of specimens of this species in the collection, and was struck by the difficulty in separating specimens apparently referable to these two species. One specimen from Izeli, Kaffraria, however, differed remarkably from all the others in being marked almost exactly like a typical specimen of *C. superciliosus* from German East Africa; but in the absence of more specimens like it, I left the question in abeyance. A few months ago the Rev. Robert Godfrey, of Pirie Mission, kindly sent me a copy of a series of papers he has been publishing in a local newspaper on birds found in the Buffalo Basin; in this I observed that he recorded a specimen of *C. superciliosus* as having been taken by Mr. F. A. O. Pym at Breidbach in Kaffraria. I immediately wrote to Mr. Pym asking him to let me see the specimen to make sure of its identity, and in reply he kindly forwarded four specimens to me. The specimen referred to by Mr. Godfrey has a distinct white eyebrow and a few whitish streaks down the hind neck; but in all other respects is like *C. burchelli*. Another specimen is also typical of *C. burchelli*, but the remaining two are quite different and exactly resemble the *superciliosus*-like specimen in the Transvaal Museum mentioned above. With the aid of this additional material, I have gone over the series again, and have now not the slightest doubt that all the specimens of *superciliosus* recorded by Gunning and Haagner in the "Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union," Vol. IV, p. 37, with the exception of the specimen from "Rhodesia," are referable to immature birds of *C. burchelli*. The specimen said to have come from "Rhodesia" was collected by the late J. v. O. Marais at Bagamoyo in German East Africa. Since the above-mentioned paper was written by Gunning and Haagner, another adult specimen of *superciliosus* has been acquired from German East Africa, and two (juvenile and immature) from British East Africa; a specimen typical in colour of *senegalensis* has also been acquired from the Nata River in Bechuanaland, while I find that the two specimens of *senegalensis* recorded by Gunning and Haagner agree exactly with Reichenow's description of *C. flecki*, which seems to me, however, to be the immature plumage of *senegalensis*. Mr. J. C. Ingle has also kindly presented a pair of *C. grilli caeruleiceps*, Neumann, obtained at Sabi in the eastern Transvaal. Before passing on to a fuller discussion of the specimens of *burchelli* and the

superciliosus-like specimens from Kaffraria, I may mention that the female of *C. g. caeruleiceps* is larger than the male, and is more or less profusely banded on the whole of the upper surface from the forehead to the upper tail-coverts, the wings, and the tail, and rather less on the under surface, with only a patch on the throat and another down the middle of the breast not banded; there is no black in the plumage except for these bands; and the collector has noted the following points: "Iris, darkish hazel; legs, slate black; lower mandible, pale flesh; upper mandible has lower portion pale flesh and upper portion tip flesh, deepening to dark brownish black at posterior portion; stomach, grasshoppers, beetles, and caterpillar. J. C. Ingle, Roodeval, 8th April, 1910."

The series of skins of *C. burchelli* in the Transvaal Museum collection contains the following, including some very young specimens:—

- 10 Knysna (Marais and Rex).
- 5 Grahamstown.
- 5 Red Hill, coast Natal (Arnold).
- 1 Pietermaritzburg (Natal Museum).
- 1 Barberton (Dreyer).
- 4 Hector Spruit (Streeter).
- 3 Beira (Sheppard).
- 1 Bezwe River, south-eastern Rhodesia (Roberts).
- 2 Woodbush (Noomé).
- 1 Rustenburg (Noomé).
- 1 Warmbaths (Noomé).
- 1 Crocodile River Valley (Littledale).
- 1 Pienaars River, Pretoria District (N. Roberts).
- 1 Modderfontein, Transvaal (Haagner).
- 1 Potchefstroom (Ayles).
- 3 Transvaal (no locality given).

A study of this series clearly shows the transitions of markings from the very young to fully adult stages. The juvenile specimens show the following characters: Wing quills much banded; top of head brown; hind neck to scapulars with numerous white streaks; sides of throat, crop, and breast with feathers having a serrated line down each side; and a distinct yellowish eyebrow. As the birds become older these characters gradually disappear, until in fully adult ones the wing quills are uniform; the top of the head bluish black, this colour extending over the hind neck and losing the pale shaft lines, though some light coloured shafts sometimes remain on the lower part either on or beyond the limits of the bluish black colour; sides of throat, crop, and breast without the serrated lines on the feathers; and the eyebrow not white. It is to be noted, however, that adults frequently still show traces of these juvenile characters, either one or other of them still sometimes remaining after all the other juvenile characters have disappeared; but it seldom happens that this remnant of juvenility is very pronounced after the head has become bluish black and the wing quills have become uniform. Precisely the same characters appear in the different stages of *superciliosus*, and it is on these grounds that I am doubtful as to the distinctness of *C. flecki*, which is found in

the same places as *C. senegalensis* on the upper Zambezi, though it is to be noted that the wing quills are banded in the specimen from Nata River, which has a bright bluish black head and hind neck. On measuring the specimens, it became apparent that specimens of full size still retain juvenile characters in the plumage; but this does not necessarily mean that they are fully adult, for the change might be effected before the following breeding season. The explanation of the few anomalies of the retention of more or less of a juvenile character is probably that it takes more than a year to discard it altogether, or it might in that case even remain throughout life if it was a character not easily discarded. The outstanding fact remains, however, that in adult specimens with blue heads and wing quills not banded, the retention of a trace of juvenile characters is the exception rather than the rule. Taking then these specimens as adults, of which the specimens with their measurements given below have been picked out from the series mentioned above, it becomes immediately apparent that the three specimens from Kaffraria are of a distinct species, for not only are the wing quills uniform, but the head is brown, the hind neck and mantle feathers broadly and distinctly streaked with white, and the sides of the throat, crop, and breast very distinctly marked with serrated lines on the feathers. The following table of measurements of adults will serve to show how very much larger the Kaffrarian birds are when compared with those from East Africa, and also that the female is larger than the male:—

Centropus grilli caeruleiceps.

		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
♂	Roodeval, Sabi (Ingle)	Feb. 160	165	33	24·5
♀	„ „ „	Apr. 173	161	35	25·5

Centropus superciliosus.

		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
♂	Bagamoyo, G.E.A. (Marais)	June 153	200	32	29
? (♀)	Rascha Rascha, G.E.A. (Joubert)	Apr. 170	230	34	30

Centropus pymi, spec. nov.

(Kingwilliamstown Museum.)

		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
♂	Draaibosch, Kaff. (Pym)	Feb. 179	230	38	36
♀	Izeli „ „	Nov. 185	240	39·5	35
? (♂)	Frankfort „ „	? 175	223	38	36

Centropus burchelli.

(Kingwilliamstown Museum.)

		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
♂ (? ♀)	Stutterheim, Kaff. (Pym)	July 176	218	38	31
♂	Breidbach, „ „	Mar. 165	202	36	32

(Transvaal Museum.)

		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
♂	Knysna (Rex).....	Nov. 166	205	36·5	34·5
♀	" "	Nov. 178	232	38	33
♂	Grahamstown (Ivy).....	Dec. 169	208	37	34·5
♂	" "	Mar. 171	195	36	33·5
♀	" "	Feb. 182	212	38	35
♂	Red Hill (Arnold).....	Nov. 163	201	36·5	31
♂	" "	Oct. 170	205	37·5	32
♂	" "	Apr. 173	205	36	29
♂	Pietermaritzburg (Natal Museum)	? 166	200	40	34
♀	(? ♂) Barberton (Dreyer).....	Jan. 164	210	40	?
♂	Hector Spruit (Streeter).....	Feb. 168	204	39	31
♂	" " "	Feb. 175	203	40	33
♂	Beira (Sheppard).....	June 160	185	37·5	31
♂	" "	June 165	195	36	31
♂	" "	Jan. 165	216	37	31·5
♂	Woodbush (Noomé).....	Dec. 163	205	35	32
♂	" "	Dec. 166	216	38·5	34
♂	Rustenburg "	Nov. 166	212	37	30
♂	Pretoria District (Littledale).....	May 167	205	35	31
♂	" " (Roberts).....	Jan. 163	196	38	30·5
♂	Potchefstroom (F. D. Ayres).....	Jan. 163	208	37	32·5
?	(♀) " Transvaal ".....	? 182	222	38	32
?	(♂) " "	? 165	209	38	31·5

The difference in size between the sexes does not seem to have been previously noticed, and it is possible that collectors when shooting a pair may have sexed them according to size, so that errors may have so occurred. Disregarding such a possibility and the sex signs in brackets which I have inserted when in doubt, it is still apparent that the majority of the specimens are sexed as males and the few that are sexed as females are the largest in the series. Taking the specimens as they stand, it will be seen that those from the same localities are fairly consistent in the length of the culmen, though in different localities the average length varies. If then we compare the Kaffrarian specimens of *C. burchelli* and *pymi* it will be seen that the latter has a considerably longer culmen.

In conclusion, I may mention that though there is a possibility of *C. pyimi* being found in parts of South Africa other than Kaffraria; but there is nothing to show in the skins I have examined that this is the case, and for the present I am inclined to the belief that it is an isolated species.

Chlorophoneus olivaceus taylori, subsp. nov.

In examining the specimens of *C. olivaceus* recorded by C. H. Taylor from Indhlovudwalile, eastern Transvaal (*vide* "Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union," Vol. III, p. 20), which are now in the collection of the Transvaal Museum, I find that the adult male differs from an adult male from the Dargle District, Natal, in having the feathers at the base of the bill white (but yellow on the lores), a narrow whitish line below

the ear-coverts, and the throat with a suffusion of pale salmon colour. These characters are those of *C. rubiginosus*, except for the yellow lores; but in the remaining colours of the under parts of the body, under tail-coverts, and top of the head, the specimen shows without doubt that it is allied to *C. olivaceus*, and a new subspecies to which I am therefore referring it. The other two specimens seem to me to be referable to *C. rubiginosus*, of which species Mr. Taylor also recorded several specimens from the same place. The male above mentioned is the type of the subspecies, particulars of which are as follows: Adult ♂, Indhlovudwalile, Amsterdam District, eastern Transvaal, 28.7.06. Length in the flesh, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches (= 190 mm.). Wing 88, tail 90, tarsus 25, culmen 16.5 mm.
