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ON BIRDS FROM THE MID-OKAVANGO VALLEY ON THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA/ANGOLA BORDER

by

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Until the mid-1960s the available information on the Ornis of the mid-Okavango R. valley on the frontier between South West Africa and Cuando-Cubango, Angola, derived very largely from Andersson's visit to that river in 1859 (Andersson (1861)). As Winterbottom (1966) has shown, much of Andersson's ornithological work in that north-eastern sector of South West Africa (Namibia) was not carried out along the banks of the river itself but at a locality called by him "Elephant Vley" at *c.* 18° S., 18° E., which is about 80 km to the south-west of Kuring Kuru (17° 38' S., 18° 39' E.). Winterbottom's account of the joint P.F.I.A.O./State Museum, Windhoek, expedition to the Okavango R. valley during July and August, 1964, published in *Cimbebasia*, No. 15, 1966, pp. 1 - 78, and the first major account of the birds of the mid-Okavango to appear this century, fills a great many lacunae in our knowledge of this important part of South West Africa, adding many species to the list of birds previously known to occur along the Okavango (see Hoesch and Niethammer (1940)). It was perhaps unfortunate that the joint P.F.I.A.O./State Museum effort was not maintained for a longer period, as the party missed several Palearctic migrants taken by Andersson and numerous seasonal breeding visitors to the valley. At the same time as the P.F.I.A.O./State Museum workers were operating on the Okavango's south bank in 1964, a party from the Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola, based on Sá da Bandeira in Huila, and under Dr A. A. da Rosa Pinto, was collecting birds on the north bank (see Rosa Pinto (1968)). Tentative plans

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made by the P.F.I.A.O. to send a second collecting party into the field on the Okavango in December, 1964, fell through because of the refusal of the authorities in Windhoek to grant the necessary collecting permits.

Resulting from recent political changes in South West Africa, it became possible for the Durban Museum to arrange for a former taxidermist in our employ, Mr M. O. E. Baddeley, to make a collection of birds on the Okavango R. for the museum during the twelve month period from the latter half of 1978 (from September) to early September, 1979. Not all the birds collected by Mr Baddeley have, unfortunately, come to the Durban Museum, but of the some 850 specimens actually received a taxonomic account is given below. Through Mr Baddeley's efforts several additional species are now added to the South West African list as laid down by Winterbottom in his important *A Preliminary Check List of the Birds of South West Africa*, 1971. In addition, many races not previously known to occur within South West African (or even South African Sub-Region) limits have also been added, and several subspecies new to science brought to my attention as a result of the researches carried out in furtherance of the determination of the Baddeley collection have been described in recent parts of the *Durban Museum Novitates*.

The material collected by Mr Baddeley and received at the Durban Museum was obtained at five points on the mid-Okavango R.:

- (i) 40 km W. of Rundu.
- (ii) Rundu at 17° 52' S., 19° 49' E.
- (iii) Okavango R./Cuito R. confluence *c.* 17° 58' S., 20° 40' E. (opposite Dirico).
- (iv) Mukue (a locality given by Baddeley as 187 km E. of Rundu, which probably = opposite Mucusso, Angola (18° 00' S., 21° 24' E.))
- (v) Andara. at 18° 04' S., 21° 29' E.

Baddeley reports *in litt.* that at the time of his arrival at Rundu the area was crowded with refugees from the civil war raging in southern Angola, and that as a result of the heavy predation on the local birdlife and the destruction of the acacia along the southern bank of the river by these dispossessed people, birds were scarce and difficult to obtain. Conditions were found to be more productive well to the east of Rundu, and judging from the material examined, camps iii, iv and v were highly profitable ornithologically speaking. Mr Baddeley is to be commended for the singleness of purpose displayed in bringing together this notable sample of Okavango

birds at this particular time, operating as he did in areas in which roads are regularly mined by terrorists operating from centres across the Angola border and one is always liable to be ambushed by roving Swapo bands.

As Winterbottom (1966) deals reasonably adequately with the established faunistics and ecology of the mid-Okavango R. valley, there is no need to repeat the readily available information. As a result of the study of the recently acquired Baddeley collection, the north-eastern sector of South West Africa, the Caprivi Strip, the swamp region of north-western Botswana, and the immediately contiguous areas of southern Cuando-Cubango, Angola, and south-western Zambia must be increasingly seen as a highly significant faunistic region, with a remarkably high number of subspecies more or less peculiar to it. Phenetic variation is generally expressed in birds being darker and greyer than their immediate xeric counterparts to the south and south-west or the more mesic elements to the east and north. Larger size is also a regular, often only, character of moment of subspecies from this region in apparent defiance of Bergmann's Rule. Paradoxically, no full species appear to be endemic to the region concerned, which suggests that the present combination of biomes is of no great antiquity.

Subspeciation apart, the importance of the Okavango woodland as an ecological salient permitting miombo endemics to thrust well south of the limits of the latter woodland association in Angola warrants much detailed investigation as soon as the current border troubles have become something of the past.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Bubulcus ibis ruficrista Bonaparte, 1855

1 ♂. Andara.

In non-breeding dress (12 January, 1979). Wing 245 mm.

Butorides rufiventris (Sundevall, 1850)

1 ♂. Andara.

A fine adult in pristine condition (24 June, 1979).

Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♂. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Moulting the white nuchal plumes (27 November).

Scopus umbretta umbretta Gmelin, 1789

1 ♀. Andara.

Accipiter ovampensis Gurney, 1875

1 ♂. Andara.

Only seen once or twice by Winterbottom and his party in 1964 (at Kapaku). The present example is in rather worn and sun-affected dress (24 September, 1979). Wing 227 mm.

Accipiter minullus tropicalis Reichenow, 1898

1 ♂. Andara.

A particularly pallid bird, being dorsally as pale as males of the closely similar *A.b.polyzonoides*. Wing 143 mm, weight 65,58 g.

Accipiter badius polyzonoides Smith, 1838

1 ♂; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ juvs. Rundu; Andara.

The wing-length value of the adult ♂ is 181 mm. The juveniles, in fresh dress, are dated 25 and 29 December.

Micronisus gabar gabar (Daudin, 1800)

1 ♂, 1 ♂ juv. Andara.

The adult ♂ is in the melanistic phase. Weight 119,64, and of the juvenile 174,73 g when shot.

Melierex metabates mechowi Cabanis, 1882

1 ♂. Andara.

Rather bluer over the upper-parts and plastron than others of the same subspecies from the eastern lowlands of southern Africa.

Francolinus adpersus kalahari de Schauensee, 1931

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

The present subspecies of Redbilled Francolin is seldom recognised, but appears to be perfectly valid, having the upper-parts purer grey, without the vinaceous-brown wash of the nominate subspecies. Below, the barring is more closely set and the size and bill mass are smaller. The name is, however, most unfortunate, as the form does not occur in the Kalahari Desert, but represents the species along the Okavango R., in the Caprivi, the swamp region of north-western Botswana, and south-eastern Angola and adjacent south-western Zambia. For an earlier appraisal of the status of *F.a.kalahari* see Clancey (1968, p. 118).

Francolinus swainsonii gilli (Roberts, 1932)

3 ♀♀. Rundu.

Wings 173, 175 and 176,5 mm. Winterbottom (1966) gives 185 - 190 mm for wings of Okavango ♀♀ taken by his party in 1964.

Coturnix delegorguei delegorguei Delegorgue, 1847

1 ♂. Andara.

In breeding condition on 1 February, 1979.

Turnix sylvatica lepurana (Smith, 1836)

1 ♀. Andara.

Differs from the eastern *T.s.alleni* Mearns, 1911, described from Kenya, in having the dorsal ground yellower, less vinaceous, the feathers edged whiter. Below, with paler and less extensive ochraceous-buff to the upper breast. Wing 86 mm.

Amaurornis flavirostris (Swainson, 1837)

1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

With "soft egg" when taken (21 November).

Eupodotis ruficrista ruficrista (Smith, 1836)

1 ♂. Andara.

A fine adult in immaculate plumage (1 July, 1979).

Actophilornis africanus (Gmelin, 1789)

1 ♂. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Breeding (21 November).

Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♂. Andara.

A rather dark example. Wing 126 mm.

Charadrius pecuarius pecuarius Temminck, 1823

1 ♀ juv. Andara.

In transitional moult. New feathering over the dorsum is typical of this subspecies.

Charadrius asiaticus Pallas, 1773

2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu (26 and 27 October).

Two skins of this central Asian migrant are in worn and begrimed dress, the other three less so. Weights ♂♂ 66,71, 70,94, ♀♀ 66,21, 68,29 and 74,50 g.

Vanellus coronatus xerophilus Clancey, 1960

2 ♀♀. Rundu.

Typical examples of this xeric race of the Crowned Plover. Weights 150,0 and 152,17 g.

Vanellus senegallus solitaneus (Clancey, 1979)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Rundu.

The male is the *Type* of this recently proposed subspecies. This western race differs from the eastern *V.s.lateralis* Smith, described from the Tugela R. in Zululand in 1839, in its darker upper-parts, more vinaceous-grey breast, and colder, less brownish, black lateral ventral panels.

Tringa hypoleucos Linnaeus, 1758

1 ♂; 1 ♀ juv. Rundu; Andara.

The male is in worn, faded breeding dress, with the wing tips heavily abraded (17 October).

Tringa glareola Linnaeus, 1758

1 ♂. Andara.

In moderately worn breeding dress. An early arrival back on the wintering grounds (20 August, 1979).

Himantopus himantopus meridionalis Brehm, 1843

1 ♂. Andara.

Obviously obtained from Africans as the remiges are missing.

Burhinus capensis damarensis (Reichenow, 1905)

1 ♀ juv. Andara.

Winterbottom and his party did not encounter this thick-knee on the Okavango R. in 1964.

Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus (Cabanis, 1868)

1 ♀. Andara.

Collected in a riverine reed-bed.

Cursorius temminckii damarensis Reichenow, 1900

5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu (on flood plain).

A nice series from a single locality all taken 30 September - 28 October. Wings in ♂♂ 120 - 130, ♀♀ 119, 119,5 mm. An Etosha ♂ dated 5 March, 1969, has a wing of 125 mm, and is not so cold brownish above as the Okavango flood plain series and has the dark pileum of nominate *C.temminckii*. A Windhoek ♀ dated 7 May, 1959, is also nominate *C.temminckii*. *C.t.damarensis*, described from Damaraland, is now seldom recognised, but judging from the Rundu series a distinct subspecies of this courser does breed in northern South West Africa, and two races clearly occur in the territory. Whether the name *damarensis* applies to the northern taxon or not only a critical examination of the *Type* can decide. Unfortunately, Reichenow designated no *Type* in association with the description, and the only South West African locality listed by him is Ondangua,

in Ovamboland. The Rundu series have the pileum Ochraceous-Tawny (pl. xv), against Tawny (same pl.) in nominate *temminckii*, the face whiter, and the upper-parts Buffy Brown (pl. xl), *versus* dull Tawny-Olive (pl. xxix). The black belly patch is larger. The size also runs rather larger.

Glareola pratincola riparia Clancey, 1979

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♀ juv. Rundu.

Taken from a breeding colony nesting round a large mud pool on the Okavango flood plain. This recently described subspecies differs from the eastern *G.p.fuelleborni* Neumann, 1910: L. Rukwa, south-western Tanzania, on the basis of a much darker upperside and the presence of a greyish brown plastron. It is only a summer breeding visitor to the Okavango, wintering on the eastern littoral, south to southern Sul do Save in Moçambique.

Glareola nuchalis* ? *nuchalis Gray, 1849

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara. 10 October and 2 January.

These Okavango R. records represent a marked south-westward extension of the established breeding range of this river pratincole. Winterbottom (1971) lists it on the literature only from the eastern Caprivi. Wings: ♂ 160,5, ♀♀ 161,5, 163 mm. In the face of the wing-length data given by Chapin (1939, p. 118), the Okavango population appears particularly long-winged and may not be attributable to the nominate race as currently understood. None of the names lying in the synonymy of nominate *G.nuchalis* (*G.n.marchei* Oustalet, 1877; *G.emini* Shelley, 1888; and *G.antaenia* Reichenow, 1908) would appear available for a long-winged austral subspecies.

Pterocles burchelli makarikari (Roberts, 1932)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

Typical examples of this desertic race of the Spotted Sandgrouse. Not noted on the Okavango R. by Winterbottom and his party in 1964, but recorded earlier by other investigators.

Judging by the sketches of the gonads, the Andara pair were probably breeding when shot on 31 January, 1979.

Pterocles bicinctus chobiensis (Roberts, 1932)

1 ♂. Rundu.

Winterbottom (1966) takes Okavango R. birds to the xeric nominate race, correcting this in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971 in line with my comments (Clancey (1967)).

Streptopelia semitorquata semitorquata (Rüppell, 1837)

1 ♂. Andara.

Judging by the collector's sketch of the gonads, breeding when shot on 2 March, 1979. Wing 208 mm.

Streptopelia capicola damarensis (Hartlaub and Finsch, 1870)

1 ♀. Andara.

A fairly typical example of this xeric race of the Cape Turtle Dove with the venter delicate lavender grey.

Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

1 ♂. Andara.

A lightly coloured but typical example of the Afrotropical populations of this dove currently grouped in the nominate race.

Oena capensis anonyma Oberholser, 1905

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

Typical examples of this race, the male with the back grey and scarcely differentiated from the pileum. In the nominate race of the Republic of South Africa the back is buffy brown.

Turtur chalcospilos volkmanni (Reichenow, 1902)

1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Breeding (16 November).

Treron calva damarensis (Reichenow, 1901)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

Irides described by the collector as bright blue with a red outer ring. Topotypical of this localized subspecies. Wings 174 and 175 mm.

Poicephalus robustus suahelicus Reichenow, 1898

1 ♂. Andara.

A very lightly coloured specimen of this variable subspecies, with the forehead an attractive Rose Doree (pl. i), the ground of the face Etruscan Red (pl. xxvii), and the lower venter about Cendre Green (pl. vi). Wing 214 mm.

Poicephalus meyeri damarensis Neumann, 1898

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

The ♂ shows an approach to the eastern *P.m.transvaalensis* Neumann, 1899: Limpopo R., western Transvaal, in the development of yellow over the proximal forehead. The ♀ exhibits a single yellow feather over the same region of the head.

Corythaixoides concolor bechuanae Roberts, 1932

1 ♂. Andara.

This freshly moulted singleton agrees with near topotypes of this

subspecies described from Gaborone, in south-eastern Botswana, except that the decomposed crest and the face are pale as in *C.c.pallidiceps* Neumann, 1898: Benguela, Angola. Should such a character combination be stabilized in the Okavango population, *C.c.chobiensis* Roberts, 1932, would warrant recognition. Irwin *et al.* (1969) comment rather differently on this problem in material from the east of the range of "*chobiensis*", as does Traylor (1965, p. 153).

Cuculus clamosus clamosus Latham, 1801

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence (15 November, 8 December).
Wing of ♂ 181, of ♀ 177 mm. The female was carrying a soft-shelled egg.

Clamator levaillantii (Swainson, 1829)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.
The male is more heavily streaked over the fore-throat and breast than the female. Wings 173 and 174,5 mm. The ♀, dated 4 December, 1978, is recorded as having had a "soft egg"; weight 109,8 g.

Clamator jacobinus serratus (Sparrman, 1786)

1 ♀. Andara.
Wing 161,5 mm, weight 75,01 g. Dated 29 January, 1979, and recorded as with "soft egg". This specimen agrees with *C.j.serratus* rather than with the whiter ventralled *C.j.pica* (Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1833).

Centropus cupreicaudus cupreicaudus Reichenow, 1896

1 ♂. Rundu.
A record from the western edge of the established range. Wing 224 mm. Weight 299,75 g.

Centropus senegalensis flecki Reichenow, 1893

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ juv. Andara.
The juvenile, dated 4 January, 1979, is short-tailed and just out of the nest. Okavango R. birds are topotypical of this subspecies.

Centropus superciliosus loandae Grant, 1915

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Andara.
A coucal species not listed for the Okavango region by Winterbottom (1966), who, in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971, mentions it only from the Cunene R. drainage and the eastern Caprivi, in South West Africa. All the skins are in moderately worn dress and were taken in July and August, 1979.

Tyto alba affinis (Blyth, 1862)

1 ♂. Andara.

Strix woodfordii woodfordii (Smith, 1834)

1 ♂. Andara.

This skin agrees fairly closely with specimens of the nominate race from the Cape, Natal, Zululand, etc., but is whiter, more snowy, over the facial disc. It is uncertain how significant such a character is, as the nominate form of this owl is subject to a very high level of individual variation in respect of colour and barring. Wing 268 mm.

Otus senegalensis intermedius (Gunning and Roberts, 1911)

1 ♂. Andara.

This specimen is of the pale grey facies, the dorsum with a variable measure of rusty buff intrusion, characteristic of *O.s.intermedius* as currently admitted for the South African Sub-Region. Wing 132 mm. In partial body moult and not breeding when taken.

Otus leucotis granti (Kollibay, 1910)

1 ♀. Andara.

Glaucidium perlatum diurnum Clancey, 1968

1 ♀, 1 ♀ juv. Andara.

The juvenile is more rufous above than adults of this lightly coloured xeric race, the Dresden Brown crown with greatly reduced whitish spotting.

Glaucidium capense ngamiense (Roberts, 1932)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

These skins differ in no way from others from as far east as eastern Rhodesia, eastern Transvaal and Moçambique south of the Save. How *ngamiense* differs from *G.c.capense* (Smith, 1834) is still a matter for conjecture as no skins of the latter are currently available from anywhere near the type-locality — the eastern Cape, and one must rely on Ford's figure in Smith's *Illustrations* in order to determine the latter's general appearance. As far as one can gauge from the figure, the more saturated dorsal colouration and the more closely barred tail are the only criteria separating it from specimens of *ngamiense*.

Bubo africanus africanus (Temminck, 1821)

1 ♀. Andara.

A rather dark example of this variable and cryptic species, with heavier blackish brown blotching ventrally than is normal.

Caprimulgus pectoralis fervidus Sharpe, 1875

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Andara.

A nicely marked pair of this rufous race. The ♀ was carrying a "soft egg" when taken on 5 November. Wings 167, 169,5 mm. Weights 45,44, 51,93 g.

Caprimulgus fossii welwitschii Bocage, 1867

1 ♂ juv. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

In early transitional moult (27 November). Winterbottom (1971) does not list the Okavango as a region from which this nightjar has been previously recorded.

Macrodipteryx vexillaria (Gould, 1838)

1 ♂. Rundu (16 September).

Wing 226 mm. Weight 76,11 g.

Cypsiurus parvus hyphaenes Brooke, 1972

1 ♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu.

Distinctly greyer, less brownish, than the eastern mesic races of this swift, with the forethroat and upper breast much more streaked with off-white. Wings 131,5 - 136 mm.

Colius indicus transvaalensis (Roberts, 1922)

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

Winterbottom (1966) ascribes the Okavango population of the Red-faced Mousebird to *C.i.lacteifrons* Sharpe, 1892, described from Otjimbingwe, Swakop R., South West Africa, but the four before me from Mukue and Andara are unquestionably *C.i.transvaalensis*, with the forehead rusty buff and the rest of the dorsum darker and bluer than in *lacteifrons*. Schifter (1978), clearly following Winterbottom, likewise takes the Okavango population to *lacteifrons*. In his *Preliminary Check List*, Winterbottom (1971) places all South West African populations as *lacteifrons*.

Ceryle rudis rudis (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♀. Andara.

Moulting the remiges (22 September, 1979).

Ceryle maxima maxima (Pallas, 1769)

1 ♂. Andara.

Gonads small (2 December).

Alcedo cristata robertsi Peters, 1945

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The ♂, shot on 12 November, is an example of the caerulean backed

phenotype already recorded from further east in the interior of south-central Africa (see Clancey (1978)). The status of this striking variant is uncertain, but it is significant that all three known specimens are from a narrow stretch of country from the Okavango, east to the Chobe/Zambesi confluence.

Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca (Vieillot, 1818)

1 ♂. Rundu (27 October).

Not listed for the Okavango by Winterbottom (1971). A fine adult in immaculate dress. Weight 64,10 g.

Halcyon leucocephala pallidiventris Cabanis, 1880

1 ♂ juv. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

An independent juvenile date 18 November.

Halcyon chelicuti damarensis Strickland, 1852

1 ♂. Andara.

A typical example of this dull coloured, large sized, austral race. Wing 84,5 mm.

Merops nubicoides Des Murs and Pucheran, 1846

6 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara (20 November - 11 December).

Five from the Okavango/Cuito confluence were taken from a colony nesting in a high river bank. Weights of ♂♂ 55,15, 56,28, 57,72, 60,96, 61,40, 65,55, ♀ 54,56 g. The Okavango/Cuito confluence breeding site may be the first recorded for South West Africa.

Merops bullockoides bullockoides Smith, 1834

1 ♂, 1 ♀ juvs. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Both in worn, sun affected dress.

Merops pusillus argutus Clancey, 1967

1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ juv. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence.

The two adults agree well with other material of this xeric race of the Little Bee-eater with pale venter and small dark throat spot. They are in moderately worn dress.

Merops hirundineus hirundineus Lichtenstein, 1793

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Andara.

All in rather worn and insolated dress. They are dated 4 November and 8 December.

Coracias garrulus garrulus Linnaeus, 1758

1 ♀. Andara.

Moulting the contour plumage (30 January, 1979).

Coracias caudata caudata Linnaeus, 1766

1 ♀. Rundu.

Laying when taken on 18 October.

Upupa epops africana Bechstein, 1811

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Rundu.

The female is recorded as having had a "soft egg" (30 September).

Phoeniculus purpureus angolensis (Reichenow, 1902)

3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

One female from Mukue is more like *P.p.marwitzi* (Reichenow, 1906), described from central Tanzania, in the cupreous overlay to the green back, and the coppery green venter below the violet gular patch. The others are typical of *P.p.angolensis*.

Phoeniculus cyanomelas cyanomelas (Vieillot, 1819)

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

The females show the influence of *P.c.schalowi* Neumann, 1900: Usandawe, Kondoa, Tanzania, in exhibiting white terminal panels to the outermost rectrices.

Tockus nasutus epirhinus (Sundevall, 1850)

1 ♂. Rundu.

Wing 223 mm.

Tockus flavirostris leucomelas (Lichtenstein, 1842)

1 ♀. Andara.

Wing 187 mm.

Tockus bradfieldi (Roberts, 1930)

1 ♂. Andara.

Weight 256,35 g.

Lybius torquatus congicus (Reichenow, 1898)

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

This population is not quite typical of *congicus*, being a little more invaded with white below the black breast-band than in the case of topotypes. *L.t.congicus* differs from *L.t.bocagei* (Sousa, 1886): Caconda, Huila, Angola, in having the red over the head and fore-throat duller, less scarlet, and in being rather darker and less granulated over the mantle. The size is also rather smaller. From *L.t.lucidiventris* Clancey, 1956: Matopos, Rhodesia, which replaces it to the east and south-east, it differs in the darker red over the

head and throat, the broader black breast-band and yellower lower venter. In both his report of 1966 and the *Preliminary Check List* of 1971 Winterbottom places Okavango birds as *bocagei*.

If a critical examination of Angolan material should show *bocagei* and *congicus* to be names given to one and the same subspecies, the present *congicus* will assume the name *Barbatula rubrigularis* Du Bois, 1905: Shaba, Zaïre.

Lybius leucomelas nkatiensis (Roberts, 1932)

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Wings 74,5, 78, 78, 81 mm; all worn. *L.l.nkatiensis* resembles *L.l.centralis* (Roberts, 1932), described from Rustenburg, western Transvaal, but has the lemon sagittate spotting to the dorsum brighter and is smaller sized. Winterbottom (1966) takes the Okavango population to the nominate race. Quite apart from colour differences, the large size differential separating southern from northern populations of this barbet invalidates such action. One of the Rundu birds shows an incipient white nuchal streak.

Pogoniulus chrysoconus rhodesiae Grant, 1915

5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

This series shows the characters of this race compared with western Transvaal examples of *P.c.extoni* (Layard, 1871): Kanye, south-eastern Botswana, in having the yellow frontal spot paler yellow, and the centre of the pileum less clouded with black. Over the rest of the dorsal surface the streaking is on the whole finer than in *extoni*, with the white or greenish white striae tending to merge in the better marked examples. Below, the fore-throat is brighter yellow, the breast and belly darker, and the crissum deeper yellow.

Trachyphonus vaillantii nobilis Ogilvie-Grant, 1912

1 ♀. Andara (10 July, 1979).

This appears to be the first actual record of this ornate barbet for South West Africa, judging by Winterbottom's comments (1971). The specimen is a typical example of this pale race with reduced red ventral streaking. Wing 99 mm.

Indicator indicator indicator (Sparrman, 1777)

1 ♀. Mukue.

This specimen confirms the occurrence of the Greater Honeyguide on the mid-Okavango. The present specimen has a relatively weak bill, but the wing length of 105 mm is normal for this race.

Indicator minor valens Clancey, 1977

1 ♀ juv. Andara.

Stated incorrectly by Winterbottom (1971) not to occur in the Okavango woodland. This recently proposed subspecies differs from the xeric *I.m.damarensis* Roberts, 1928, described from Okahandja, in having the entire dorsum much more saturated and greenish, less citrine, coloured, the mystacial streaks well-marked, and the breast more overlaid with dusky olivaceous. The wings are also darker and greener. Wing 90 mm.

A race new to the South West African list.

Prodotiscus zambesiae zambesiae Shelley, 1894

1 ♀. Andara (17 August, 1979).

A new species of honeyguide to the South West African list. Compared with more eastern examples, the present specimen is rather darker over the vertex, darker and greener citrine on the dorsum, and with the fringes of the wing-coverts and remiges less golden. The face is also more dusky. It probably represents an undescribed subspecies. Wing 74 mm.

Campethera abingoni abingoni (Smith, 1836)

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

These specimens agree with nominate *C.abingoni*, described from the dry western Transvaal, rather than the more xeric *C.a.anderssoni* (Roberts, 1936), to which subspecies Winterbottom (1966) ascribed his two Okavango specimens. This erroneous ascription is corrected by the said author in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971.

Campethera bennettii capricorni Strickland, 1853

1 ♀. Andara.

A worn immature in early transitional moult, the fresh yellow upper breast feathers contrasting sharply against the dilute greenish yellow ground of the juvenal dress. A few of the characteristic blackish brown feathers of this subspecies are moulting out over the forehead.

Dendropicos fuscescens stresemanni Grote, 1922

3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 2 ♂♂ juvs. Rundu; Andara.

The adults are in the main in worn, colour-leached dress, with contour plumage moult in its early stages. The wings of ♂♂ measure 96, 97,5, 98,5, ♀♀ 88 (tip broken), 94, 94, 96 mm.

The juveniles differ ventrally, one from Andara being more yellowish, less greyed, as well as being shorter billed than the other from Rundu to the west. The bill of the Andara ♂ is 17, *versus* 19 mm.

Thripias namaquus namaquus (Lichtenstein, 1793)

1 ♀. Andara.

Rather sparse on the Okavango R. by all accounts, this being the only skin received from Mr Baddeley. Winterbottom (1966) and his party only took two, at Makamba.

Mirafrā africana griseescens Sharpe, 1902

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu.

According to Winterbottom (1966) not encountered along the Okavango R. during the course of the 1964 expedition. Two specimens are warmer buff over the hind necks and upper mantles than the others, suggesting this is an intergrading population between *griseescens* and *M.a.pallida* Sharpe, 1902: Elephant Vlei, this type-locality lying to the west of Rundu.

Mirafrā rufocinnamomea ? mababiensis (Roberts, 1932)

1 ♂. Andara (5 September, 1979).

Not mentioned as occurring along the Okavango R. by Winterbottom (1966), who, in conjunction with others of his party, obtained *M.apitata* at Bagane, to the east of Andara. Wing 85 mm.

Mirafrā africanoides makarikari (Roberts, 1932)

6 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

In allocating the Okavango R. population to a subspecies I am following my own revision of this lark (Clancey (1966)). Winterbottom (1966), strangely enough, takes the population concerned to *M.a.sarwensis* (Roberts, 1932), described from the Kalahari, Botswana, and *M.a.omaruru* (Roberts, 1936): Omaruru, Damaraland, South West Africa, both of which are more sandy or reddish above.

Calandrella cinerea saturatior Reichenow, 1904

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu (30 September - 28 October).

This short series from the Okavango R. flood plain is unsatisfactory from the point of view of determining the race breeding in this particular region. The birds were not nesting when taken and are in both heavily abraded dress and advanced moult. The wings of the ♂♂ are 94 mm and below, those of ♀♀ 92 mm and below. As far as one can assess the situation on present material, Okavango flood plain birds are referable to *C.c.saturatior* Reichenow, 1904: Mts north of L. Malawi, Tanzania. This subspecies closely resembles the south-eastern flood plain race, *C.c.alluvia* Clancey, 1971, described from the lower Limpopo R. in Moçambique, in the male, but differs in that the female is more heavily marked with blackish brown over the upper-parts.

Recent authors, including Winterbottom (1966), follow convention in ascribing the Okavango and contiguous populations to a taxon *C.c.anderssoni* (Tristram, 1869), based on a migrant of the nominate race taken in western Damaraland.

Eremopterix leucotis hoeschi White, 1959

3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 ♀ juv. Andara.

Not taken along the Okavango by Winterbottom and his party (1966), but shot at that time on the north bank by Rosa Pinto and his collectors. Breeds on the flood plain of the Okavango as revealed by the nestling taken on 29 June, 1979.

In *E.l.hoeschi*, males wear to a lighter, more tawny, less russet colour over the dorsum, and females are greyer above, lacking the tawny or reddish intrusion present in the eastern *E.l.smithii* (Bonaparte, 1850), described from the Transvaal. Juveniles are less ochraceous. Wings of ♂♂ 80,5 - 84, ♀♀ 77 and 80,5 mm.

Eremopterix verticalis harti Benson and Irwin, 1965

1 ♂. Rundu.

This subspecies, described initially from southern Barotseland in south-western Zambia, closely resembles the nominate race of the Cape in its dark dorsal aspect, males differing in lacking the development of a sooty black patch or bar across the lower hind neck and upper mantle. Females are more olivaceous-grey above and have heavier dusky streaking on the breast.

Winterbottom (1966) refers Okavango specimens to *E.v.damarensis* Roberts, 1931, described from Gobabis, South West Africa.

Hirundo semirufa semirufa Sundevall, 1850

1 ♀. Andara.

Wing 130, tail 118,5 mm. Not noted for the Okavango by Winterbottom (1966). Western birds of the nominate race of this swallow range larger in size than eastern elements, with wings 130 - 140, versus 124 - 130 mm in the latter. They are also on the whole paler over the fore-throat and breast.

Campephaga flava Vieillot, 1817

1 ♂. Rundu (4 November).

On the whole more bluish, less greenish, glossed than examples of the wholly black variant of this species from the east and south-east of the Sub-Region. Wing 109 mm. Not taken by Winterbottom and his party along the Okavango in 1964.

Coracina pectoralis (Jardine and Selby, 1828)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

The male is slightly paler over the grey surfaces than more eastern specimens of this currently monotypic species. Wing 150,5 mm.

Dicurus adsimilis apivorus Clancey, 1976

1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ sub-ad., 3 ♀♀ sub-ads. Rundu; Andara.

These are attributable to this recently proposed taxon (*vide* Clancey (1976)), with the wing as long as in the nominate race but with the inner vanes of the remiges pale yellowish, and the corporal colouration of adults deeper black. Wing of adult ♂ 141,5, of the ♀ 134 mm.

Oriolus auratus notatus Peters, 1868

3 ♀♀. Andara (4 and 11 December; 28 February).

Wings 137,5, 138 and 139 mm. Taken earlier along the Okavango in South West Africa by Andersson.

Oriolus larvatus angolensis Neumann, 1905

2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Andara.

Wings of ♂♂ 141,5, 146, of ♀♀ 130, 132, 135 and 137 mm.

Parus niger xanthostomus Shelley, 1892

5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 1 ♂ juv. Andara.

In their very dark, brown tinged, undersides the females of this series associate the population with *P.n.xanthostomus*, described from the Victoria Falls, on the Rhodesia/Zambia frontier, as laid down in my revision of the southern African Black Tits (Clancey (1972)).

A further study of the disposition of *xanthostomus* shows it ranges from south-eastern Angola and north-eastern South West Africa, east to south-western Zambia, far western Rhodesia, Botswana, the Transvaal and Swaziland. *P.n.ravidus* Clancey, 1964, the female of which is lighter and greyer below, is a race of the Rhodesia, eastern Zambia, Malawi and Moçambique miombo.

Parus rufiventris diligens Clancey, 1979

4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

A recently described race first drawn attention to by Rudebeck (1955). Size greater than in nominate *P.rufiventris* Bocage, described from northern Huila, Angola, with wings in ♂♂ 86 and tails 70 mm and above. Differs mainly in having the pileum duller, less dark bluish, black, grading insensibly into the caesious dorsum and not sharply demarcated as in nominate *rufiventris*.

The range is southern Huila and Cuando-Cubango, Angola, to north Ovamboland and Kavango, South West Africa, east to Caprivi, adjacent north-western Botswana and south-western Zambia.

Anthoscopus caroli caroli (Sharpe, 1871)

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

A re-examination of the series of this penduline tit in the collection of the Durban Museum shows that nominate *A. caroli* ranges from the northern borders of South West Africa and adjacent southern Angola, east to the Caprivi, northern Botswana and the miombo of Rhodesia; also adjacent southern Zambia. *A. c. caroli* and *A. c. hellmayri* Roberts, 1914, resemble one another closely, the latter somewhat tinged with yellow over the breast and with the buff of the lower venter more ochraceous.

Anthoscopus minutus damarensis Reichenow, 1905

1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Taken earlier on the Okavango R. by Andersson, which record is, however, questioned by Winterbottom (1966). Traylor (1965) took it further downstream, W. of Sepopa in Botswana, so it is difficult to appreciate the doubt expressed in so far as the Andersson record is concerned. Baddeley's record confirms its occurrence along the South West African/Cuando-Cubango border.

Turdoides jardineii tamalakanei de Schauensee, 1931

5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

T. j. tamalakanei differs from *T. j. jardineii* in ranging greyer above, having the ventral ground lighter and greyer, less brownish, and in being much paler over the lower venter. In size these two subspecies are about the same. The Angola populations formerly associated with *T. j. affinis* (Bocage), 1869: Quilengues, Huila, pre-occupied, lie close to *T. j. convergens* Clancey, 1958: Manhica, Sul do Save, Moçambique, in their general colour facies.

Turdoides melanops querulus Clancey, 1979

1 ♂, 4 ♀♀. Andara (2 and 8 December).

The paratypical series of this recently described subspecies, which differs from nominate *T. melanops* (Hartlaub, 1867), described from Damaraland, in having the bill shorter, the dorsal head greyer, the upper-parts much darker, the throat greyer and the underside rather more markedly streaked. Taken in the Okavango woodland in dense scrub and thickets according to the collector.

Judging by Map 173 in Hall & Moreau's *Atlas* of 1970, the ranges of nominate *melanops* and *querulus* may be quite widely separated.

Turdoides leucopygius hartlaubii (Bocage, 1868) \cong **T. l. griseosquamatus** Clancey, 1974

2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

This small sample appears to consist of intergrades between *T.l. hartlaubii* (Bocage, 1868), described from Huila, Angola, and *T.l. griseosquamatus* Clancey, 1974. This last named is paler above than *hartlaubii*, the feathers broadly fringed with silvery grey, the face is more silvery, and below, the dark area over the breast is lighter, and the belly and flanks are more broadly streaked with white.

Fading and plant abrasion make much material of this species in museums unreliable for subspecific analysis.

***Pycnonotus nigricans grisescentior* Clancey, 1975**

1 ♂, 4 ♀♀. 40 km W. of Rundu; Rundu; Andara.

These differ from typical examples of the nominate subspecies from southern and central South West Africa and the northern Cape in being greyer brown on the upper-parts, and in having the black of the fore-throat not so extended down to the upper breast, while the greyish brown breast-band is vestigial, and the rest of the underside whiter; the ventral yellow is more dilute.

Variation in this bulbul is fully discussed by me in *Durban Mus. Novit.*, vol. xi, 1, 1975, pp. 17 - 20.

***Pycnonotus barbatus ngamii* Ogilvie-Grant, 1912**

5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

Not admitted for South West Africa by Winterbottom in his *Preliminary Check List* (1971), but worthy of recognition as discrete from *P.b. tricolor* (Hartlaub), 1862: northern Angola, in being darker olive-brown above, the vertex if anything blacker. Below, with the plastron darker, less buffy brown, and blacker towards the chin, and with the rest of the underside colder white. The crissal yellow is more dilute. Wings of ♂♂ 101 (2), 101,5, 102, 106, ♀♀ 91, 95, 99, 100 mm. A single Maun, Botswana, ♂ of *ngamii* has the wing 106 mm. The darker plastron is the best distinction between *ngamii* and *tricolor*.

***Phyllastrephus terrestris rhodesiae* Roberts, 1917**

5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

This race is usually synonymised with *P.t. intermedius* Gunning and Roberts, described in 1911 from the extreme south of Moçambique, but is distinct on the basis of larger size (wings in ♂♂ 90 and above, tails 91 mm and above) and usually paler upper-parts. Below, ranging paler and greyer, less olive or buffy tinged over the breast, the lateral surfaces and flanks. The tail is also a little less reddish, and the length is much greater in both sexes. Okavango ♂♂ have tails 91 - 98, ♀♀ 89 - 91, against 80 - 89 and 71 - 78 mm in Moçambique *intermedius*.

Common in scrub along the Okavango, on the Cuando-Cubango/South West Africa border.

***Chlorocichla flaviventris zambesiae* Shelley, 1896**

7 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara. Rather more olivaceous, less brown, over the upper-parts than *C.f. occidentalis* Sharpe, 1881: Angola, and with the ventral yellow much deeper, less dilute buffish yellow. The dull overlay to the breast, especially laterally, is also darker, more olive.

These Okavango specimens of *C.f.zambesiae* represent a marked westward extension of this southern interior subspecies.

***Turdus libonyana chobiensis* (Roberts, 1932)**

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 ♀ juv. Andara.

This xeric race is greyer, less olive, above than *T.l.libonyana* (Smith, 1836), described from near Zeerust in the Transvaal. Below, the breast is paler, and the lateral surfaces are lighter orange-buff (Ochraceous-Buff (pl. xv)). The juvenile, dated 26 January, is already somewhat insolated and worn.

***Turdus litsitsirupa pauciguttatus* Clancey, 1956**

1 ♀. Rundu.

A rather worn and insolated example of this xeric subspecies.

***Oenanthe pileata* ? subsp.**

2 ♂♂, 1 ♂ juv. (21 November, 1978). 40 km W. of Rundu; Rundu.

The two adult males are remarkably dark and saturated above, differing from material of all three established races occurring in southern Africa. They closely resemble similarly dark birds with the frontal white restricted, the black of the vertex extended well back to the occiput, and the mantle about clove brown, occurring in parts of Tanzania and southern Kenya. The wings measure 93 and 94.5 mm. If such dark birds are representative of homogeneous breeding populations extending from Angola across the southern equatorial savannas of the continent to north Tanzania and Kenya, the dark dorsal colouration to which I have just drawn attention would warrant their recognition as a fourth race of this wheatear. For such a taxon the name *Saxicola pileata albinotata* Neumann, 1900: Ssero, Loita plains, south-western Kenya, is available.

Ripley, in the continuation of Peters' *Check-List* (1964), incorrectly treats this species as monotypic.

***Saxicola torquata stonei* Bowen, 1932**

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 ♀ juv. (1st year). Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Wings: ♂ 70, ♀♀ 68, 69 mm (very worn). The occurrence of the Stonechat in South West Africa was doubted for a long time, but is so listed in my *Catalogue* of 1965 - 1966. Winterbottom and his party took it at Kapaku, to the west of Rundu (1966), and the species was recorded for the Okavango earlier by Borsutzky (1963).

Cossypha heuglini orphea Clancey, 1979

3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The Okavango R. population, recently described as new as *C.h. orphea*, is generally referred to *C.h. subrufescens* Bocage, 1869, but differs in having the pileum more greyish black, and the central rectrices greyish olivaceous rather than brownish black. From *C.h. occidentalis* Reichenow, 1909, it differs in having a greyer black pileum, more greyish green, less bronzy mantle in fresh dress, paler orange venter, and greyer central rectrices. The back fades to a bluer grey than in other subspecies. *C.h. orphea* ranges from the Okavango R., east to the Caprivi, the swamp region of Botswana and south-western Zambia and north-western Rhodesia.

Luscinia luscinia (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♂. Andara (25 January, 1979).

Taken in the acacia fringe of the river bank.

This would appear to be the first record of this Palaearctic migrant for South West Africa, as Winterbottom makes no reference to it in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971. Wing 89, tail 66 mm. Weight 23,6 g. This nightingale is almost certainly polytypic as our short African series comprises birds with very much darker upper-parts than in the case of others in the available material.

Erythropgia leucophrys ovamboensis Neumann, 1920

6 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 1 ♂ juv. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

A more or less toptotypical series of this subspecies, whose main discriminants compared with the south-eastern *E.l. pectoralis* Smith, 1836: Zeerust, western Transvaal, are the pinkish sandy colour of the upper breast and lateral surfaces and the vestigial and retracted nature of the pectoral streaking. The bill is also longer than in eastern and south-eastern elements of the species.

Sylvia borin woodwardi (Sharpe, 1877)

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

Typical examples of this pale eastern race of the Garden Warbler, the wings ♂ 80,5, ♀♀ 78, 79,5 (worn) mm.

***Sylvia communis icterops* Ménétries, 1832**

1 ♀. Andara (2 December).

In relatively fresh contour dress, but with the wings and tail a trifle worn. Wing 73 mm.

***Parisoma subcaeruleum cinerascens* Reichenow, 1902**

4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

On the whole slightly darker dorsally than the more xeric western and southern populations of this subspecies.

***Hippolais icterina* (Vieillot, 1817)**

1 ♂. Andara (2 December, 1978).

The first Okavango R. record since Andersson's time, judging by Winterbottom's comments (1966). The present specimen is in fresh contour plumage, the wings and tail still in heavy moult.

***Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

1 ♀. Andara (21 January).

A moulting example of this yellow ventralled race of the Willow Warbler.

***Phylloscopus trochilus acredula* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara (30 November; 1 December - 31 January).

A worn, moulting sample of this subspecies from far to the east of the breeding range, judging by the greyish green upper-parts. None is white enough below, however, for *P.t. yakutensis* Ticehurst, 1935, which has already been recorded for South West Africa.

***Apalis flavida flavida* (Strickland, 1852)**

6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

Typical examples of the nominate race of the Yellowbreasted Apalis.

***Sylvietta rufescens flecki* Reichenow, 1900**

4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

Winterbottom (1966) takes the Okavango R. population to the race *S.r. ochrocarra* Oberholser, 1905, described from Damaraland, whereas it should have been referred to *S.r. flecki*, in which taxon the bill is shorter, the upper-parts more bluish, less mousy, grey, and the venter deeper, more rufous, buffy in freshly moulted condition, though this is remedied in the *Preliminary Check List*, 1971, pp. 194, 195.

***Eremomela icteropygialis viriditincta* White, 1961**

2 ♂♂. Rundu.

Winterbottom (1966) lists the Okavango R. specimens as *E.i. sharpei*

Reichenow, 1905, but the two before me differ from the xeric *sharpei* in being darker, less sandy, brown above (about Citrine-Drab (pl. xl), against greyish buffy brown). Below, with the breast colder white, and the belly with the yellow similar in extent, not as in *E.i. polioxantha* Sharpe, 1883, but greener. I place them with *E.i. viriditincta*, described from west of the Victoria Falls in north-western Rhodesia. The range of *E.i. viriditincta* is from southern Cuando-Cubango and north-eastern South West Africa, east to Caprivi, northern and eastern Botswana, south-western Zambia, north-western Rhodesia and north-western Transvaal. *E.i. viriditincta* appears to have been named from the very north-eastern edge of its range.

Eremomela scotops ? pulchra (Bocage, 1878)

3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Andara.

These are apparently the first records of this warbler for the Okavango R. and for South West Africa west of the Caprivi.

Winterbottom (1971) takes the Chobe R. record to the subspecies *E.s. extrema* White, 1960, described from the Lungwebungu R., Balovale, Zambia, which is questionably valid. Compared with a Sikongo, Barotseland, example of "*extrema*", the Okavango birds are greyer above, less brownish, and the yellow surfaces are more dilute and invaded with white. Should *extrema* be the same as *pulchra*, described from Caconda in northern Huila, Okavango birds might warrant characterisation as a new race. On the other hand, Okavango birds may represent White's *extrema*. They certainly agree with the characters given in the original description of *extrema*, the type-locality of which may be badly positioned.

Camaroptera brachyura intercalata White, 1960

11 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara. This fine series in both breeding and non-breeding plumages shows that this mesic population must be associated with *intercalata*, described from north-western Zambia, rather than the xeric *C.b. sharpei* Zedlitz, 1912. In the non-breeding dress *intercalata* is colder and greyer above, less buffy olive-brown, and the wings are greener, less bronzy, citrine, the remiges being 'very pale; ventrally much less buffy. In the breeding dress, which differs little from the non-breeding stage, the upper-parts become more bluish leaden grey and the face down to the gape-line becomes greyer. White credited his subspecies as having no distinctive breeding dress, but as far as I can assess from the Okavango R. sample before me this is not so, but the two plumages are so similar in this subspecies that a mistake

could have been made. Winterbottom (1966) associated Okavango birds with *sharpei*.

Camaroptera stierlingi ? subsp.nov.

1 ♂. Andara (24 May, 1979).

A new species to the South West African list. This singleton is darker, more olivaceous, less light reddish, above than *C.s.irwini* Smithers and Paterson, 1956, described from Umvuma, Rhodesia, and *C.s.buttoni* (White, 1947): Ndola, Zambia, and with the barring below heavier and blacker. The bill is also longer. It probably represents an undescribed race dorsally rather similar to *C.s.olivascens* Clancey, 1969, of coastal Moçambique, north of the Limpopo R., but size greater and bill longer. The face also appears more dusky.

Cisticola juncidis terrestris (Smith, 1842)

1 ♂ (breeding dress), 1 ♂ (non-breeding), 2 ♀♀ (non-breeding). Rundu; Andara.

The male in breeding dress is a particularly dark specimen, with redder ground and blacker streaking to the dorsum than others from the Republic of South Africa. Below, colder white over the belly with more contrasted and darker flanks. The worn non-breeders show no peculiarities.

Cisticola aridula kalahari Ogilvie-Grant, 1910

1 ♂. Andara.

In worn, somewhat insolated non-breeding dress.

Cisticola rufilata ansorgei Neumann, 1906

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Andara.

This is an additional subspecies to the avifauna of the South African Sub-Region.

The series is not quite typical of *ansorgei*, one or two of the specimens being a little greyer on the mantles, but the population must be associated with the said race, as the differences are such that the erection of an additional and essentially intermediate subspecies would not be warranted, certainly on this limited sample.

Cisticola chiniana huilensis Rosa Pinto, 1967

7 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

As far as I can determine in present circumstances, this population is attributable to *C.c.huilensis*, the type-locality of which is L.Invantala, in Huila, southern Angola. It differs from the more xeric *C.c.frater* Reichenow, 1916, described from Damaraland, in having the crown and hind neck rather duller and browner, less light rufous,

and the rest of the dorsum with the ground wholly greyer. Most skins are in transitional post-breeding moult. The Epupa Falls, Cunene R., specimen referred by me to *huilensis* in Suppl. 1 to my *Catalogue of Birds of the South African Sub-Region*, 1969, p. 309, is now seen as probably representing another and undescribed subspecies of the arid western coastlands. However, Rosa Pinto (1970, p. 127) states that to the south and south-west of its range in Huila *C.c.huilensis* intergrades with *C.c.frater*, so that the differences observed in the Epupa Falls bird may be simply indicative of such intergradation.

Cisticola galactotes stagnans Clancey, 1969

1 ♂. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

This specimen has a flattened wing of 63,5 mm and is in breeding dress. It differs little from a series of *C.g.isodactyla* (Peters, 1868), of southern Moçambique, in so far as plumage colouration is concerned, being equally dull over the pileum (Dresden Brown (pl. xv)), but is larger. Wings in ♂♂ of *isodactyla* 57 - 60 mm.

The bill is blacker than in Moçambique breeding birds, and there is a pronounced blackish loreal streak. The significance of these characters is uncertain.

Cisticola fulvicapilla ? subsp.

1♂, 2♀♀. Andara.

Two birds in breeding dress are more tawny over the pileum, much greyer and colder over the dorsum, and have greyer tails than material of *C.f.hallae* Benson, 1955: Tsotsoroga Pan, Botswana, available from northern Botswana and north-western Rhodesia. They show a shift towards *C.f.dispar* Sousa, 1887: Caconda, Huila, Angola. A ♀ dated 15 May, 1979, shows less difference, being much as toptotypical *hallae*, but with a greyer mantle.

Series in both breeding and non-breeding plumages may reveal the Okavango population to warrant description as a further race of this highly plastic species.

Prinia subflava bechuanæ Macdonald, 1941

8 ♂♂, 5♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

A series mainly in breeding dress (November - December), the others in worn non-breeding attire.

Prinia flavicans nubilosa Clancey, 1957

3 ♂♂, 3♀♀. Andara.

Darker above and more strongly yellowish below in accord with the characters of *nubilosa* as laid down in my revision of this species

(Clancey (1976)). However, in two May, 1979, specimens, one, a female, more closely approaches the nominate subspecies, being less yellow below than the other.

P.f.bihe Boulton and Vincent of Angola is warmer brown above, and below has the breast-band browner, more invaded with pale rays from the fore-throat, and is more buffy yellow, this especially marked over the crissum.

Muscicapa striata neumanni Poche, 1904

3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The two of this series from the Okavango/Cuito confluence are dated 20 November, and are rather less heavily streaked on the crown than others. All are, however, typical of this grey race with relatively well-marked white lateral edging to the frontal feathering.

Muscicapa caerulescens impavida Clancey, 1957

2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

A short, uniform series of this pale xeric race of the Ashy Flycatcher.

Myioparus plumbeus grandior Clancey, 1962

1 ♂. Andara (5 September, 1979).

Very sparse in north-eastern South West Africa and Caprivi by all accounts. Wing (worn) 71 mm.

Melaenornis pammelaina diabolicus (Sharpe, 1877)

2 ♂♂. Rundu; Andara.

Wings 114,5, 117 mm (worn). Winterbottom (1966) comments on a single Okavango male with a wing of 120 mm.

Melaenornis mariquensis territinctus Clancey, 1979

4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, 1 ♀ juv. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The paratypical series of this recently proposed subspecies, which differs from the nominate form described from the Transvaal in having the upper-parts dull olive-brown, not reddish or vinaceous-brown, and the under-parts colder and whiter. The range of *M.m.territinctus* is from north-eastern South West Africa and adjacent south-eastern Angola to north-western Botswana, Caprivi and south-western Zambia.

Wings of ♂♂ 85,5, 86, 87,5; ♀♀ 84, 84,5 (2), 85, 86 mm.

Melaenornis pallidus aquaemontis (Stresemann, 1938)

2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Andara.

Compared with *M.p.murinus* (Finsch and Hartlaub, 1870) of Angola, the Okavango birds are rather greyer above, but differ more sharply

over the ventral surfaces, being whiter over the throat and belly, with the breast and lateral surfaces less overlaid with buff (about Tilleul-Buff (pl. xl), *versus* Pinkish Buff (pl. xxix)) in *murinus*. They agree with the characters of *aquaemontis* as laid down by Traylor (1970), which race is probably only a non-breeding visitor to its type-locality.

Wings of ♂♂ 100, 104, ♀♀ 87 (worn), 90, 93, 94 mm.

Batis molitor palliditergum Clancey, 1955

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ imm. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

The Okavango R. specimens of the present taxon range a little smaller in size than topotypical ones, and the breast-bands in both the ♂♂ and ♀♀ are on the whole less broad, but due to the wide range of individual variation in these features in more eastern birds a subdivision of the present subspecies *palliditergum*, described from the eastern Transvaal, seems undesirable.

Terpsiphone viridis violacea (Grant and Mackworth-Praed, 1940)

5 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara (10 October - 11 December).

Not encountered by Winterbottom (1966) on the Okavango, but taken earlier by Andersson. A uniform series, except for a ♀ from Andara dated 4 December which is lighter and less blued over the vertex, and lighter red-brown above and paler grey ventrally than the others.

T.v.plumbeiceps Reichenow, of Angola north of *violacea*, is darker and more uniformly grey ventrally than the latter, and has the under tail-coverts buff rather than white or whitish.

Motacilla aguimp vidua Sundevall, 1850

1 ♀, 1 ♀ sub-ad. Rundu; Andara.

The adult ♀ is recorded as having had an incubation patch when shot on the 27 October.

Motacilla capensis simplicissima Neumann, 1929

1 ♂, 1 ♀ juvs. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The wings of 78 and 79 are much shorter than in birds from Angola (2 ♂♂ 84, 86, 2 ♀♀ 83, 84,5 mm in four), and the dark throat circlet is more extensive. It is uncertain how significant these differences are at this stage.

Anthus novaeseelandiae ? katangae Chapin, 1937

4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 1 juv. Rundu.

All the specimens in this short series from the Okavango R. flood-

plain are in worn breeding dress, thus rendering their allocation to subspecies difficult. They are clearly not referable to either of the two xeric races *A.n.bocagei* Nicholson, 1884: Humbe, Huila, Angola, and *A.n.grotei* Niethammer, 1957: Onguma, E. of Etosha Pan, northern South West Africa, being too dark and saturated dorsally, the feather centres blackish, and the spotting over the lower forehead and upper breast heavier than in the two dry country forms mentioned. They bear a resemblance to *A.n.spurium* Clancey, 1951: Zimbiti, near Beira, southern Moçambique, which is a form of the great flood plains of Moçambique.

Compared with *A.n.rufuloides* Roberts, 1936: Grahamstown, Cape, the Okavango specimens range smaller in size, the wing in ♂♂ 87 - 90, in ♀♀ 80 - 84 mm, as against 88 - 94 in ♂♂ and 84 - 88 mm in ♀♀ of *rufuloides*, and are less buffish above, appearing greyer and colder, even in their abraded condition. They are perhaps referable to a hygric race breeding from parts of Angola, east to Zambia and southern Zaïre for which the name *A.n.katanga* Chapin, 1937: L. Musole, Shaba, Zaïre, is available, and which is on occasion treated as synonymous with the equally small East African race, *A.n.lacuum* Meinertzhagen, 1920: L. Naivasha, Kenya. In his *Preliminary Check List*, Winterbottom (1971) places Okavango birds as *grotei*, which is certainly not in accord with the specimen evidence currently before me.

***Anthus leucophrys tephridorsus* Clancey, 1967**

1 ♂. Andara.

A worn adult of this grey backed race of the Plainbacked Pipit. Not taken along the Okavango by Winterbottom and his party during the course of their 1964 expedition.

***Anthus vaalensis chobiensis* (Roberts, 1932)**

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Andara.

Winterbottom takes his Okavango sample to the redder *A.v.newmanni* Meinertzhagen, 1920: Cuanza Norte, Angola, in the 1966 report, but is less clear in his allocation of the population in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971. The population breeding along the Okavango R. is *chobiensis*.

***Macronyx ameliae altanus* Clancey, 1966**

1 ♂. Andara (3 February, 1959).

This appears to be the first record of this colourful species in South West Africa to the west of the Eastern Caprivi.

M.a.altanus, described from the Kabompa district of western Zambia, differs from the nominate race, the type-locality of which

is Durban, Natal, in being smaller, darker and more heavily streaked dorsally, in having the ventral pink more cerise, less orange tinged, and in having the basal dusky wedge to the outermost rectrices more distally extended. The bill is also shorter. Wing of the Andara male 92,5 mm.

Lanius minor minor Gmelin, 1788

2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (none in full adult dress). Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence (26 October - 20 November).

In the greyness of their dorsal surfaces four of the above specimens agree well with the western European *L.m.minor*, but in the case of the fifth (a ♀ from the Okavango/Cuito confluence), the back is browner, in this approaching *L.m.turanicus* Fediuschin, 1927, described from Ferghana.

Vaurie (1959, p. 107) considered *turanicus* only distinguishable from *L.m.minor* in the barred juvenal dress, but judging from a series of this shrike taken in the Bosheok area of the western Transvaal in late February and March, 1973, and now in the collection of the Durban Museum, the adult of *L.m.turanicus* is lighter and bluer grey above (Gull Gray (pl. liii), *versus* near Pale Mouse Gray (pl. li)), and the ventral pink is more violaceous in quality. Insolation and wear probably eliminate these differences by the time the birds reach the breeding grounds.

Lanius collurio kobylini (Buturlin, 1906)

1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂, sub-ad., ♂, Andara (1 and 3 December).

This subspecies has already been recorded for South West Africa.

Corvinella melanoleuca angolensis (Meise, 1955)

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

A new subspecies to the South African Sub-Region avifauna. Differs from the nominate race in being duller whitish over the rump; below, more uniformly black, lacking the brownish hackles over the fore-throat of the said form. The tail also ranges shorter. Wings in ♂ 142, in ♀♀ 136 and 137,5 mm.

Winterbottom (1971) places all South West African birds in the nominate subspecies. Even Rosa Pinto (1968, p. 284) takes Okavango specimens to *C.m.melanoleuca* (Jardine, 1831).

Laniarius bicolor sticturus Finsch and Hartlaub, 1870

7 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

A typical series of this white ventralled riparian and palustrine form. Wings of ♂♂ 102,5 - 108,5 2 ♀♀ 102 and 104 mm.

Laniarius atrococcineus (Burchell, 1822)

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

These Okavango specimens agree with the western xeric elements of this monotypic bush shrike in being slightly paler, less vibrant, red below than in the case of eastern birds, *i.e.*, the populations of Rhodesia, south to the Transvaal. The slight variation in the intensity of the ventral red from west to east was first pointed out by me (Clancey (1952)).

Dryoscopus cubla okavangensis Roberts, 1932

7 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, 2 ♂♂ sub-ads., 1 ♀ juv. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara.

A typical series of this largely xeric subspecies, the female with the dorsal surface obscured with grey. Wings of ♂♂ 79,5 - 83 mm. In *okavangensis* the irides of males are bright red, of females orange.

Nilaus afer brubru (Latham, 1801)

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

A rather worn sample, with the wings in ♂♂ 85 - 88, ♀♀ 83,5 and 84 mm.

Tchagra australis rhodesiensis (Roberts, 1932)

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, 2 ♂♂ juvs. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

This is a poorly marked race, differing from *T.a.damarensis* (Reichenow, 1915) in being a little colder and greyer dorsally. Winterbottom (1966) took the Okavango population to *damarensis*, and in my revision of the southern subspecies (Clancey (1969A)) I placed *rhodesiensis* as a straight synonym of this latter subspecies. In the light of the above series, I now believe that Roberts' 1932 subspecies just warrants recognition.

Tchagra senegala kalahari (Roberts, 1932)

1 ♂. Andara.

Winterbottom (1966) places Okavango birds as *T.s.rufofusca* (Neumann, 1907) of Angola, but the present specimen is very clearly the xeric *kalahari*, described from north-western Botswana, and not the redder backed and darker grey ventralled *rufofusca*.

Telophorus sulfureopectus similis (Smith, 1836)

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

A typical series of this dry interior subspecies of the Orange-breasted Bush Shrike, showing the narrow orange breast-band and clear yellow throat and medio-ventral plane.

Prionops plumata talacoma Smith, 1836

1 ♀. Andara.

Wing 112 mm.

Eurocephalus anguitimens anguitimens Smith, 1836

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara.

The female shows assumption of some creamy white feathering over the mantle and scapulars, a characteristic of the mesic eastern race of this shrike (*E.a.niveus* Clancey, 1965), described from the eastern Transvaal lowveld, but otherwise agrees with *E.a.anguitimens*.

Creatophora cinerea (Meuschen, 1787)

1 ♂, 1 ♀. 40 km W. of Rundu; Rundu.

Both in non-breeding condition, but wattles on ♂ enlarging (28 October).

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster verreauxi (Bocage, 1870)

3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara (5 November - 8 December).

Wings of ♂♂ 107, 110,5, 112, of ♀♀ 102 and 105 mm.

Lamprotornis australis australis (Smith, 1836)

4 ♂♂. Rundu; Andara.

These agree well with western Transvaal topotypes of this large-sized interior race. Wings 185 (moult), 189, 194,5, 195 mm.

Lamprotornis mevesii mevesii (Wahlberg, 1856)

5 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

A topotypical series of the nominate race of this elegant starling. Differs sharply in newly moulted condition from the western *L.m.violacior* Clancey, 1973, of the mid- and lower Cunene R. drainage, in being markedly bluer, less purplish above. Wings of ♂♂ 147,5, 151 (2), 155, 156, of ♀♀ 132,5 (moult), 135,5 (moult), 138 (2), 138,5, 139, 139,5, 140,5, 142 mm.

Lamprotornis nitens phoenicopterus (Swainson, 1838)

4 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Andara.

Wings 127, 128, 133, 135,5, ♀ 126 mm.

Lamprotornis chalybaeus nordmanni (Hartert and Neumann, 1914)

1 ♂. Andara.

Wing 135 mm. Weight 84,26 g.

Lamprotornis acuticaudus ecki Clancey, subsp.nov.

Type: ♂ adult. Andara, Okavango R., north-eastern South West

Africa (Namibia). 14 December, 1978. Collected by M. O. E. Baddeley. In the collection of the Durban Museum, D.M. Reg. No. 31 939.

Differs from the nominate subspecies of the miombo of Angola, southern Zaïre and Zambia in being metallic blue rather than shining oil green above and over wings and tail. Ventrally, with the sides and flanks deep metallic blue rather than green or mixed green and blue. Bill slightly longer. Juvenal dress more greyish or earthen brown over the ventral ground, less light brown or buffy brown, the scaling whiter.

Range: Northern Ovamboland, east to the Okavango woodland of north-eastern South West Africa, and in immediately adjacent southern Angola. Perhaps also present in extreme south-western Zambia.

Remarks: Apart from the ♂ *Type*, Mr Baddeley also collected 2 ♀♀ and two juveniles which had just left the nest when collected. All were taken in December, 1978.

Named for our colleague, Herr Siegfried Eck, of the Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, D.D.R.

Buphagus africanus africanus Linnaeus, 1766

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Andara (7 September, 1979).

Not encountered along the Okavango R. by Winterbottom (1966). Both specimens are in relatively complete fresh dress. Wings 126 and 129 mm. Previously recorded from Ovamboland and the Caprivi, in South West Africa (Winterbottom (1971)).

Buphagus erythrorhynchus angolensis Rosa Pinto, 1968

4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀. Andara.

Wings of adults 123 (worn) - 132, of birds with juvenal rectrices 112 - 120 mm. This is a relatively cold grey backed race with a long wing.

Nectarinia mariquensis ovamboensis (Reichenow, 1904)

10 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, 1 ♀ juv. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

The above series of the disputed *N.m.ovamboensis* has already been commented on by the present writer (Clancey (1979)). In this race the male differs from the nominate subspecies in having the dorsal surfaces purer green, and the female is colder and greyer above, more densely streaked below, and has the mystacial streaks less sharply defined. The size character used by Reichenow is only of statistical significance.

Nectarinia bifasciata strophium (Clancey and Williams, 1957)

1 ♂. Rundu (24 October).

Previously recorded from Ondangua, Ovamboland, but the first record for the Okavango R. drainage. The specimen is in the final stages of complete moult. Wing 58, tail 38 mm.

Nectarinia talatala anderssoni Strickland, 1852

7 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀. Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The wings of this series measure in the ♂♂ 55 - 57 (56,2), and in the ♀♀ 51 - 53 mm. Winterbottom (1966), after studying a series from the Okavango and other material, concludes that *anderssoni* is invalid and the present sunbird monotypic.

Study of the large series in the Durban Museum collection convinces me to the contrary in that *talatala* is in fact polytypic and *N.t.anderssoni* valid. This latter taxon differs from *N.t.talatala* (Smith, 1836) of the northern Cape, eastern Botswana, the western Transvaal and dry western Rhodesia in its much smaller size. Males of *N.t.anderssoni* have the wings 52 - 57, *versus* 58 - 62 mm. Re-examination of adequate material confirms the races and ranges of this sunbird as laid down in my *Catalogue of Birds of the South African Sub-Region*, 1965-1966, pp. 557, 558.

Nectarinia talatala talatala (Smith, 1836)

1 ♂. Andara.

A fairly typical example of this migratory southern desertic race taken on 11 August, 1979. Wing 59 mm and upper breast shot with blue rather than violet.

Nectarinia senegalensis saturator (Reichenow, 1891)

3 ♂♂. Rundu; Andara.

This race is not particularly well-marked in the adult ♂ dress, the plastron red a little darker, less bright scarlet, and the metallic sub-apical barring rather more violet than blue. The female shows more trenchant subspecific characters.

Nectarinia amethystina deminuta (Cabanis, 1880)

2 ♂♂. Rundu; Andara.

Not listed for the Okavango by Winterbottom (1966). Wings 67,5, 69,5 mm.

Anthreptes collaris chobiensis (Roberts, 1932)

6 ♂♂. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

The wings of this short series of adult males measure 54,5 - 55 mm. *A.c.chobiensis*, described from northern Botswana, lies very close

A.c.garguensis Mearns, 1915, named from Mt Varaguess in the southern Matthews Range, Kenya, from which it differs in being slightly larger in size (wings of ♂♂ of *garguensis* 52 - 54 mm). Ventrally, the yellow is a little more orange tinged and the flanks less darkly olivaceous. The colour characters are rather more clearly marked in the female, *chobiensis* having the fore-throat lighter than in *garguensis*.

Zosterops senegalensis anderssoni Shelley, 1892

3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 2 ♀♀ juvs. Andara.

Two freshly moulted May skins have the wings in a ♂ 62 and in a ♀ 58 mm.

Plocepasser mahali terricolor Clancey, 1979

1 ♂, 1 ♂ juv. Rundu.

The adult ♂ from Rundu is the *Type* of this recently proposed subspecies, which differs from the contiguous races in having the cap blacker, the dorsum more greyish or vinaceous, and the venter whiter and plainer. Traylor (1965, p. 376) mentions the immaculate white underside of an example of this new taxon on a specimen taken to the west of Sepopa, in north-western Botswana.

Passer griseus diffusus (Smith, 1836)

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Typical examples of this greyish race of the South West Arid District. Wings of ♂♂ 81, 87, ♀ 80 mm.

Petronia superciliaris rufitergum Clancey, 1964

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. Rundu; Andara.

A freshly moulted ♀ dated 1 March, 1979, from Andara shows the Okavango woodland population of this sparrow to be *P.s.rufitergum*, described from north-western Zambia. This is the first record of this particular subspecies for the South African Sub-Region. Winterbottom (1971) places South West African birds as *P.s.flavigula* (Sundevall, 1850), described from the western Transvaal.

Sporopipes squamifrons fuligescens Clancey, 1957

1 ♂, 1 ♂ imm. Rundu; Andara.

This is an extension to the west of this mesic race of the Scaly-feathered Finch. *S.s.fuligescens* is more sharply scaled on the vertex and darker or more greyish, less sandy or brownish, than the more xeric nominate race, the type-locality of which is Kuruman in the northern Cape.

Ploceus ocularis tenuirostris Traylor, 1964

1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

Wing 73 mm.

Ploceus cucullatus nigriceps (Layard, 1867)

2 ♂♂. Andara.

These are apparently the first South West African records of this weaver. Only previously known from Kasane on the Caprivi/Botswana border. Both are in advanced moult into nuptial dress (14 and 18 August, 1979).

Ploceus velatus ? caurinus Clancey, 1959

1 ♂, 1 ♀. Rundu; Andara.

Assuming breeding dress in both instances. The racial ascription is provisional.

Ploceus intermedius cabanisii (Peters, 1868)

1 ♀. Andara.

Apparently the first record of this local weaver for the Okavango woodland (*vide* Winterbottom (1971)). The specimen is saturated enough dorsally to be allocated to *cabanisii*.

Ploceus xanthops xanthops (Hartlaub, 1862)

5 ♂♂ (breeding dress), 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

Evidently more numerous on the Okavango R. than suggested by Winterbottom's brief remarks on a single ♂ from Andara (1966). Notwithstanding all the comments on the status of *P.xanthops* by Hall (1960) and others, the species is clearly polytypic. Nominate *P.xanthops* differs from the eastern *P.x.jamesoni* (Sharpe, 1890), described from the plateau of Rhodesia, in being more yellow, less olive, green dorsally in the breeding male. The ventral yellow is more intense, and the sienna wash to the fore-throat is a little deeper and more diffused down on to the breast.

Ploceus xanthopterus castaneigula (Cabanis, 1884)

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence.

A marked westward extension of the established range of this attractive weaver. Winterbottom (1966) does not mention its occurrence along the course of the Okavango R., but in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971 lists it from the "flood plain of the Caprivi". In newly assumed nuptial dress in mid-November. Wings of ♂♂ 81, 84,5, 86,5, of ♀ 70,5 mm.

Quelea quelea spoliator Clancey, 1960

3 ♂♂, 1 ♀. Rundu (14 September); Andara (2 February, 1979).

The two Rundu specimens are applicable to this race, which breeds over the south-eastern highlands of southern Africa, and which spends the off-season north of the breeding grounds. In the case of the pair in breeding dress from Andara, one is *spoliator* and the other is buffier above and more like *Q.g.lathamii* (Smith, 1836). It is not evident from the limited data provided by the collector if the birds were breeding at Andara in February when the two skins under discussion were taken.

Euplectes orix orix (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♀. Andara.

Wing 62,5 mm.

Euplectes axillaris bocagei (Sharpe, 1871)

1 ♂. Andara.

In freshly assumed nuptial dress with the tail still in moult (1 February, 1979).

Vidua regia regia (Linnaeus, 1766)

3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂ sub-ad. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue; Andara. Males in nuptial dress.

Vidua paradisaea paradisaea (Linnaeus, 1758)

1 ♂. Andara.

In breeding dress (1 March, 1979). Winterbottom and his party also obtained this whydah at Andara.

Pytilia melba damarensis Neunzig, 1928

8 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀. Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

This short series shows the influence of the eastern *P.m.thamnophila* Clancey, 1957: Big Bend, Swaziland, in two of the males in which the red over the head is duller, less vibrant scarlet, the breast-band somewhat greener, not so golden, and the upper-parts darker. Otherwise the specimens are like topotypical *P.t.damarensis* to which the population is here attributed.

Lagonosticta rhodopareia jamesoni Shelley, 1882

7 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

A species not encountered by Winterbottom and his party, and stated in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971 to occur no further west than the Chobe R.

These specimens range a trifle greyer brown over the mantles

and are on the whole paler, most dusty, pinkish below in the case of the males (about Light Corinthian Red (pl. xxviii)). The females are also a little less suffused with ochraceous ventrally than in eastern examples of *jamesoni*. The Tati R., Botswana, the type-locality of *jamesoni*, lies on the eastern edge of the slightly paler populations of the present taxon *jamesoni*. In the event of the differences being given subspecific weighting in the future, a name will require to be proposed for the south-eastern low-country birds.

Lagonosticta senegala pallidicrissa Zedlitz, 1910

4 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue.

A subspecies strangely enough not recognised by Traylor in the continuation of Peters' *Check-List* (vol. xiv, 1968, p. 328), but relatively well-marked and deserving of recognition. Differs from *L.s.rendalli* Hartert, 1898, described from southern Malawi, in lacking any rosy wash to the upper-parts and in being paler dusty rose below in the case of males. Females are paler, more drab brown above, and have the throat paler and greyer. It is the subspecies of the South West Arid District.

Lagonosticta nitidula plumbaria Clancey, 1962

6 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Mukue.

A species not taken by Winterbottom and his party during the course of the 1964 expedition, but which is clearly quite abundant. This is a well characterized subspecies, differing from the nominate form on the basis of smaller size, colder, greyer brown dorsum, more purplish pink fore-throat and upper breast, greyer, more leaden, lower breast and whiter crissal surfaces.

Uraeginthus angolensis cyanopleurus Wolters, 1963

6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀. Mukue; Andara.

A typical series of this pale race, which differs from the nominate subspecies described from Angola in the female having the ventral blue extended caudad over the lateral surfaces and the flanks.

Winterbottom (1971) places all South West African populations of the Blue Waxbill in *U.a.angolensis* (Linnaeus, 1758), apparently overlooking *cyanopleurus*.

Uraeginthus granatinus granatinus (Linnaeus, 1766)

5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀. Rundu; Mukue.

Four of the males are typical of this subspecies, with the mantle overlaid with fuscous. The fifth is, however, more like the xeric western *U.g.siccatus* (Clancey, 1959), described from near Oka-handja, South West Africa, in lacking this dusky overlay. The females are all typical of *U.g.granatinus*.

Estrilda astrild ngamiensis Roberts, 1932

2 ♀♀. Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

In his expedition report Winterbottom refers the Okavango population of the Common Waxbill to *E.a.damarensis* Reichenow, 1902, correcting this in his *Preliminary Check List* of 1971.

Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos (Vieillot, 1817)

4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀. 40 km W. of Rundu; Mukue.

The Okavango population is clearly referable to the present race and not the more xeric *E.e.soligena* Clancey, 1964, described from Otjomassu, South West Africa, which has the upper-parts browner purplish grey, and over the venter the red is more diffused up on to the breast and lower fore-throat. The pileum is also more overlaid with reddish, and the bars on the tertials are less sharply etched.

Ortygospiza atricollis bradfieldi Roberts, 1929

1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ imm. Andara.

Typical examples of this subspecies in ranging greyer above and with the medio-ventral plane more extensively whitish compared with the eastern *O.a.digressa* Clancey, 1958, described from the interior of Natal.

Sporaeginthus subflavus niethammeri (Wolters, 1971)

1 ♀. Rundu (24 January, 1979).

Taken on the flood plain of the Okavango R. A species not previously determined as occurring within South West African limits, with *niethammeri* a race new to the South African Sub-Region list. *S.s.niethammeri* differs from *S.s.clarkei* (Shelley, 1903), described from the interior of Natal, in having in the female the dorsum darker and the venter pale yellow as against light buffy. Weight 6,47 g.

Spermestes fringilloides (Lafresnaye, 1835)

1 ♀. Andara (20 January, 1979).

The first record of this mannikin for South West Africa. Taken in riparian acacia. Wing 59 mm; weight 13,26 g.

Serinus mozambicus vansoni Roberts, 1932

6 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀. 40 km W. of Rundu; Rundu; Mukue; Andara.

A worn series of this pale dry country race of the Yelloweye Canary.

Serinus atrogularis semideserti Roberts 1932

5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. 40 km W. of Rundu; Okavango/Cuito confluence; Andara.

Typical specimens of this race, the black over the fore-throat and

upper breast sundered medially with off-white, the medio-ventral plane white, and the streaked dorsal surface markedly greyish.

After a further study of variation in this small canary, I fail to see that any of the subdivisions of *S.a.semideserti*, proposed from Machumi Pan in north-western Botswana, described by Roberts and other workers warrant resuscitation.

***Emberiza flaviventris kalaharica* Roberts, 1932**

1 ♂, ? 1 ♀. Mukue; Andara.

The female retains the worn remiges and rectrices of the juvenal dress; the male has a wing of 86 mm.

E.f.kalaharica, described from the north of Botswana, and *E.f.princeps* Clancey and Winterbottom, 1960: mountains E. of Windhoek, South West Africa, are alike in colour, the latter differing only in size. In a series of 25 ♂♂ of *kalaharica* from eastern Botswana, Rhodesia, the Transvaal and southern Moçambique the wings measure 81,5 - 88 (84,8), SD 2,10, SE 0,42, 25 ♀♀ 76 - 83,5 (79,5), SD 2,21, SE 0,44. In 10 ♂♂ of *E.f.princeps* the wings measure 88,5 - 94 (91,0), SD 1,89, SE 0,60, of 10 ♀♀ 83,5 - 87 (84,9), SD 1,19, SE 0,38 mm. In this bunting some birds, particularly in the dry west, retain the juvenal remiges through to the first breeding season. This probably accounts for the very short wing-length values given for South West African Goldenbreasted Buntings by Hoesch and Niethammer (1940, p. 334).

***Emberiza tahapisi tahapisi* (Smith, 1836)**

1 ♂ juv. Andara.

In transitional moult (20 June, 1979).

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