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### MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS XIX

*by*

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The following seven notes result in the main from recent revisionary studies of southern and eastern African bird species carried out in the Durban Museum, utilizing the pooled specimen resources of several museums. For the loan of comparative material I am very grateful to the following institutions and officials: South African Museum, Cape Town (Dr. J. M. Winterbottom); East London Museum (Miss M. Courtenay-Latimer); Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg (Dr. J. A. Pringle); Transvaal Museum (Dr. V. Fitz-Simons and Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky); National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo (Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin); Coryndon Museum, Nairobi (Mr. John G. Williams).

In the ensuing notes I have used the colour nomenclature of Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912 (Washington). The relevant plate numbers in this standard work are given immediately following the first mention of a colour by name.

#### 1. TWO NEW GEOGRAPHICAL RACES OF THE YELLOW-BILL *CEUTHMOCHARES AEREUS* (VIEILLOT)

The races of the Yellowbill *Ceuthmochares aereus* (Vieillot), whose close familial relatives are found in the Oriental Region (Sub-family Phoenicophainae), resident in East Africa are generally stated to be *C.a.aereus* (Vieillot), 1817: Malimbe, Portuguese Congo, or

- Gyldenstolpe, N. *Kungl. Sv. Vet. Akademiens Handlingar*, Tredje Serien, Band 1, 3, 1924, pp. 253, 254.
- Peters, J. L. "Check-List of Birds of the World", vol. iv, 1940, p. 51.
- Schouteden, H. "De Vogels van Belgisch Congo en van Ruanda-Urundi", vol. i, 1948-1950, pp. 481, 482.
- Sclater, W. L. "Systema Avium Aethiopicarum", part i, 1924, p.188.

## 2. ON THE NAME OF THE LAKE DOW, BECHUANALAND, FORM OF *CERTHILAUDA ALBOFASCIATA* LAFRESNAYE

White, *Bull.Brit.Orn.Club*, vol. 81, 2, 1961, p. 33, has proposed *Chersomanes albofasciata barlowi* as a new racial taxon from the Lake Dow area of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, overlooking the fact that as all other authors, including Winterbottom and Macdonald, the most recent revisers, now place *albofasciata* in the genus *Certhilauda*, the name *barlowi* cannot be used for a race of Spike-heeled Lark when the species is placed in *Certhilauda*, because of the earlier *Certhilauda albescens barlowi* (Roberts), 1937 (= *Pseudammomanes barlowi* Roberts).

In a letter dated 23 February, 1961, Mr. White's attention was drawn to the fact that *barlowi* White, 1961, was not available to those workers continuing to keep *C.albofasciata* in *Certhilauda*, and it was suggested that he should propose a new name. Under date 25 February, 1961, Mr. White replied as follows:

"On the point of naming *Chersomanes a.barlowi*, the choice was of course made with full awareness that there is a *barlowi* in 'Certhilauda'. As you will see from *Bull.B.O.C.* 80, pp. 23-24, I decided that *Chersomanes* should be retained, and hence I see no objection to the use of the name. Those who wish to retain *Certhilauda* in its old form which I regard as unsatisfactory, will of course have to provide a new name. Since I shall continue to recognise *Chersomanes*, I obviously cannot do so."

As all South African and most overseas workers now keep the Spike-heeled Lark in *Certhilauda* and do not recognise the validity of *Chersomanes*, a new name must be provided for the Lake Dow race. I propose—

***Certhilauda albofasciata salinicola*, nom.nov.,**

pro *Chersomanes albofasciata barlowi* White, *Bull.Brit.Orn.Club*, vol. 81, 2, 1961, p. 33, not *Pseudammomanes barlowi* Roberts, *Ostrich*, vol. viii, 2, 1937, p. 95 (= *Certhilauda albescens barlowi* (Roberts)).

### 3. A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *CERCOMELA TRACTRAC* (WILKES) FROM THE ARID COAST OF LITTLE NAMAQUALAND

A series of thirty-eight adult specimens of the Tractrac Chat from the white coastal sand-dune zone of Little Namaqualand proves to represent a well-defined new race, which may be known as

#### ***Cercomela tractrac nebulosa*, subsp.nov.**

*Type*: ♂, adult. White coastal sand-dunes at McDougall Bay, south of Port Nolloth, Little Namaqualand, north-western Cape Province. 31 May, 1962. Collected by P. A. Clancey. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

*Diagnosis*: When compared with *C.t.tractrac* (Wilkes), 1817: Uniondale, southern Cape Province, found to be much paler and greyer on the upper-parts, being greyish Drab (pl. xlvi) on the mantle, as against Olive-Brown (pl. xl); rump paler (Light Pinkish Cinnamon (pl. xxix); in *C.t.tractrac* Cinnamon (same pl.)). On under-parts markedly whiter, less vinaceous brown tinged over the breast, which is only lightly washed with grey.

From *C.t.barlowi* (Roberts), 1937: Aus, Great Namaqualand, differs in being distinctly colder and greyer, less buffish on the upper-parts (greyish Drab, as compared with Avellaneous (pl. xl) in *C.t.barlowi*. On under-parts markedly whiter.

*C.t.albicans* (Wahlberg), 1855: Walvis Bay, Damaraland, is more whitish, less cold and grey, on the dorsal surface (mantle Vinaceous-Buff (pl. xl), as against greyish Drab in *C.t.nebulosa*), and is pure white below.

*Measurements*: Wings (flattened) of 9 ♂♂ 81.5-89 (85.5), 7 ♀♀ 79.5-83.5 (80.3) mm. Wing-tips all abraded.

*Material examined*: *C.t.nebulosa*, 39; *C.t.tractrac*, 39; *C.t.barlowi*, 14; *C.t.albicans*, 4. *C.t.hoeschi* (Niethammer), not examined.

*Range*: Known only from the white coastal sand-dunes of the arid coast of Little Namaqualand, from some miles to the south of Port Nolloth to the mouth of the lower Orange River, and on the white coastal dunes of south-western Great Namaqualand. Birds