DURBAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Issued by the Museum and Art Gallery, Durban

Vol. IV ISSUED 31ST JULY, 1955 Part XIII

RESULTS OF THE DURBAN MUSEUM ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO PONDOLAND IN AUGUST, 1954

by

P. A. CLANCEY
(Director, Museum and Art Gallery, Durban)

Introduction

The forested coastal strip of Pondoland, in the eastern Cape Province, represents one of the largest areas of standing climax forest in southern Africa, and is well-known for its rich and varied avifauna. Studied by a number of workers, the most recent comprehensive paper on the birds of the area is that of Winterbottom and Hare, *Ostrich*, vol. xviii, 1, 1947, pp. 86-102, in which 242 species are recorded as occurring in the Port St. Johns district alone. Another recent but rather fragmentary account is that of Calder, *Ostrich*, vol. xvi, 1, 1945, pp. 18-31. These recent writings have been based entirely on the literature and field observations, and no collecting for systematic purposes seems to have been carried out in the district for many years. It is a pity that most of the published work on the bird fauna of Pondoland has been based on facts obtained in the vicinity of the town of Port St. Johns, and large stretches of forested country have never to the best of my knowledge been investigated by competent workers.

In the early part of the present century the late Captain Guy Shortridge made extensive collections of birds for the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), and the report on these by Shortridge and Sclater, *Ibis*,

1904, pp. 173-208, is the most valuable single systematic account of the birds of coastal Pondoland to appear. Later, H. H. Swinny made important collections, which were disposed of to the Tring Museum and the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, and material from Swinny's collections has figured in many descriptions of new races and in general accounts of geographical variation in southern African birds, but no major account of his collections has apparently been published. Other collections of less moment were made in Pondoland by the late C. G. Davies during the years 1904-1907 (*vide* report, *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union*, vol. iii, 2, 1907, pp. 180-206), and at different times by the late Dr. Austin Roberts, while of recent years W. L. Chiazzari has collected single specimens of rare and little-known species occurring in the dense forests.

As current knowledge of the status of some of the less common resident forms is based on collections formed nearly half a century ago, it was desirable that a fresh appraisal of the avifauna of the forests of coastal Pondoland should be made on the basis of a new collection made expressly for the purpose. Through the kind co-operation of Dr. D. Hey, Director of the Department of Nature Conservation, Cape Provincial Administration, and the Conservator of Forests, Transkeian Territories, the necessary permits were readily granted and it was possible for the Durban Museum to send a party, consisting of the Director and two assistants (Mr. R. R. Davidson and Mr. M. O. E. Baddeley), to the coastal area of Pondoland for a period of five weeks during the latter period of July and entire month of August, 1954.

The purpose of the expedition was to collect representative series of resident polytypic species at selected points on the Pondoland coast, and also to endeavour to gain an insight into the present status of some of the less well-known of the resident avian forms occurring in this important forested region. Another aspect of our work was to try and gather information for future investigations on possible factors affecting the distribution of birds, especially in those cases where, in Pondoland and southern Natal, there is a pronounced tendency for certain species to follow the temperate evergreen forests and leave the humid coastal strip and climb to higher elevations, as in the cases of *Tauraco corythaix*, *Cossypha caffra*, *Serinus scotops*, etc. I shall deal more fully with this problem below.

Four camps were made, the first being near the mouth of the Mzamba River, at the Fossil Head National Monument, on the

Natal-Pondoland border (31st July-6th August), where a study of the birds of the coastal scrub-forest and adjacent grasslands was undertaken, and on the 6th August we moved camp to Embotyi, in the Lusikisiki district, where we were able to work methodically in large areas of almost undisturbed forest. After nearly two weeks at Embotyi we moved south to Sea View, on the Mntafufu River, which again was well situated for an investigation of large areas of standing forest, and on 23rd August we travelled to Port St. Johns, in which district we operated for the remainder of the trip, returning to Durban on the 31st of the month.

The results of the expedition were eminently satisfactory, and we were fortunate in being able to obtain good material of and information on practically all the more taxonomically interesting polytypic species to be found in the Pondoland forests. The specimens obtained have been studied in conjunction with a recent collection from the eastern Karroo and adjacent districts of the eastern Cape, and with the extensive collections in the Transvaal, Natal and Durban Museums. The National Museum of Southern Rhodesia and the East London Museum have also assisted with material. In my systematic account of the results of these studies I have listed only the species for which new data were obtained. I have used Winterbottom and Hare's account as the base-line of our current knowledge of the birds of Pondoland and have not endeavoured to prepare a revised list.

Some Observations on the Forest Avifauna of Coastal Pondoland

The rich avifauna indigenous to the temperate evergreen forests of coastal Pondoland is composed almost entirely of species with obvious and well-known tropical African affinities. This is perhaps no place to undertake a study of the more complex zoogeographical premises which form the basis for this assertion, but it is considered a suitable quarter for a preliminary examination and very general enquiry into some of the intringuing problems which confront the student of avian distribution in this part of south-eastern Africa.

Examination of the valuable *A Vegetational Map of South Africa*, 1936, by I. B. Pole-Evans, reveals the interesting fact that temperate evergreen forests of the type found in coastal Pondoland and at Knysna disappear from the littoral and commence their climb to higher altitudes in East Griqualand and southern Natal. We now know that the disposition of these forests in the eastern Cape—southern Natal region of South Africa coincides remarkably closely, but not always exactly, with the ranges of several forest-

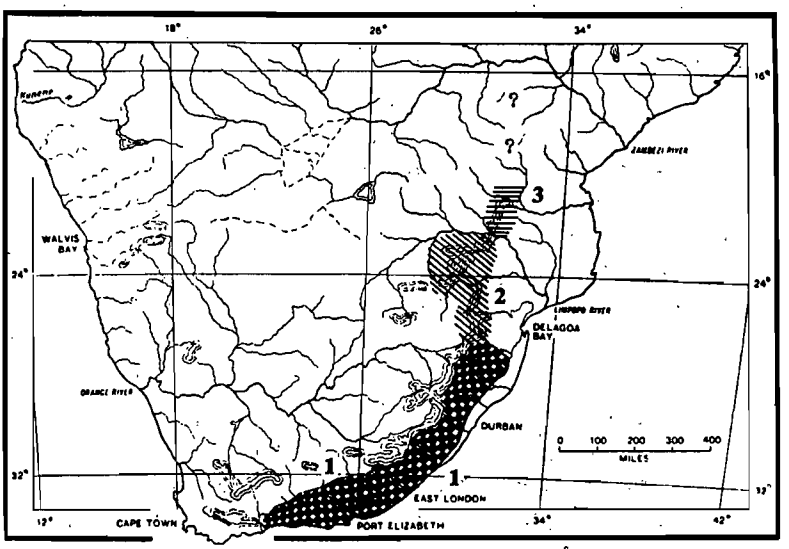
haunting species of birds, which have their final stronghold at sea-level in the Pondoland evergreen forests. The reason why the line of the temperate evergreen forests is not always followed is not clear, but presumably adaptable and less specialized species have tended to spread into suitable peripheral habitats formed by different and perhaps newer vegetational complexes. In our present state of knowledge it is not possible except in a few cases to state with certainty where the species concerned cease to be found as breeding birds on the coast and commence their shift of habitat-preference to inland, cooler and more elevated regions. To illustrate these assertions I have prepared the following interesting list of species, albeit an incomplete one, which are found in the coastal forest belt of Pondoland and in similar habitats to the southward, but which are either absent or become increasingly scarce as one goes northward in coastal Natal, though in all instances they are found in local abundance in the forests of the elevated interior of the province:

Columba arquatrix
Aplopelia larvata
Tauraco corythaix corythaix
Poicephalus robustus
Bubo capensis
Mesopicos griseocephalus
Lioptilornis nigricapillus
Phyllastrephus flavostriatus
Batis capensis
Turdus gurneyi
Turdus olivaceus
Cossypha dichroa
Cossypha caffra
Erithacus stellatus
Seicercus ruficapillus
Bradypterus barratti
Apalis caniceps florisuga
Nectarinia afra
Nectarinia chalybea
Serinus scotops

Detailed information on precise localities where the majority of the above listed forms cease to be found on the littoral of Natal is only available in one or two cases. For instance it is known that the Knysna Turaco, *Tauraco corythaix* (Wagler), an extremely abundant species in the Pondoland forests, becomes increasingly scarce as one progresses northward into southern Natal, and as far as can be ascertained at present its last stronghold in coastal Natal is about Umdoni, to the south of Durban. In Natal nominate *T. corythaix* has its centre of abundance in the interior forests, from which it ranges to similar habitats in the interior of Zululand, while in the forests of the highlands of the eastern and northern Transvaal the bluer backed *T. c. phoebus* (Neumann) is found. In considering the inland retreat and general distribution of *T. c. corythaix* it is interesting to observe that from just south of Durban north to Lake St. Lucia in Zululand no form of the Genus *Tauraco* occurs on the coast and in many parts for some distance inland, but that from

Lake St. Lucia northward the closely allied Reichenow's Turaco *T. c. reichenowi* (Fischer), described from eastern Tanganyika Territory, occurs in the tropical lowlands of southern Africa. The status of *T. c. reichenowi* has for long troubled systematists, but the southern populations of this enigmatic form seem to represent a perfectly valid geographical race of *T. corythaix*, though it is by no means certain if they link up with the Tanganyikan birds. Judging from the literature the name *reichenowi* is based on mutants cropping up in populations of *T. c. cabanisi* (Reichenow), which makes the use of the name *reichenowi* for the constant southern race, which the mutants resemble closely, perhaps rather undesirable.

The Orange Thrush *Turdus gurneyi* Hartlaub, is another species on which valid data are now available. This rare forest-dwelling thrush is very uncommon in the coastal Pondoland forests, though found in relative abundance in some of the interior forests of the East Griqualand-Natal border country, and thence northward only in the larger temperate evergreen forests in the high interior of the continent. It is absent from coastal Natal.



Map showing the distribution of the Forest Canary *Serinus scotops* (Sundevall) (races: 1. *S. s. scotops;* 2. *S. s. transvaalensis;* 3. *S. s.? race*). A typical example to illustrate the retreat inland and to higher altitudes of certain species of birds of the temperate evergreen forest fauna.

These two examples just given will suffice to illustrate the nature of the distributional problems which will have to be worked out in respect of each species. While it has been shown that the distribu-

tions of the species listed above follow closely on that of the temperate evergreen forests, it is not clear why otherwise adaptable and progressive forms have not been able to spread into and utilize to a greater extent similar habitats formed by different plant communities. The question of competition with closely allied species as an inhibitory factor to such a spread is an important aspect of the studies on hand. Fortunately such investigations can be usefully undertaken by general field workers. For instance, it is known that coincident with the inland retreat of the Robins *Cossypha caffra* (Linnæus) and *Cossypha dichroa* (Gmelin) from coastal Pondoland and southern Natal is the presence of the closely allied *Cossypha natalensis* Smith in the littoral belt, though why this should be is not clear as both *C. caffra* and *C. natalensis* are sympatric to a certain extent, especially in the highlands of eastern Africa in the north of their respective ranges. Equally interesting is the possibility of competition between the two Turacos in coastal Natal. I have already shown that *T. corythaix* becomes increasingly less numerous as one progresses northward in coastal Natal until about Umdoni, south of Durban, it no longer occurs on the littoral. Throughout the tropical lowlands of Zululand and the coastal areas of Natal the Purple-crested Turaco *Gallirex porphyreolophus* is widespread and locally common, becoming increasingly scarce as one approaches the Pondoland-Natal border, south of which, contrary to statements in the literature, it does not seem to occur. In some parts of southern Natal, notably at Ifafa, *G. porphyreolophus* and *T. corythaix* occur together in the same general area, while further north *T. c. reichenowi* and *G. porphyreolophus* occur side by side in the littoral of northern Zululand. I have already reported the finding of *T. c. corythaix* in the forests of the Lebombo Mountains, in which area *G. porphyreolophus* is dominant and *T. c. corythaix* rare.

In considering the inland and altitudinal retreat of the temperate evergreen forest species and their extended and disrupted ranges at high elevations throughout the higher montane systems of eastern Africa, one is tempted to formulate a hypothetical basis for the present-day disposition of the ranges of the species concerned.

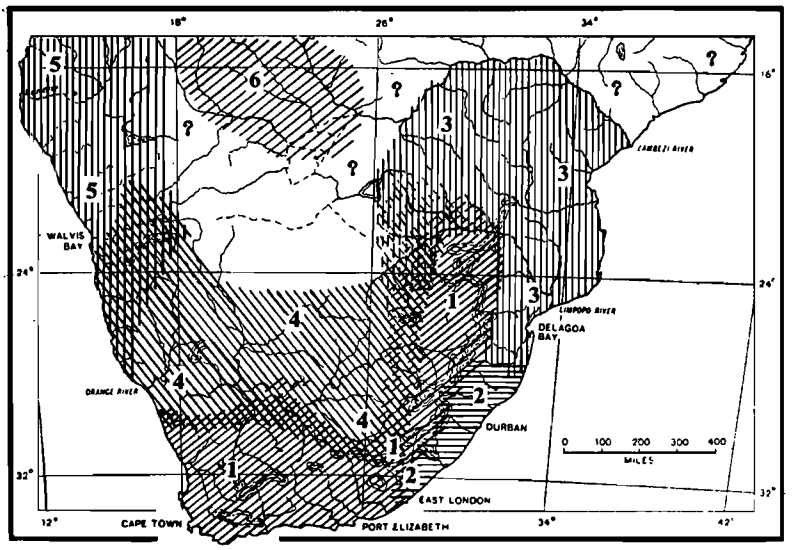
Even in late Tertiary and Pleistocene times the forest mass of temperate evergreen vegetation of the type found in coastal Pondoland was widespread in its distribution, ranging to the north at relatively high elevations to Kenya Colony, Abyssinia and other parts of the eastern half of the continent. This forest "corridor," while at no time in its existence perhaps completely continuous,

certainly permitted the ready interchange of genes between populations of a wide range of forest-dwelling species of birds and also facilitated the extension of their ranges either into or out of the South African sub-continent. It is generally appreciated that changes in climate occasion changes in vegetation, which in turn bring about major adjustments in the constitution of the entire resident fauna. A gradual but marked tendency towards a more desiccated climate in continental Africa (?in the late Pleistocene) resulted in a steady diminution in the areas of standing pristine forest, especially in the eastern and southern parts. Such a shrinking of the forest masses would clearly result in the greater fragmentation of what had been during the period of optimum forest development, an almost continuous series of suitable biotopes. The result has been that many formerly ubiquitous forest-dwelling species are now distributed in a long but disjointed chain or forest islands, often at high elevations, from the Cape to far north in East Africa. Judging by the extensive measure of polytypic variation in the avian species concerned, which has clearly resulted from these hypothetical changes in climate and in turn in vegetation, advanced shrinkage and fragmentation of our forest "corridor" is by no means recent, and certainly datable in a great many millennia. The reduction of the forest "corridor" to a series of isolated relict forest-patches, and the spread of grasslands, thorn forest and tropical lowland forest plant associations has resulted in the curtailment of effective colonisation of previously unexploited habitats, or in the free interchange of genes between populations of already widely distributed forms. From the evidence at present available it is believed that, apart from recent extirpations resulting from human destruction of habitats, the status of many if not most of the temperate evergreen forest bird species here considered has not changed to any marked degree over the past few thousand years.

It is not only species closely associated with or restricted to temperate evergreen forests and widely distributed in the southern parts of the Cape Province which retreat inland and to higher elevations as one goes northward. There are others which are in no way forest-haunting birds, and with ranges not always extending beyond the bounds of the South African subcontinent, which follow a similar line of deviation to those taken by the species with which we have been dealing. Species which are widely distributed throughout the southern Cape Province in more or less open or mountainous country and which retreat inland in the eastern parts of the province and in southern Natal are:

Geocolaptes olivaceus	Lanius collaris collaris
Melænornis silens	Telophorus zeylonus
Stenostira scita	Corvus albicollis
Chaëtops frenatus aurantius	Zosterops pallidus atmorii
Cisticola lais	Nectarinia famosa
Prinia maculosa	Promerops gurneyi
	Euplectes capensis
	Serinus canicollis

I do not claim that the above list is either complete or that each species listed is of equivalent merit in the present discussion. While one can appreciate that certain forest-dwelling species of birds are in some instances so highly specialized as to exist only under certain circumscribed conditions, and as has already been shown many of them follow the distribution of the most suitable forests tracks without deviation, it is less easy to appreciate the factors which dictate the inland retreat of some of the species just listed. In the case of *Promerops gurneyi* Hartlaub and perhaps also of *Nectarinia famosa* Linnæus botanical correlations are evident. The availability of suitable terrain accounts for the distributions of *Geocolaptes olivaceus* (Gmelin) and *Chaëtops frenatus* (Temminck), but such considerations do not obtain, as far as can be ascertained, in the case of most of the other species listed. Temperature, obscure biotope preferences, and interspecific competition may all play a part, though the distributions of several may be of great antiquity, so that the factors which favoured their formation have long since disappeared. This would certainly appear to be the reason for the interesting ranges of the races of the ubiquitously distributed African Fiscal Shrike, *Lanius collaris* Linnæus in south-eastern Africa. The nominate race of this shrike, with the whitish ventral surfaces vermiculated with grey, ranges throughout most of the Cape Province to the south of the Orange River and thence in a north-easterly direction in a narrow tongue-shaped distribution interposed between well-differentiated forms to the high upland areas of upper Natal and the Transvaal. In the low regions of southern Portuguese East Africa, Zululand, Natal, and the eastern parts of the Cape occur populations, the races *L. c. predator* Clancey and *L. c. vigilans* Clancey, which are ventrally pure white, thereby agreeing with the tropical African representatives of the species. Why the conditions obtaining in the south-east African low country should not favour colonization by one race, which was already widely distributed (*L. c. collaris*), but should prove suitable to a tropical form are by no means clear.



Map illustrating the approximate ranges and zones of hybridization of the South African races of the Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris* Linnaeus. 1. *L. c. collaris;* 2. *L. c. vigilans;* 3. *L. c. predator;* 4. *L. c. subcoronatus;* 5. *L. c. aridicolus;* 6. *L. c. capelli.* The narrow tongue-shaped northward extension of the range of *L. c. collaris* should be studied in conjunction with the accompanying text (p. 194).

To return to our main theme, it is to be observed that many species of the tropical forest assemblage do not penetrate as far south as Pondoland. Of course, many tropical forms do not even reach Natal, but as consideration of such cases would add little to the present discussion they need not interest us at the present time. The following tropical forest species may be mentioned as occurring in coastal Natal but not in Pondoland:

Guttera edouardi
Ceuthmochares æreus
Gallirex porphyreolophus
Pogoniulus bilineatus
Campethera abingoni
Smithornis capensis
Andropadus flaviventris
Platysteira peltata
Telophorus quadricolor
Estrilda perreini

Yet species of the tropical forest element form the largest and most important section of the Pondoland forest avifauna. The following list is almost certainly incomplete and further studies will clearly necessitate several adjustments:

Sarothrura elegans
Columba delegorguei
Streptopelia semitorquata
Camaroptera brachyura
Campephaga sulphurata
Coracina cæsia

Treron delalandii
Bycanistes bucinator
Ciccaba woodfordii
Apaloderma narina
Lybius torquatus
Pogoniulus pusillus
Indicator variegatus
Dendropicos fuscescens
Phyllastrephus terrestris
Andropadus importunus
Muscicapa adusta
Muscicapa cinerea
Trochocercus cyanomelas
Turdus fischeri
Cossypha natalensis
Laniarius ferrugineus
Dryoscopus cubla
Malaconotus olivaceus
Malaconotus poliocephalus
Oriolus larvatus
Lamprotornis corruscus
Zosterops virens
Nectarinia veroxii
Nectarinia olivacea
Anthreptes collaris
Ploceus bicolor
Lonchura bicolor
Hypargos nitidulus

I have not included forest-dwelling diurnal birds of prey, such as *Polemaëtus coronatus* (Linnæus) and *Lophaëtus occipitalis* (Daudin), or migratory species, such as cuckoos, which are all wide-ranging continental species and of small importance to present considerations. The above-listed species form a less homogeneous assemblage than those of the temperate evergreen forest forms reviewed earlier in this discussion. Many of the species just listed are wide-ranging and have spread into forested biotopes at all elevations from sea-level to 6,000 ft. and above; others again are restricted entirely to the littoral forests of south-eastern Africa. Furthermore, many of them occur widely in country which is not forested in the normal sense of the term, but by their adaptability have been able to utilize areas with limited cover, while others again are only to be found in suitable areas of standing forest.

In many species of the tropical forest element polytypic variation is well-marked within the bounds of the South African sub-continent. Study of such variation is important, not only in the case of the species at present under examination, but also in respect of those belonging to the temperate evergreen forest element of the avifauna. It has been observed that in practically all cases the geographical race found in the coastal Pondoland forests is that found in coastal and southern Natal, and in most instances for some very considerable distance to the south of Pondoland in the eastern Cape Province. There are relatively few races confined to Pondoland and immediately adjacent areas, and only one which is restricted entirely to the area. The indigenous races, *Laniarius ferrugineus pondoensis* Roberts and *Apalis thoracica venusta* Gunning and Roberts, are shared with the contiguous districts of southern and coastal Natal, while the endemic race of Olive Sunbird, *Nectarinia olivacea daviesi*

(Haagner), seems to be restricted in its entire distribution to coastal Pondoland. Other races which have been described from Pondoland are now known to have quite extensive ranges in south-eastern Africa, but as these are either of grassland or savanna-haunting bird species they scarcely enter into present considerations.

At this juncture, it may be noticed that only three species of forest-dwelling birds are restricted entirely to the forests of the southern and eastern Cape Province and Natal and Zululand, namely: *Campethera notata* (Lichtenstein), the Knysna Woodpecker, *Erythropygia signata* (Sundevall), the Brown Robin, and *Bradypterus sylvaticus* Sundevall, the Knysna Scrub Warbler.

C. notata is little more than a well-marked race of *C. abingoni* (Smith), a species with a vast continental range in many races, some of which are, like *C. notata*, also heavily spotted and blotched ventrally. Whether nature is accurately reflected in keeping *C. notata* and *C. abingoni* as separate species is open to question, because there is no evidence to support the contention that they do in fact occur sympatrically anywhere in the southern parts of Natal, and certainly in the Pondoland forests *C. abingoni* is quite absent. At the same time no intermediate or intergrading populations between the two woodpeckers are known.

E. signata is a sombre robin of the forests, which ranges in two geographical races from the eastern Cape Province north to northern Zululand. Often placed in a separate genus, *Tychaedon* Richmond, *E. signata* is without close allies.

B. sylvaticus and its sibling, *B. barratti* Sharpe, occur throughout the forested area of Pondoland virtually side by side, *B. sylvaticus* inhabiting the forest interior and *B. barratti* the forest's edge and the clearings. While *B. barratti* ranges as far north as Inyangâ, Southern Rhodesia, *B. sylvaticus* is restricted to the forested coastal areas of the southern and eastern Cape Province and southern Natal.

We have already dealt with the major constituent parts of the forest avifauna of Pondoland. The spread of thornbush into forest land cleared by natives and as a natural periphery to the forest blocks has permitted the entry into the forest areas of Pondoland numerous intrusive elements of grassland and thorn-forest species. Many species belonging to such elements occasionally enter the forest proper, though in the strict sense of the term they are not forest birds. These species, too, are almost entirely tropical ones

which have spread south with the creation of suitable environments. Some of the species which can be placed in this category are as follows:

Halcyon albiventris
Colius striatus
Indicator minor
Prodotiscus regulus
Pycnonotus barbatus
Batis molitor
Tchitrea viridis
Dicrurus adsimilis
Tchagra tchagra
Tchagra senegala
Malaconotus sulphureopectus
Parus niger
Lamprotornis nitens
Ploceus ocularius
Amblyospiza albifrons (seasonal)
Lonchura cucullata
Lagonosticta rubricata
Estrilda melanotis
Petronia superciliaris
Serinus mozambicus
Serinus sulphuratus

As stated in my introductory remarks, this is no place—and perhaps the time is still not opportune—for a comprehensive study of the complex zoogeographical history of the Pondoland forest avifauna. To summarize the various points which I have touched on during the course of the present discussion. It has been shown that several species restricted in their choice of habitat to the larger pristine forests in the southern extremities of the South African sub-continent, such as in the temperate evergreen forests at Knysna, cease or virtually cease to be found at sea-level north of Pondoland, and in their northward distribution climb to higher altitudes in the extreme north-eastern limits of the Cape Province and in Natal. Such deviations in the distributions of the forest-dwelling birds concerned (see list on p. 190) parallel closely the disposition of the temperate evergreen forests in the eastern Cape and Natal. Most of the species concerned in this inland retreat to higher elevations in the area of the south-eastern Africa range far north in eastern and central Africa, always at high altitudes, and these northern populations are entirely montane forest-dwelling. By the very nature of their circumscribed habitats, *i.e.*, in suitable forests on high mountains, the ranges of many of the species included in the present discussion are highly discontinuous and polytypic variation well developed. An hypothesis is advanced to account for the ranges of the listed birds, but it is also shown that not only forest-dwelling species range northwards from southern Africa in a chain of isolated populations on montane islands but that several species inhabiting open and frequently exposed habitats are likewise so distributed. In the latter species botanical and terrain preferences are obvious in certain instances, but in other cases the bases ior the present-day distributions are obscure. Several of the species in this latter category do not range beyond the bounds of the South African sub-continent.

The tropical forest element is revealed as constituting the most important integral part of the Pondoland forest avifauna. Consideration is given to the varying success which has attended the southward penetration of the various tropical species, several of which, while well-known in coastal Natal, are shown not to occur immediately to the south in Pondoland while others range to the utmost extremities of the continent.

The forests of coastal Pondoland support relatively few endemic geographical races of birds, only one, *Nectarinia olivaceadaviesi*, a race of sunbird, is known only from Pondoland, while two other local forms, the race of *Laniarius ferrugineus* and that of *Apalis thoracica*, are shared with the southern parts of Natal. The races of the majority of birds are the same as those occurring in Natal and adjacent regions.

Only three forest-dwelling species of birds are known to be entirely restricted to forested parts of the Cape Province, Natal and Zululand, these being the Woodpecker *Campethera notata*, the Robin *Erythropygia signata*, and the Scrub-Warbler *Bradyterus sylvaticus*. The opinion is expressed that *C. notata* is little more than a well-marked primitive race of the wide-ranging *C. abingoni*. *E. signata* is a species with no close affinities, being frequently assigned to the monotypic Genus *Tychaëdon* Richmond, while *B. sylvaticus* is a restricted sibling species of the more widely distributed *B. barratti*. These three species are relatively common and may have their centres of abundance in the Pondoland coastal forests.

In conclusion, it is evident from these preliminary studies that the forest avifauna of Pondoland, while of the greatest possible interest, is no separate unit and is best linked with that of Natal in any future faunistic considerations.

Systematic List

Buteo buteo oreophilus Hartert and Neumann, 1914: Koritscha, near Abera, Djamdjam, southern Abyssinia.

This resident African race of the Old World *Buteo buteo* (Linnæus) seems not to have been recorded before from Pondoland, though it has been noted from further south in the Cape Province, at Knysna and Grahamstown (Roberts, 1940, p. 61), and more recently from Natal by Clancey (1951, p. 139). While collecting from a boat on the Mntamfu River during the afternoon of 21st August, I had a a fine adult of this species under observation for at least five minutes as it wheeled in characteristic fashion about a hundred yards from the bank of the river. Its small size in comparison with the Palæarctic

races and its lightly marked ventral surfaces could be clearly discerned without the aid of glasses in excellent light. It ultimately disappeared into the forest and was not seen again.

B. b. oreophilus appears to be decidedly rare throughout most of its range in the eastern and southern portions of the African continent.

Treron delalandii delalandii (Bonaparte), 1854: Durban, Natal.

Common throughout the forests of Pondoland. A series obtained (2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀) agrees perfectly with topotypes from Natal.

Vincent (1952, p. 37) and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1952, p. 491) extend the range of the nominate race far to the north in eastern Africa, rejecting the race described from the lowlands of Portuguese East Africa by Gunning and Roberts, namely, *T. d. orientalis*, 1911, the *Type* from Vila Pereira, Boror, northern Portuguese East Africa, although the race is recognised by Sclater (1924-1930, p. 176 and p. 848), Peters (1937, p. 22), and Roberts (1940, p. 132). Examination of the ample series now available from Natal and the eastern Cape Province (Pondoland), and from the eastern Transvaal, southern Portuguese East Africa and northern Zululand reveals slight but marked differences between the two groups of populations. Viewed in series specimens of *T. d. orientalis* are found to be rather more yellowish on the mantles and are rather darker, more greyish, olivaceous on the crowns, but the most important taxonomic character would appear to be the colouration of the tails. The pallid terminal bands to the rectrices of *T. d. orientalis* are significantly lighter and whiter than in Natal and Pondoland examples of *T. d. delalandii*. Ventrally there is little palpable difference between the races, but specimens of *T. d. orientalis* are a trifle lighter, though there is much individual variation in this respect, while the yellow on the abdomen, and of the tarsal and tibial feathering is rather more intense than is normally so in *T. d. delalandii*. The difference in size claimed by Roberts, *loc. cit.*, is scarcely evident in my material—wings of *T. d. delalandii* 168—182 (175.1), as against 169—175 (172.0) mm. in *T. d. orientalis*.

It is concluded that *T. d. orientalis* (Gunning and Roberts), 1911, is a valid but only slightly differentiated race, *T. d. delalandii* being confined to the eastern parts of the Cape Province, Natal and southern Zululand, mainly in the coastal regions. I have already (1952 (*a*), p. 237) shown that the northern Zululand populations are fluid and intermediate between the two races of this Green Pigeon

here discussed. *T. d. orientalis* ranges in the South African subcontinent from the eastern and northern Transvaal (?and eastern Bechuanaland), eastern Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa north to the Zambesi River, and extra-limitally to extreme south-eastern Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and northern Portuguese East Africa. It is replaced to the north of its range in the east by *T. d. granti* (van Someren), a race the validity of which still seems to be in some doubt.

Alcedo semitorquata semitorquata Swainson, 1823: Great Fish River, eastern Cape Province.

The wing-measurements of four specimens collected at Embotyi and on the Mntafufu River are as follows: ♂ 84, ♀♀ 86, 85, 82.5 mm.

Colius striatus striatus Gmelin, 1789: Cape of Good Hope.

Colius striatus minor Cabanis, 1876: Natal.

Unfortunately we did not collect a large series of this common species, but on the basis of four specimens it would appear that the populations of coastal Pondoland are intergrades between *C. s. striatus* and *C. s. minor*. Two from Mzamba (♂, ♀) are *C. s. minor*, one from Embotyi (♀) is fairly typical of *C. s. striatus*, while another (♀) from the Mntafufu River is intermediate, the general colouration being as in *C. s. minor*, but the throat is like the norm of *C. s. striatus*.

C. s. minor differs from the nominate race in being slightly darker and richer in general plumage colouration and in having more black on the throat. Despite the name, the size difference is relatively small: wings of 5 ♂♂♀♀ *C. s. striatus* 91.5—97 (94.9), 10 ♂♂♀♀ *C. s. minor* 86.5—97 (90.7) mm. The wing-measurements of our Pondoland specimens are as follows: 95, 95, 93, 90 (mean 93.2) mm.

Natal is given as the southern limit of the range of *C. s. minor* by all authors.

Prodotiscus regulus adustoides Clancey, 1952: Ashburton, near Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

This small honeyguide is not listed by Winterbottom and Hare in their 1947 list. We obtained a specimen in thorns at Embotyi, and reference to Davies' paper (1907, p. 193) shows that he observed and collected specimens of it at Flagstaff and Bizana. It is quite well-known from further south, especially in the Albany district of the Cape, so that it obviously occurs throughout Pondoland in small numbers.

Friedmann (1954, p. 23) has questioned the validity of this austral race of *P. regulus* on the grounds that the characters given in the original description seem slight and possibly the outcome of comparing fresh material with that affected by post-mortem cabinet colour change. Through the kindness of Mr. R. H. N. Smithers, Director of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, I have been able to study afresh our recent Natal and eastern Cape Province material, comparing the specimens with examples of similar date and age from western Southern Rhodesia. Viewed in series it is quite evident that *P. r. adustoides* is darker on the dorsal surfaces, particularly on the head-top, and on the under-parts the throat and breast are more dusky and the flanks are darker. The differences appear to be of sufficient constancy and prominence as to warrant the recognition of *P. r. adustoides* as a valid race confined to the eastern Cape Province, Natal, Zululand and extreme southern Portuguese East Africa. The paler nominate race, *P. r. regulus* Sundevall, 1850, which was described originally from specimens collected by Wahlberg at Mohapoani, in the western Transvaal, has a wide range throughout much of the continent, mainly in the east. Other races of the species have been proposed from Abyssinia and the Cameroons, but no finality as to their validity or otherwise has yet been reached by specialists.

Dendropicos fuscescens fuscescens (Vieillot), 1818: Forests of Cape Colony, South Africa.

Dendropicos fuscescens intermedius Roberts, 1924: Weenen, Natal, South Africa.

We did not find the Cardinal Woodpecker particularly numerous and only succeeded in obtaining three specimens, all of which were taken at Embotyi. These reveal that the population of Pondoland is intermediate between the nominate race of the south, characterized by the densely striated ventral surface and heavily barred upper-parts, and the Natal race which is rather more finely striated below and striped above and is rather more richly coloured. One ♀ adult taken on 14th August is like *D. f. fuscescens* below but resembles the Natal race on the upper-parts, while in another female taken on 11th August the characters are reversed. The single ♂ (13th August) is well matched by material of the nominate race from different localities in the eastern Cape Province. The wing-measurements of the three specimens are: ♂ 92.5, ♀♀ 91, 92 mm. Natal birds range rather larger, *e.g.* 92-96 mm. in a series, as are the specimens of the Durban Museum series of Cape Province *D. f. fuscescens*, which have wings measuring: ♂♂ 92.5, 93, 97, ♀ 96 mm.

Anthus lineiventris stygium Clancey, 1952: Umgeni River valley, near Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

An adult ♂ of this pipit was obtained at Embotyi on 10th August. I have compared it critically against paratypical and topotypical material of this recently described race (Clancey, 1952 (*b*), p. 18), with which it agrees perfectly. *A. l. stygium* differs from the nominate race, described by Sundevall in 1850 from the western Transvaal (type-locality: Mohapoani, Witfontein Mountains, western Transvaal), in being darker on the upper-parts, wings and tail, and in being much whiter ventrally, less suffused with buff, while the breast and flank striæ are darker.

The discovery of this pipit in Pondoland represents a noteworthy extension of range to the southward, and the race *A. l. stygium* is now known from Pondoland, Natal and Zululand. In the north of Zululand and in adjacent regions the populations are intermediate.

Macronyx croceus vulturnus Friedmann, 1930: coastal parts of Natal in the vicinity of Durban.

Judging from the literature there would appear to be some doubt as to the present status of this longclaw in Pondoland. Hare and Winterbottom (1947, p. 99) record that Shortridge obtained a specimen at Port St. Johns and called the species common in 1905, and that the species has not been observed since. Vincent (1952, p. 63) gives the southern limit of the range of *M. c. vulturnus* as Natal, as does Roberts (1940, p. 296), while Sclater (1924-1930, p. 348) describes it as "very rare in eastern Cape Province." In my paper on the South African races (1952 (*c*), p. 8) and also in 1952 (*a*), p. 263, I record *M. c. vulturnus* as occurring in "parts of the eastern Cape Province." Much of the literature cited above makes strange reading because we found this fine and conspicuous longclaw common in all districts of coastal Pondoland visited. In some parts it was remarkably numerous on cleared land on the outskirts of the forests, and on one occasion at Embotyi I flushed a party of nearly twenty individuals from an area of about a quarter of an acre. It is quite common in the Port St. Johns' district, and undoubtedly occurs in comparable numbers still further south in the forested coastal strip. Our observations confirm Shortridge's findings made over fifty years ago. Specimens collected by our party agree perfectly with Natal topotypes of the race. The bills of four adult ♂♂ from Pondoland localities measured 22, 22.5, 23+, 23.5; six adult ♂♂ topotypes: 21.5, 22, 22, 22, 23, 23 mm. *M. c. croceus* (Vieillot),

1816: Senegal, of the tropics of Africa, has the bill shorter than *M. c. vulturnus*, *i.e.*, 19—21.5 mm. in a long series from East Africa. The two races intergrade in extreme southern Portuguese East Africa and adjacent areas of northern Zululand, Swaziland, etc.

Pycnonotus barbatus near **layardi** Gurney, 1879: Rustenburg, western Transvaal.

This species is in need of revision, especially in the southern parts of its African range.

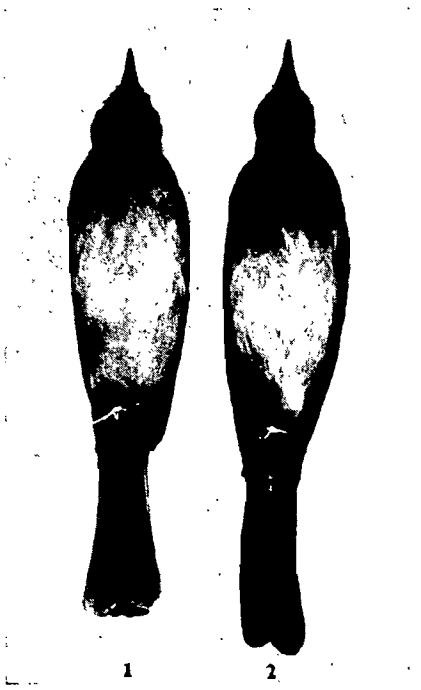
Study of the ample material brought back from Pondoland and of other series reveals that the populations of the area and of Natal are rather darker and richer dorsally and the yellow of the under tail-coverts is less intense than in material from the dry western districts of the Transvaal (topotypical *P. b. layardi*). These austral populations of *P. barbatus* almost certainly represent an undescribed race, but as the differences are somewhat subtle it would seem desirable to defer appending a name to it until such time as the southern races of this bulbul are revised with adequate series from all parts of its range in the South African sub-continent. This would seem particularly desirable on account of the fact that it has recently been discovered that the populations of the Drakensberg Mountains on the East Griqualand-Basutoland border and adjacent high areas are intensely dark on the upper-parts, the rump being particularly dark, and the throat and breast are more sooty black that in coastal Pondoland and Natal birds, of which a large series is available. It is considered that these dark birds represent an additional endemic Basutoland race which has as yet not been named. During recent years, work by Roberts and Vincent has shown that the great massif of Basutoland supports a number of distinctive races of birds, which are generally much darker and in some cases larger than the populations of the surrounding and lower regions. *Calendula magnirostris montivaga* Vincent, *Anthus richardi editus* Vincent, *Parisoma layardi barnesi* Vincent, *Serinus flaviventris guillarmodi* (Roberts), *Serinus tottus symonsi* (Roberts), etc., are among the several well-marked races of the Basutoland highland avifauna described by workers. The characters shown by the high altitude populations of *P. barbatus* here discussed are of such prominence as to justify the description of these populations as a new race in advance of any revision.

Pycnonotus barbatus tenebrior, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Moulting. Mt. Currie, near Kokstad, eastern Cape Province, South Africa, at 5,500′ a.s.l. 14th April, 1955.

Collected by P. A. Clancey. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Diagnosis: Most closely allied to *P. b. layardi* Gurney, 1879: Rustenburg, western Transvaal, from which it differs in being much darker on the dorsal surfaces, markedly so on the rump. On the under-parts the throat and breast are considerably darker than in *P. b. layardi*, as also are the flanks, wings and tail; under tail-coverts less deep, rich yellow.



Pycnonotus barbatus (Desfontaine)
1. *Pycnonotus barbatus layardi* Gurney: ♀ ad. Eastern Transvaal.
2. *Pycnonotus barbatus tenebrior* Clancey: *Type*. ♂ ad. Mt. Currie, Kokstad, Eastern Cape Province.

Note the darker throat, pectoral surface and flanks in *P.b. tenebrior*.

Measurements of Type: Wing (flattened) 101, culmen from base 21, tarsus 25.5, tail 92 mm.

Range: Imperfectly known, but almost certainly found wherever suitable cover occurs at high altitudes in the Drakensberg Range in southern Basutoland and in adjacent highland areas of the eastern Cape Province and Natal.

Note: Such meagre cover now exists for birds throughout the greater part of the Basutoland highlands that the total population of *P. barbatus* occurring in the territory must be small indeed and almost entirely confined to the southern escarpment, where a certain amount of scrub is still to be found. In the neighbouring highland areas of the eastern Cape and Natal it is, of course, a common species.

Muscicapa cinerea cærulescens (Hartlaub) 1865: Natal—here restricted to Durban, Natal.

In view of the fact that the Pondoland populations of this forest-haunting flycatcher have been separated from those of Natal under the name *Alseonax cærulescens pondoensis* Gunning and Roberts, 1911: Port St. Johns, every effort was made to obtain specimens. Strangely enough, Winterbottom and Hare (1947, p. 98) never identified this species in the Port St. Johns district, but specimens from there collected by Swinny were used by Gunning and Roberts in their systematic work. We found it to be quite common at Port St. Johns on the outskirts of high forest. It was a very active little bird, particularly at dusk, and we had no difficulty in obtaining material.

Specimens collected by us at Port St. Johns and the paratypical material in the Transvaal Museum are not in any way different to a series of *M. c. cærulescens* from Durban, near Pietermaritzburg and Stanger in the collections of the Durban and Natal Museums, and recent workers are correct in synonymizing *M. c. pondoensis* with *M. c. cærulescens*. The dark southern race of this flycatcher, *M. c. cærulescens*, has a limited range, namely, the coastal forests of Pondoland, Natal (also some interior districts), and southern Zululand. In northern Zululand rather lighter coloured birds are to be found in association with drier conditions, and similar populations are to be found in the south of southern Portuguese East Africa, Swaziland, and the eastern Transvaal. Such populations appear to represent a fairly well-defined intermediate race between the dark southern *M. c. cærulescens* and the much more pallid *M. c. cinereola* Finsch and Hartlaub, described from near Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, which replaces it immediately to the northward. Similar views, which have already been expressed in my paper on the birds of the Lebombo Mountains and Tongaland (1952 (*a*), pp. 256-257), also apply.

It is interesting to note that *M. c. cærulescens* inhabits an area of relatively high rainfall and humidity, dwelling in moist untouched

forest with matted tree-growth, whereas the innominate form from northern Zululand, Swaziland, etc., and *M. c. cinereola* are mainly inhabitants of dry open forest and orchard bush in regions with a significantly lighter rainfall and reduced humidity.

Batis molitor molitor (Hahn and Küster), 1850: Eastern Cape Province.

Batis molitor palliditergum Clancey, 1955: Sand River, east of Newington, eastern Transvaal.

As noted in the original description of *B. m. palliditergum* (Clancey, 1955 (1)) the population of this Flycatcher from Pondoland is actually intermediate between the new race and *B. m. molitor* (Hahn and Küster), of the Cape districts on the eastern periphery of the Karroo. Of three specimens collected in thornscrub on the outskirts of the forest at Embotyi, a male agrees well with nominate *B. molitor* in the large amount of black on the scapulars, but two females from the same locality are like *B. m. palliditergum* in all respects. The population of Pondoland would, therefore, appear to be unstable.

Turdus fischeri natalicus Grote, 1938: Durban, Natal.

Careful work in the forests at Embotyi failed to reveal this rather elusive forest-haunting thrush, but on the forested banks of the Mntafufu River it was seen twice, and towards the end of the month we found it to be not uncommon in the Port St. Johns district. There would seem to be no justification for the assumption that the status of this species is seriously threatened at the present time.

This rare thrush breeds later in the year than the very common *Turdus olivaceus pondoensis* Reichenow, judging by the literature, observations in the field and the gonads of specimens, and is now believed to have a post-breeding dispersal movement in which it ranges north to Natal and Zululand. It has never been recorded as breeding in the coastal scrub forests of Natal, though well-known from the Durban district since early colonial times.

Cossypha natalensis natalensis Smith, 1840: near Port Natal, *i.e.*, Durban, Natal.

Sclater (1924-1930, p. 474), Roberts (1940, p. 241), Vincent (1952, p. 74) and Clancey (1952 (*d*), p. 16), among recent authors, give Natal as the limit of range in the south of the Natal Robin, but this

should be extended somewhat to include at least northern Pondoland. We encountered this species commonly in the matted coastal scrub near Mzamba, and reference to Davies' paper (1907, p. 88) shows that he obtained a single adult ♂, presumably in an area close to that which we worked. We obtained two adult specimens, and noted that while the species kept to the densest cover and was largely silent during the day, they were much in evidence in the early evening, darting out of cover to feed on small terrestrial creatures.

Miss M. Courtney-Latimer, Director of the East London Museum, informs me that this species has been obtained as far south as East London.

Seicercus ruficapillus ruficapillus (Sundevall), 1850: Durban, Natal.

According to Winterbottom and Hare (1947, p. 98) this species has only once been recorded since Shortridge collected at Port St. Johns in the early years of the present century. We found it not uncommon throughout the forested area, obtaining specimens at Embotyi, Mntafufu River, and at Port St. Johns.

Pondoland specimens are referable to the nominate subspecies, described from Durban, Natal, and not to the southern Cape race, *S. r. voelckeri* Roberts.

Bradypterus barratti godfreyi (Roberts), 1922: Pirie, Albany district, eastern Cape Province.

This species is not mentioned by Winterbottom and Hare (1947) in their list, but it is obviously quite common and widely distributed throughout the forested region of Pondoland. We obtained specimens at Mzamba, Embotyi, and at Port St. Johns, and examination of this new material in conjunction with all that already available in southern African collections reveals that the populations of the eastern Cape Province, and of most of Natal and Zululand are referable to only one race, the earliest name for which is *B. b. godfreyi* (Roberts), 1922, *B. b. wilsoni* Roberts, 1933: Kloof, Natal, and *B. b. cathkinensis* Vincent, 1948: Giant's Castle Game Reserve, Natal, being synonyms (*vide* Clancey, 1955 (2)). This species inhabits dense tangles of undergrowth on the edges of the forest blocks and in clearings in the forest, and in chosen places it is quite common, though at all times difficult to observe and obtain.

Bradypterus sylvaticus pondoensis Haagner, 1909: Port St. Johns, Pondoland, eastern Cape Province.

Unlike the closely allied *B. barratti*—*B. barratti* and *B. sylvaticus* are so similar in plumage and habits and in places occur virtually side by side that they can be considered to be sibling species—this species is found only in the depths of the forest and is obviously not common. We found it in the forests on the banks of the Mntafufu River, where it was located creeping about in gloomy masses of forest debris. It cannot be satisfactorily distinguished in the field from *B. barratti*.

B. s. pondoensis appears to be a valid race, differing from the nominate form of Knysna in being rather darker dorsally, and in having the breast more dusky and the ventral spotting restricted to the lower throat. It ranges from the forests of coastal Pondoland northwards to about Durban, Natal (*vide* Clancey, 1955 (3)).

Apalis caniceps florisuga (Reichenow) 1898: Eastern Cape Province.

Not identified by Winterbottom and Hare (1947, p. 97), but collected earlier by Shortridge and Swinny. We found this species in high trees in the forests on the banks of the Mntafufu River, a single specimen being obtained.

Schoenicola brevirostris brevirostris (Sundevall), 1850: Umlazi River, near Durban, Natal.

A species not mentioned by Winterbottom and Hare (1947), but there are specimens from coastal Pondoland in the Transvaal Museum collected by Swinny, and we observed it frequently and collected specimens at Mzamba. Davies (1907, p. 186) records it from Flagstaff, Lusikisiki and Bizana. Obviously widespread in suitable localities throughout Pondoland.

Cisticola juncidis terrestris (A. Smith), 1842: between Latakoo and Kurrichane, Bechuanaland.

Cisticola ayresii ayresii Hartlaub, 1863: Natal.

Cisticola brunnescens egregia Roberts, 1913: Wakkerstroom, south-eastern Transvaal.

Little definite seems to be on record as to the species of Cloud or Fantailed Cisticolas occurring in Pondoland. Winterbottom and

Hare (1947, p. 97) mention only *C. j. terrestris*, which is stated not to have been recorded since Shortridge's day. Davies (1907) likewise only mentions *C. j. terrestris*.

We paid particular attention to all species of the Genus, obtaining material of the three Cloud *Cisticola* species, *C. j. terrestris*, *C. a. ayresii* and *C. b. egregia*.

A series of 1 ♂ and 5 ♀♀ of *C. j. terrestris* was obtained at Emboyti. *C. a. ayresii* was taken on the rolling grasslands at Mzamba, 2 ♂♂ being obtained. At this same locality a ♂ and ♀ of *C. b. egregia* in winter dress were obtained on 1st and 4th August. This appears to be the first occasion that this latter species has been taken in the Cape Province, though it is known from adjacent Natal, and Sclater (1924-1930, p. 550), who gives its range as the Transvaal and Natal, suggests that it may also occur in the eastern Cape Province. The wing- and tail-measurements of the specimens are: ♂ 52+, 36; ♀ 49, 39 mm. The first primaries measure 12 and 14 mm.

Dryoscopus cubla cubla (Shaw), 1809: Knysna, southern Cape Province.

Examination of a series of specimens obtained in Pondoland revealed the constant nature of the distinctive iris-colouration of the southern and nominate race of this shrike. In this race the iris-colouration of the adult male is bright orange-yellow, that of the female dull yellow, while the sub-adult has the iris umber. In the race occurring in south-eastern Africa from northern Zululand northwards, namely, *D. c. chapini* Clancey, 1954: Newington, eastern Transvaal, the iris colouration is quite different, being a brilliant scarlet in the adult male, and deep reddish brown in the female. *D. c. chapini*, *D. c. okavangensis* Roberts and *D. c. hamatus* Hartlaub all have the iris brilliant scarlet in the adult male.

Lamprotornis nitens culminator (Clancey and Holliday), 1951: Addo Bush, Port Elizabeth, eastern Cape Province.

A series obtained, mainly at Embotyi, are of this large race. The wing-measurements are ♂♂ 140-145; ♀♀ 132-137 mm. In coastal Natal occurs the smaller *L. n. phœnicopterus* (Swainson), wings ♂♂ 127-134, ♀ 125 mm. in six specimens from the Durban district. Vincent (1952, p. 97) resurrects *Lamprocolius decoratus* Hartlaub, 1862: no locality, for the large race of *L. nitens* described as *L. n. culminator* by Clancey and Holliday (1951). As I have already shown (1952 (*e*), pp. 55-56) this action was not justified because

Hartlaub gives no provenience for his material, simply stating that his specimens were from Layard. Both the measurements given by Hartlaub and subsequently by Layard (1867, p. 171) show that it was not the large eastern Cape bird which Hartlaub described, but almost certainly small specimens of the race *L. n. phœnicopterus*. Moreover, Layard records that all his specimens of *L. decoratus* came from Natal!

Zosterops virens virens Sundevall, 1850: Durban, Natal.

Zosterops pallidus atmorii Sharpe, 1877: Grahamstown, eastern Cape Province.

Z. v. virens is the predominant form of *Zosterops* in coastal Pondoland, but we obtained examples of *Z. p. atmorii* from large mixed flocks at Second Beach, Port St. Johns, on 25th August, and at Mzamba on 1st August. Winterbottom and Hare (1947, p. 101), following Roberts, place a specimen collected at Port St. Johns by Swinny in December, 1912 (Transvaal Museum collection) as *Z. p. basuticus* Roberts, 1936: Mamathes, Basutoland. The wing-measurements of two specimens collected by our party are 61.5 and 62.5 mm., and on size and colour characters they are inseparable from near topotypes of *Z. p. atmorii* at my disposal. It is doubtful if *Z. p. basuticus* can really be maintained, because of the large overlap in wing-measurements now known to occur between it and *Z. p. atmorii*. It would appear to be little else than a trend towards increased size closely associated with altitude in certain interior populations of *Z. p. atmorii* and not to be a definite geographical entity with a definable range.

Recent work tends to support the view that *Z. pallidus* and its races and *Z. virens* are conspecific. A small series of *Z. virens* collected recently on Mt. Currie, Kokstad district, eastern Cape, resemble *Z. p. atmorii* in the colouration of the upper-parts. The Mt. Currie birds seem to represent an intermediate population (*Z. p. atmorii* $\gtrless$ *Z. v. virens*).

Nectarinia olivacea daviesi (Haagner), 1907: Port St. Johns, Pondoland, eastern Cape Province.

This appears to be the only avian subspecies restricted entirely to coastal Pondoland, and in order to test its validity we collected a good series. The bill-measurements (from skull) of our adult specimens are as follows: ♂♂ 29.5, 29.5, 30, 30, 30, 31, 31, 31.5, 32 mm. The adults of the series all show the distinctive rich

admixture of orange to the yellow pectoral tufts, and I also find that *N. o. daviesi* is generally a little darker dorsally, especially on the head-top, than specimens of the nominate race of Natal, which would appear to be actually an intermediate form between *N. o. daviesi* and *N. o. olivacina* Peters, 1881, described from Inhambane.

In my note (1952 (*f*)) on the rather vexed question of the validity of *N. o. daviesi*, I showed that it was a well-marked race differing from *N. o. olivacea* (Smith), 1840: Durban, Natal, in the rather longer bill, and the rich orange admixture to the yellow pectoral tufts, which in nominate *N. olivacea* are a clearer yellow. In amplification of these remarks, I now find that *N. o. daviesi* is indeed rather darker above and on the head-top than is usually so in *N. o. olivacea*. A coloured plate of *C. o. daviesi* and some useful notes on the race are given by Haagner (1908).

Hypargos nitidulus nitidulus (Hartlaub), 1865: Natal.

All authors give the southern limit of the range of this species as Natal (*vide* Sclater, 1924-1930, p. 785; Roberts, 1940, p. 354; Vincent, 1952, p. 110, etc.), but this must now be adjusted to include at least coastal Pondoland.

We encountered this species on three occasions: at Mzamba in riverain cover, in a similar situation at Embotyi, and also on the Mntafufu River. I am informed by Mr. T. B. Oatley that he observed this species near Port St. Johns during the month of December, 1953. This is a notable extension of the known range of this species, and it is interesting to reflect that previous collectors and observers failed to record its presence in Pondoland. In my Natal and Zululand List (1953, p. 53) I stated that the species was to be found in "the coastal forest belt of Natal and Zululand," but it is now known to occur sparingly far inland at considerable elevations, having recently been observed near Karkloof, c. 4,500′ a.s.l., and near Harburg, c. 3,500′ a.s.l. in Natal, by Mr. Oatley (*vide, Natal Bird Club News Sheet*, No. 30, September, 1954).

Serinus gularis endemion (Clancey), 1952: Town Bush, near Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

Specimens from coastal Pondoland agree perfectly with topotypical material of this recently described race, as do specimens from East Griqualand (Matatiele and Kokstad districts). This rather pale race of *S. gularis* (Smith), which was formerly believed to be restricted to Natal, is now known to range south to Pondoland

and the Transkeian territories of the eastern Cape, south of which it merges into *S. g. humilis* (Bonaparte), 1850: Eastern Cape Province, which has the under-parts strongly washed with buffy, and the upper-parts more strongly olivaceous tinged, less grey, and the rump more buff-coloured. *S. g. humilis* ranges throughout the southern parts of the Cape Province and into the eastern districts. Both *S. g. humilis* and *S. g. endemion* are similar in size, but the nominate race of the drier interior of southern Africa is larger and rather lighter in colouration than *S. g. endemion.* The precise ranges of the three, or possibly four, South African races of this seedeater are still by no means clear, owing to an insufficiency of material from vast stretches of country in the sub-continent.

LIST OF LITERATURE CITED

Calder, D. R. ... ... 1945: "A Visit to Port St. Johns," *Ostrich*, vol. XVI, 1, pp. 18-31.

Clancey, P. A. ... ... 1951: "Notes on Birds of the South African Subcontinent," *Annals of the Natal Museum*, vol. XII, 1, pp. 137-152.

(*a*) 1952: "A Systematic Account of the Birds Collected on the Natal Museum Expedition to the Lebombo Mountains and Tongaland, July, 1951," *Annals of the Natal Museum*, vol. XII, 2, pp. 227-274.

(*b*) 1952: "Three New Races of South African Birds," *Bonner Zoologische Beiträge*, Heft 1-2, 3, pp. 17-22.

(*c*) 1952: "Taxonomic Studies of South African Birds," *Journal of the Scientific Society of the University of Natal*, vol. VIII, pp. 3-8.

(*d*) 1952: "Miscellaneous Taxonomic Notes on African Birds," *Durban Museum Novitates*, vol. IV, 1, pp. 1-19.

(*e*) 1952: "Miscellaneous Taxonomic Notes on African Birds, II," *Durban Museum Novitates*, vol. IV, III, pp. 31-56.

(*f*) 1952: "On the Validity of *Cyanomitra olivacea daviesi* (Haagner), 1907, Pondoland," *Ostrich*, vol. XXIII, 2, pp. 133-134.

1953: "*A Preliminary List of the Birds of Natal and Zululand*," p. 55.

1955: "The Description of a New Race of White-flanked Batis *Batis, molitor* (Hahn and Küster) from South-Eastern Africa," *Ostrich*, vol. XXVI, 1, pp. 28-31

2. 1955: "A Review of the Races of Barratt's Scrub Warbler *Bradypterus barratti* Sharpe of South Africa," *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, vol. 75, 4, pp. 38-44.

3. 1955: "Comments on Geographical Variation in the Knysna Scrub-Warbler *Bradypterus sylvaticus* Sundevall of South Africa," *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, vol. 75, 3, pp. 26-28.

Clancey, P. A. and Holliday, C. S. — 1951: "A Systematic Revision of the Races of *Lamprocolius nitens* (Linnaeus) Endemic to the South African Subcontinent," *Ostrich*, vol. XXII, 2, pp. 111-116.

Davies, C. J. ... ... — 1907: "Notes on Birds Observed and Collected in the Districts of Port St. Johns, Lusikisiki, Flagstaff and Bizana, Pondoland, during the years 1904 to 1906 and the Beginning of 1907," *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union*, vol. III, 2, pp. 180-206.

Evans, I. B. Pole- ... — 1936: *A Vegetational Map of South Africa.*"

Friedmann, H. ... ... — 1954: "A Revision of the Classification of the Honey Guides, Indicatoridae," *Annales du Musée du Congo Belge*, in 4°, Zoologie, 1, pp. 21-27.

Haagner, A. ... ... — 1908: "Further Notes on *Cinnyris olivaceus daviesi*," *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union*, vol. IV, 1, pp. 45-46.

Layard, E. L. ... ... — 1867: *Birds of South Africa*, Cape Town, p. 382.

Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. — 1952: *Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa*, London, vol. 1, p. 836.

Peters, J. L. ... ... — 1937: *Check-List of Birds of the World*, Cambridge (U.S.A.), vol. III, p. 311.

Roberts, A. ... ... — 1940: *Birds of South Africa*, Johannesburg, 1st Edition, p. 463.

Sclater, W. L. — 1924-1930: *Systema Avium Ethiopicarum*, London, Parts 1 and 2, p. 922.

Shortridge, G. C. and Sclater, W. L. — 1904: *Ibis*, pp. 173-208.

Vincent, J. ... ... — 1952: *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, Cape Town, p. 122.

Winterbottom, J. M. and Hare, H. L. — 1947: "On the Birds of Port St. Johns, Pondoland," *Ostrich*, vol. XVIII, 1, pp. 86-102.