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SOME CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE, NEW
RECORDS OF MIGRANTS AND NEW FORMS
OF S. AFRICAN BIRDS

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THE following necessary changes in nomenclature and additions to the list of S. African birds have come to light during the last year in the course of working upon the ornithological collection in the Transvaal Museum. A few changes become necessary upon comparison with W. L. Sclater's *Avium Systema Aethiopicarum*, first part, 1924; but in the main the difference lies in the arrangement of species in some bulky genera, and as the list is not yet complete, I am reserving comment until the work has been completed. In the meantime, I may mention that the following changes in my "Synoptic Check List" are necessary:

Eudypetes cristatus (Miller). Rock Hopper Penguin.

This bird sometimes strays to the south-western Atlantic coast of S. Africa, and it is therefore included by Sclater in his work of 1905 and again in his recent list.

Neonectris griseus: The subspecies occurring in S. African waters is **stricklandi** (Ridgway).

Calonectris kuhli: The subspecies occurring in S. African waters is **flavirostris** Gould.

According to Mathews and Iredale (*Man. B. Austr.* 1, pp. 33-36, 1921), though not according to Sclater, the genus **Pterodroma** contains **macroptera** and **mollis** and **Aestrelata** contains **incerta** and **lessoni**.

Pachyptila vittata: The S. African form is **salvini** Math.

Pelecanus onocrotalus (L.) has been recently procured on the coast of Zululand by Mr Harold Millar. In Sclater's list it is recorded as far south as Nyasaland.

Aerospiza tachiro: Sclater records the northern form **sparsimfasciata** Rchw. from within our limits.

The family **Gruidae** is now known as **Balearicidae**. The eggs and some external structural characters of **Balearica** are so different from those of true Cranes that I venture to predict they will some day be placed in separate families. **Gruidae** is, however, no longer tenable.

Charadrius hiaticula: Two subspecies are given in Sclater's list, namely, the typical form occurring on the west and **tundrae** (Lowe) on the east.

Phalaropus fulicarius (L.) was procured by our valued correspondent, Mr R. D. Bradfield, on the Amarambo River, S.W.A. Protectorate, on 27th March, 1924. At the time it was the first record from Africa known to me; but subsequently the appearance of Sclater's list showed that it had been recently procured on the coast of Cameroon, and that the Damaraland record therefore constituted the second one from the continent and the first from S. Africa.

Cursorius temmincki damarensis Rchw. is admitted in Sclater's list; but the difference is so slight and inconstant that one wonders why many other more easily recognized subspecies are ignored in the list.

Pelecanopus bengalensis par Mathews and Iredale, must replace the name of **Thalasseus bengalensis** of my list, according to the *Manual of Australian Birds*, Pt 1, of these authors; and **bergii** is also referable to **Pelecanopus**, while **Thalasseus sandvicensis** of my list is apparently referable to **Gygisterna**. **Hydroprogne tschegrava** reverts to the familiar name of **caspia**.

Vinago calva from Damaraland and Great Namaqualand has recently been named as a new subspecies, **vylderi** by Gyldenstolpe (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* XLIV, p. 36, 1924).

Cuculus poliocephalus: According to Sclater's list this now stands as a subspecies, **rochii** Hartlaub.

Crinifer is no longer used for our Grey Lourie, but **Corythaixoides** A. Smith. It is difficult to understand why this has been done and **leucogaster** retained in the same genus. **Corythaixoides**, **Crinifer** and **Gymnoschizorhis** are all similar in having the crest feathers shredded to the tips; but **Crinifer** differs in having the bill smaller; and **Gymnoschizorhis** has the bill as in **Crinifer**, but the face nude. "**Corythaixoides**" **leucogaster** (Rüppell) differs from all of them in having the tips of the crest feathers broad and only the base shredded, and the tail pattern is so distinct that it must be regarded as even more distinct from the species of the three existing genera than these three genera are from one another. I propose, therefore, to create a fourth genus:

CRINIFEROIDES gen. nov. genotype

Chizaerhis leucogaster Rüppell

Poicephalus meyeri: Sclater recognizes **meyeri damarensis** as well as **m. transvaalensis**, which I have not done; but as **damarensis** has priority over **transvaalensis**, the former name must replace the latter in my list.

Scotopelia peli: The subspecific name of **fischeri** Zedlitz must be added to the specific for the S. African form.

Colletoptera affinis: The subspecific name of **abessynicus** Streubel must be added to the specific for the southern form.

Eunisus of my list must be altered to **Nisastur** Hodgson, which is of earlier date, according to Sclater.

The following emendations are necessary in my "Synoptic Check List":

p. 90. In the "Key to the Families" alter "**Spheniscidae** (2)" to "(12)".

p. 91. At No. 18 reverse the two lines to read:

"Tarsus with a single plate anteriorly: **Oceanitidae**.

Tarsus with small scales anteriorly: **Hydrobatidae**."

p. 120. Alter the number "88" to "90", before **Dicruridae**.

p. 123. Alter the genotype of **Guttera**, i.e. "**cristata** Pallas", to "**pallasi** Stone", and delete "**cristata**" below.

p. 125. For genus 27 replace "**Fulica** L. (**atra** L.)" by "**LUPHA** Reichenbach (**cristata** Gmel.)". This is necessitated by the marked difference in the toes and claws and the nature of the casque in the two species.

p. 127. For the family "**Podicipedidae**" read "**Podicepidae**".

p. 127. As a synonym of genus 51. **Pachyptila**, place in brackets beneath the name "*Prion*".

p. 128. For the genotype of **Adamastor** read ("*cinereus* Gmel.*)" and likewise alter the specific name at No. 77.

p. 128. Atspecies No. 87 alter the name from "**capense**" to "**capensis**", a correction for which I am indebted to Mr Mathews, as also for the preceding one.

p. 129. Mr Mathews questions whether species No. 91 is correct, and states that he has discarded the generic name of **Thalassogeron** and placed the species under **Thalassarche**. He has recently changed the name of **Chlidonias leucoparsia delalandei** Mathews to **sclateri**, on the grounds that the former name was invalidated by its usage as a nomen nudum by Bonaparte; but, personally, I cannot see the advisability of this course, which will involve an enormous number of changes. I reason that if it is a nomen nudum it has no standing and cannot therefore invalidate the same name subsequently applied. I have to thank Mr Mathews for a few more of the emendations hereafter indicated, which he has been kind enough to point out.

p. 129. For "Black-headed Gull" read "Black-backed Gull".

p. 130. For species No. 106 place "*macrura* Naumann" as the correct name and "**paradisea** Brunn." as a synonym.

p. 131. For species No. 125 place "*pecuaria* Temminck" as the name to be used and "**varius** Vieillot" as a synonym.

p. 132. For genus No. 102 place "*Himantopus*" as the correct name and "**Hypsibates**" as a synonym.

p. 133. No. 144. For "*ochropus* L." read "**erythropus** (Vroeg)".

p. 134. For species No. 157 read "**benghalensis**".

p. 134. For species No. 160 alter the name to "**albofasciatus** Sharpe", as a subspecies of **chalcopterus**.

p. 134. For genus No. 126 read "**Galachrysia**".

p. 137. For genus "**Anastomus**" replace by "**HIATOR** Reichenbach, genotype *lamelligerus* Temminck". It is obvious that our Openbill Stork cannot be placed in the genus **Anastomus**, differing as it does in the feathering of the face, and in having the feathers of the breast, lower neck, scapulars and wing-coverts peculiarly hardened.

p. 138. Genus No. 168. In my *Review* paper of 1922, p. 204, I referred our Whitebacked Night Heron to the American genus **Nyctanassa**, as it obviously did not fall into the genus **Nycticorax**. Comparison of material of the type species of the genus **Nyctanassa** shows, however, that it cannot be placed there and it becomes necessary to create a new one for it. I therefore place **Ardea leuconotus** Wagner in a new genus **CALOARDEA**, characterized by having short toes (middle toe less than the length of tarsus) and a short tarsus as well (less in length than the distance between the tip of bill and eye), bill more slender than in **Nyctanassa**, white nape plumes absent, the black nape plumes shorter than in **Nyctanassa** but longer than in **Nycticorax**, the scapular plumes shorter than the longest secondaries, but also differing from those of **Nyctanassa** in being longer, more pointed and partly white.

p. 140. For genus No. 195 and species No. 244 amend to "**Fregata minor** Gmel."

p. 142. For genus No. 221 amend genotype to "*grandis* Storr".

p. 143. The author of **Milvus** is "Lacepede", not "Cuvier".

p. 148. The species name of **Buceros carunculatus cafer** Schlegel (1862) is preoccupied by **Buceros nasutus cafer** and **B. erythrorhynchus cafer** Sundevall (*Oefv. Konigl. Vetensk. Akad. Forhandl.* 1850, p. 108, Nos. 49 and 50, respectively) and I propose therefore to re-name our Ground Hornbill

"**BUCORVUS SCHLEGELI** nom. nov."

The name of *Lophoceros erythrorhynchus caffer* Sundevall, which is used by Sclater in his list, is invalidated by the name of *caffer* having been used by Sundevall for the preceding species on the same page. I suspected this, but not having the original publication, referred the matter to Mr Mathews, who very kindly looked it up and confirmed it.

p. 157. Alter the generic name of No. 350 to "**IYNX**".

p. 158. No. 451, for "Chimney Swallow" read "House Martin".

p. 169. To species No. 578 add as a subspecies

"**Drymodyta chiniana frater** (Rchw.)."

This race was described by Reichenow in the *Journ. f. Orn.* 1916, p. 162, as a species, from Damaraland. Some specimens received from Mr R. D. Bradfield agree fairly well with the description, though comparison is made by Reichenow with another species and not *chiniana*.

p. 171. Family No. 76 should read "**PYCNONOTIDAE**" and the genus No. 449 "**PYCNONOTUS**".

p. 173. Rensch (*Journ. f. Orn.* 1923, p. 103), in reviewing the classification of our Thrushes, states that Reichenow's name of "**Turdus pondoensis**" is a synonym of "**olivaceus**" and that the name of "**cabanisi**" must be replaced by "**smithi** Bonaparte", which has priority. Our list must be altered accordingly.

p. 175. The genotype of *Saxicola* is "*rubicola* L.", and this leaves open to adoption the generic name of *Pratincola*, genotype *rubetra* L., which must be added to our list. Mr R. D. Bradfield has been the fortunate first discoverer of this migrant within our limits, having procured a specimen at Swakopmund on 21st January, 1925, a locality very far south of previous records. It must therefore be added to our list, with the English name of "Whinchat."

p. 176. Alter the genotypic and specific name "*Iuscinia* L." to "*aedon* Forster".

p. 177. Neumann (*Journ. f. Orn.* 1920, p. 83) described *Erythropterygia makalaka* from the Makalaka country of S. Rhodesia. There are specimens in the Transvaal Museum from north of the Limpopo which are apparently referable to this bird, though I should be inclined to place them as a subspecies of *leucophrys* and not as a distinct species. Possibly this links up again with *munda*, but more continuous series are required to confirm this.

p. 180. No. 705, for "Yellow Pipit" read "Ray's Yellow Wagtail".

p. 184. *Certhilauda falcirostris* Rchw. (*Journ. f. Orn.* 1916, p. 161), from Port Nolloth, does not differ, so far as one can judge by the limited description, from the typical *africanus* (olim *capensis*), though one would expect to find differences, having regard to the great difference in climate between Little Namaqualand and the south.

p. 184. The genotype of *Eremopteryx* is "*griseus* Scopoli".

p. 185. The genotype of *Spinus* is "*spinus* L.", not "*tottus*".

p. 186. No. 760, as a synonym of *mozambicus* enter "*(icterus* V.)".

The following forms appear to be new:

AFROTIS AFRAOIDES DAMARENSIS subsp. nov.

Differs from the typical *A. afroides* A. Smith (western O.F.S.), in the male having considerably more white on the rump, the upper tail coverts with broad white tips and the bar across the wings from the shoulders whiter. In the female the upper parts show no difference, but on the under parts with the white of the breast extending higher up without bars and the cheeks and throat whiter. The subspecies *etoschae* Grote (*Journ. f. Orn.* 1922, p. 42) is apparently a much whiter bird, and the present one occupies a place nearer to the typical *afraoides*.

Dimensions of specimens of adults examined are:

Locality	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen
Bloemfontein	♂	265	117	79	32
"	♂	265	115	82	31
Bothaville	♂	276	123	86	32
"	♂	270	117	82	30
"	♂	270	123	79	29
Pretoria	♂	263	114	84	30
Rustenburg	♂	280	130	86	32.5
"	♂	275	127	80	32
"	♂	258	120	80	32
Okahandja	♂	282	130	85	35
"	♂	285	138	90	35
"	♂	266	130	90	36
"	♂	262	120	85	34

The type is T.M. No. 13290, adult male, Omutako Flats, north of Okahandja, taken and presented by Mr R. D. Bradfield, 26th April, 1924.

MICROPUS BRADFIELDI spec. nov.

Allied to *Micropus barbatus* in having the outermost primary equal to or longer than the next and the tail less deeply forked than in *apus*, but differing totally in its pallid coloration and in not having the throat white, this being merely rather paler than the surrounding parts. The colour is a pale brownish grey with a sheen of bronze, considerably darker on the primaries, which have also a more conspicuous sheen of bronze or greenish. The throat not markedly differentiated from the sides of the neck, though slightly paler. The light margins to the feathers of the abdomen and lower back present, but not showing up in such strong contrast as in *barbatus*.

Several pale Swifts have been recorded from Damaraland and the Kalahari, namely *Micropus apus pekinensis* Swinhoe, in the synonymy of which *Apus kalaharicus* Rehw. is placed by Meinertzhagen (cf. *Ibis*, 1922, p. 37). It differs in its slightly paler coloration when compared with *M. a. apus*, and it has a white throat. *Micropus murinus* is similar, apparently, to the present new species in having the back pale, but it has a white throat and the wing shorter, namely, 158–170 mm. in the typical form, and up to 175 and even 180 in the subspecies *brehmorum* from Madeira and recorded from the Kalahari. It is a pity that so little information is given in the descriptions of Swifts of the depth of forking of the tail and the wing formula, since it is clear that there is a difference in these respects between the African and European allies which often occur side by side in the tropics. By way of illustrating this, I publish the following table of measurements, and may state that normally *barbatus* has the outermost primary equal to or slightly longer than the next one, and *apus* has the outermost primary shorter than the next one.

Dimensions of specimens not in moult:

Species	Locality	Sex	Wing	Tail	Forking of tail
<i>M. a. apus</i>	Italy	♀	178	78	31
"	Roumania	♂	177	75	30
"	Wakkerstroom	♂	177	77	30
<i>M. barbatus</i>	Red Hill	♂	178	71	22
"	Wakkerstroom	♂	180	72	?
"	Hector Spruit	♀	179	73	21
"	Woodbush	♂	180	72	23
"	Weenen	♂	180	75	23
"	Cape Town	♂	184	76	26
"	Barkly West	♀	184	76	23
"	Cookhouse	♂	185	72	23
"	Pirie	♀	182	75	25
<i>M. bradfieldi</i>	Quickborn	♂	184	71	19

The type is T.M. No. 13167, "Quickborn," north of Okahandja. S.W.A. Prot., 19th September, 1923, collected and presented by Mr R. D. Bradfield, after whom I have named the bird in recognition of his good services in the study of the birds of the district. His keen observation has already brought to light three very interesting migrants, *Psammoaetus nipalensis orientalis*, *Phalaropus fulicarius* and *Pratincola rubetra*, not previously noted from S. Africa, not to mention some new mammals.

MEGALOPHONUS APIATUS (Vieillot) and its allies.

There has always been a degree of uncertainty as to the identity of *Alauda rufipilea* Vieillot, which was based upon Le Vaillant's "l'Alouette à calotte rousse" (*Ois. d'Afr.* pl. 198 and text), and with a view to clearing up this uncertainty, I here publish the result of my investigations: *Alauda apiata* Vieillot was based upon Le Vaillant's "l'Alouette Bateleuse" (pl. 194 and text), which was procured near Cape Town. Its outstanding characters are the dark mottled brown and rufous on a dark grey ground over the upper parts from the forehead to tail; the outer margins of the inner secondaries are clear pale rufous, but the inner margins of the primaries on the under surface of the wings are only slightly pinkish; the sides of the face, particularly the ear coverts, and throat are freckled dark brown to black on a dull buffy white ground, the freckles becoming larger and more numerous on the crop; remaining under parts of body buffy rufous, with a few elongate brown marks on the flanks. Wing length, in a male from Frenchhoek Valley, 78 mm., tail 56, tarsus 21, culmen 13.5, outermost primary 27.5, next one (from the same point at the base of the outermost) 53, and longest (4th) 56.5. Stark (*Birds S.A.* 1, p. 217, 1900) gives the wing length of a male as 3 inches (= 76 mm.). Shelley gives the wing length as 3.3 inches (= 83.5 mm.), but as no locality is given the specimen may not have been typical. The species is recorded from as far east as Port Elizabeth, but in two females from there in the Transvaal Museum collection and a male from Knysna there is a difference in that the inner webs of the primaries when viewed from below have a distinct pink patch, and I therefore propose to separate them under the name of

MEGALOPHONUS APIATUS ALGOENSIS subsp. nov.

Type T.M. No. 2856, adult female, Port Elizabeth, 24th May, 1890, (R. H. Ivy). Dimensions are: wing length 76.5, tail 54, tarsus 22, culmen 14, outermost primary 21, next one 54, longest (5th) 57.5 mm. The male from Knysna has a wing length of 84.5 mm., and tail 57.5. In these specimens there is less black on the upper parts and more rufous mottling than in the Frenchhoek specimens, so that the general appearance above is more rufous. The markings are fairly uniform as compared with other species presently to be discussed. *Megalophonus adendorffi* (Roberts, *Ann. Trans. Mus.* VI, p. 117, 1917) has the upper parts greyish as in the typical *apiatus*, but paler grey, with the top of the head and nape light chestnut red and only faint indications of dark central stripes on the middle of the crown, while the upper parts of body and wings show more rufous, the throat without black freckling and crop with only a few blackish marks, the rest of the under parts of body rufous and without dark marks on the flanks; the under tail coverts are mottled, however. In size it is rather larger than *apiatus*: wing length 87, tail 57, tarsus 23, culmen 15, outermost primary 28, next one 61, longest (3rd) 63 mm. The outstanding difference lies, however, in the outer webs of the inner primaries having no rufous, and the inner web of the same as seen from below with only a trace of pinkish.

Megalophonus rufipilea (Vieillot) is apparently a species lying intermediate between (though not necessarily linking up) **adendorffi** and another species presently to be named from farther north, but not taken since Le Vaillant's day. This traveller states that he procured three specimens in the country of the HOUSWANAS, that is, in Great Namaqualand. The bird as figured and described by him has the whole top of the head bright rufous, much as in **adendorffi**, but the remaining upper parts rufous as in more easterly specimens, not grey as in **adendorffi**, and the under parts are even more spotted than in **apiatus**. **Alauda ruficapilla** Stephen was also founded upon Le Vaillant's description and plate and is therefore an absolute synonym. **Brachyonyx pyrrhonota** (Vieillot) of Smith's *Illustrations of Zoology*, S. Afr. pl. 110 and text, 1847, was renamed **Alauda fasciolata** by Sundevall three years later, as Smith's description did not tally with **pyrrhonota** Vieillot. Smith only procured one specimen, which he says he lost, and he described the bird from hurried notes made in the field, as he says himself, so that there seems to be no reason why the name should stand. This is especially necessary as he stated that the species occurred on both coasts of S. Africa (although he procured only one specimen!) and gave no definite locality, so that obviously several species were confounded under the one head.

The species having the widest distribution in the grassland areas of S. Africa I propose to name

MEGALOPHONUS HEWITTI spec. nov.

This species differs from **M. rufipilea** in having the under parts only obscurely or not at all freckled, and its coloration is as follows: Fully adult males with the top of the head and upper parts without mottling, of a dark rufous colour, which fades with wear to a lighter shade, and in fresh plumage the margins of the feathers lighter coloured. Below also more rufous than in the southern species, but paling with wear. Freckling obscure or absent on the sides of the face, throat and crop, the throat lighter coloured than the breast; the scapulars and inner secondaries have only faint and thin dark wavy lines near the pale margins; some of the feathers of the crown have darker rufous centres and there are also faint barrings on the upper tail coverts and rather more distinct barrings on the middle tail feathers. Tail feathers dark brown, the outer pair with the outer web buffy rufous; the two central ones are mainly rufous with dark irregular cross-lines. The outstanding character of the species is the large amount of pink on the primaries, the greater part being pink, only the shafts and terminal third (more or less) being dark brown.

There is a fair amount of variation shown in individuals in respect of the mottling above; but as a rule the fully adult males, such as the type, are not mottled at all over the head and back; but females and some males, perhaps younger ones, are normally mottled with dark brown or blackish over the upper parts. The females are also sometimes plain above, but not usually.

The species occurs over the central Transvaal, southwards into the northern Cape Province and westwards to Barkly West and Damaraland. There is a perceptible paling in the west, and specimens from Damaraland I propose to separate under the name of

MEGALOPHONUS HEWITTI DESERTI subsp. nov.

In colour altogether more pallid than in typical **hewitti**, the rufous above paler and in fresh plumage to a large extent hidden by frosty white margins to the feathers of the upper parts. The throat is immaculate buffy white, the cheeks and ear coverts freckled and the crop with conspicuous, but small and

rather elongate dark brown, scattered spots; remaining under parts paler than in *hewitti*, the axillaries pale pink like the inner margins of the primaries as seen from below and not darker as in *hewitti*. Subterminally the feathers of the back and scapulars have very narrow crossbars, and the upper tail coverts are rather more distinctly barred.

The type of *Megalophonus hewitti* is T.M. No. 7496, an adult male in clean plumage taken by Mr F. O. Noomé at Rooiberg, Transvaal, on 9th July. Its dimensions are: wing length 90, tail 65, tarsus 27, culmen 17, outermost primary 29, next one 63.5 and longest (3rd) 65 mm. Other specimens examined measure: males, wing length 89-93, tail 60-65, tarsus 26-28, culmen 15-16; females, wing 78-85, tail 51-58, tarsus 24-27, culmen 13-15 mm.

The type of *Megalophonus hewitti deserti* is T.M. No. 13593, an adult male in fresh plumage, from Omutako Flats, north of Okahandja, collected and presented by Mr R. D. Bradfield, on 7th April, 1924.

Dimensions of this specimen are: wing length 92.5, tail 61, tarsus 25, culmen 15.5, outermost primary 23 mm. Other specimens also examined from the same place and from Quickborn more to the west are similar, though those from Quickborn are rather more worn in plumage.

TEPHROCORYS SPLENIATUS (Strickland)

We have recently received five specimens of *Tephrocorys* from Mr R. D. Bradfield, taken at Swakopmund, which cannot be referred to anything but *Alauda spleniata* Strickland, and must be considered as quite distinct from *Alauda cinerea* Gmelin. The latter was first named by Gmelin on specimens from the Cape Colony, and in 1852 Strickland correctly separated a very pale form from "Damaraland" as above, the type of which is housed in the Cambridge Museum. In 1869 Tristram appears to have initiated the error which has been more or less perpetuated ever since, by placing *spleniata* as a synonym of *cinerea*, and describing Damaraland specimens as *anderssoni*. Whether *anderssoni* will stand or not remains to be seen, but I may state that there are five specimens in the Transvaal Museum from Damaraland, two from Windhuck, two from Quickborn, north of Okahandja (Bradfield), and the last from somewhere in northern Damaraland (Dr L. C. Thompson), which I cannot separate from typical *cinerea*, of which I have examined specimens from Saldanha Bay, Klaver, Barkly West and numerous localities more to the east.

In the *Cat. Birds Brit. Mus.* XIII, pp. 563 and 564, we find that Sharpe recognized *spleniata* as a subspecies of *cinerea* and *anderssoni* as a subspecies of *ruficeps* (of N.E. Africa!). Tristram's original description, however, does not give grounds for thinking that *anderssoni* is really distinct, as he says "in lateribus rufo-tincta, et collari pectorali cinnamomea," which fits *cinerea* but certainly not *spleniata*. Sharpe describes another specimen, apparently one from Otjimbingue, as "similar to *T. cinerea*, but having the rufous of the sides of the breast continued down the sides of the body and over the thighs and under tail coverts." The latter description leaves one in some doubt. Does it mean that the sides of the body are as brightly coloured as the sides of the breast? If so, then *anderssoni* must be distinct, but if only rufous tinted, then it cannot stand.

MICROCHERA, gen. nov., type *Microchera haagneri*, spec. nov.

In all current text-books we find the long-tailed Purple Widow bird (*Vidua hypocherina*) allocated to the genus to which it was originally

assigned. No one seems to have questioned this, though the genera *Steganura*, *Tetraenura* and *Linura* have been kept apart. Even when some authors have seen fit to lump these genera together under *Vidua*, on the grounds that the differences were based upon the shape of the tail feathers in full-plumaged males alone, these authors have overlooked that by the same process of reasoning they should also place *Hypochera* in the synonymy of *Vidua*, since it differs only in having no elongate tail feathers in the full-plumaged male. Analysis of the differences in colour of plumage, bill and legs and in the shape of the tail feathers, shows that "*Vidua hypocherina*" lies between *Hypochera* (having the same colour of plumage) and *Steganura* (having the elongate tail feathers broad and arched) and has least to do with *Vidua*, with which it agrees in neither colour nor shape of tail feathers. Having regard to the general recognition of *Steganura* and the other genera above-mentioned, and such genera as *Diatropura*, *Coliuspasser* and *Urobrachya* amongst other Viduine birds, I have adopted the course of giving the long-tailed, purple Widow birds generic place. There appear to be two species, *hypocherina* of the northern half of Africa and the present one, which is new to science, so far known only from the type obtained near Bulawayo.

This new species differs from *Vidua hypocherina* Verreaux in its very much larger size and in the colour of bill and legs. It is mainly of a uniform purplish black colour, white under the wings and at the base of the rump and flank plumes. The wing quills are brown, with buffy white outer margins in the middle of the quills. Bill dark brown, legs almost white, feet browner, but pale. In *hypocherina* the bill and legs are said to be "bright coral red" (Forbes) and "dusky" (Hawker). The following dimensions will indicate its greater size, the figures in brackets referring to published minimum and maximum records of dimensions of *hypocherina*: wing length 75 mm (60-67); tail, long feathers 185 (200), short feathers 53 (40-46); tarsus 15 (14-16); culmen 11 (9).

The type is a full-plumaged male captured some years ago in this plumage by Mr J. Baumaker, near Bulawayo, and sent, together with other live birds, to the Zoological Gardens, Pretoria. I saw it there shortly after its arrival and often on subsequent occasions, and on its death recently, Dr A. K. Haagner kindly presented it to the Transvaal Museum. It is possibly more plentiful than appears from its not having been previously procured, as it might easily be mistaken for *Coliuspasser ardens*.