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Chapin (1954) has discussed subspeciation in the African Finfoot. When specimens become available from the highlands of Ethiopia (unfortunately efforts by Dr. Schäuuffele to obtain one were unsuccessful, owing to the difficult conditions), it may well prove that there is a distinct form in that region. The considerable degree of endemism in Ethiopian non-forest birds has been discussed by Moreau (1966: 220-221). Chapin (1954) gives no locality for the African Finfoot nearer to Ethiopia than the north-eastern Congo, Entebbe and the highlands of Kenya east of the Rift Valley. Cave and Macdonald (1955) give no record from the Sudan, though Pitman (1962) considers that it is probably widely distributed throughout Uganda. The Ethiopian population is probably quite isolated, due to lack in immediately adjacent territory of suitable perennial rivers or streams with a fringing dense woody cover. But presumably it is not confined to the upper reaches of the Blue Nile where the three birds which are the subject of this note were observed, but occurs elsewhere on that river. The right ecological conditions may also exist on other rivers in the Ethiopian highlands. The African Finfoot is easily overlooked, though "far from being as uncommon as is usually represented" (Percy, 1963: 127).

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## Taxonomic notes on African Turdinae

by C. M. N. WHITE

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These notes embody the results of studies of African Turdinae at the Cape Town Museum and National Museum, Bulawayo and amend my *Check List* of 1962. A few additional notes have been added to complete the addenda to the latter.

### *Cercomela familiaris* (Stephens).

*C. f. actuosa* Clancey, 1966, Durban Mus. Nov. 7, p. 445. Matatiele, Drakensberg represents an intergrade from the nominate to *C. f. hellmayri* (Rchw.) and I would include it with the nominate form.

### *Cercomela tractrac* (Wilkes)

*C. t. nubilosa* Clancey was listed in the addendum to my 1963 instalment of the *Check List*. Material now examined shows that it differs from *barlowi* in its redder rump and greyer, less white underside.

### *Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris* (Lafresnaye)

The range ascribed to the nominate form should be reduced by the recognition of the two following forms.



*T. c. autochthenes* Clancey: smaller, male wing 102—111 mm. against 110—122 mm., with white breast band poorly marked or absent: female darker. Natal coast to east Swaziland and southern Mozambique.

*T. c. odica* Clancey (1962, Occ. Pap. Nat. Mus. S. Rhodesia, 26B, p. 743, Inyanga): like *subrufipennis* but female darker, less orange rufous below. Locally in Rhodesia to Victoria Falls and Gorongosa Mt., Portuguese East Africa.

*Monticola explorator* (Vieillot)

The species is monotypic and *tenebriformis* is not valid.

*Monticola brevipes* (Waterhouse)

The species is monotypic; further material does not support *kaokoensis*.

*Monticola pretoriae* Gunning and Roberts (1911, Ann. Trvl. Mus. 3, p. 118. Pretoria).

Although generally placed as a synonym of *brevipes*, this is a valid species differing in having the crown and front grey and black on the face restricted to the lores. Mountains of central Transvaal to Woodbush, Swaziland, Natal, the Transvaal-Orange Free State borders and west to Magaliesberg and Zandrivier mountains.

*Monticola angolensis* Sousa

Birds from Zambia, Rhodesia and Malawi are generally paler below, especially on the abdomen than those from the rest of the range, and have been named *M. a. hylophila* Clancey (1965, Durban Mus. Nov. 8, p. 16. Gokwe, Rhodesia). Irwin & Benson, 1966, *Arnoldia*, 2, no. 32, p. 11 suggest however that it should be called *M. a. niassae* Reichenow (1905, *Vög. Afr.* 3, p. 699. Nyasaland). Whilst the colour difference exists, the ranges of the two forms, if a subdivision is to be made, remain unclear as birds from the Katanga are reported to be identical with those of the Angola highlands. In addition it is fairly certain that birds found in Angola, the Katanga, Zambia and Malawi form a population continuum with no discontinuities. Birds from Zambia are variable in intensity of colour and Clancey assigned most of them to the nominate form, whilst Benson and Irwin consider that Zambian birds do not reach the intensity of Angolan birds. The evidence indicates a probable colour cline with terminal populations fairly distinct and a large intervening area more or less variably intermediate.

*Cercotrichas leucophrys* (Vieillot)

The poorly defined intergrade *C. l. makalaka* (Neumann) is best placed as a synonym of *pectoralis*.

*C. l. simulator* (Clancey) (*Erythropygia l. simulator*. 1964, *Arnoldia*, 1, no. 11, p. 7. Panda) is paler and greyer above than the nominate and whiter, less buffy below. It represents the population in coastal Mozambique, intergrading with adjacent *pectoralis*.

The question as to whether all the forms found in Kenya and Tanzania are in fact correctly placed as subspecies of *C. leucophrys* requires a fresh analysis since Ripley and Heinrich (1966, *Postilla*, no. 96, pp. 17—18) have reported *C. l. zambesiana* and *C. l. brunneiceps* in close proximity but ecologically segregated in the region of Mt. Meru, Tanzania. They also show that these two forms are very well differentiated from each other. Possibly *brunneiceps* should be associated with *leucoptera*, also a bird of



arid country and with a similar tail pattern, as separate species. Field studies are needed to elucidate the problem.

*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* (Rchw.)

Having seen much additional material I am now satisfied that populations from the east Caprivi and Zambesi valley east to the Luangwa confluence and northwards in the range in Zambia are lighter and warmer above than the nominate and with a brighter, more orange rump, and should be recognised as *C. q. interna* (Clancey).

A further form has been described as *Erythropygia q. brunnea* Ripley & Heinrich (1966, Postilla, no. 96, p. 16. West of Lake Manyara, Tanzania) said to be darker and more olive-brown above than the nominate. Whilst this represents an extension inland of the species' East African range, and could even be a geographical isolate, its status remains uncertain as it was founded on only two specimens and geographical variation in this species is at best not strongly marked.

*Cercotrichas signata* (Sundevall)

An additional form described as *Erythropygia s. reclusa* Clancey, (1966, Durban Mus. Nov. 7, p. 460. Amatola Range, King William's Town), and said to be colder and duller above than the nominate appears to need further confirmation but may represent the end of a cline.

*Cichladusa ruficauda* (Hartlaub)

The range has recently been found to extend to the Kaokoveld, South West Africa.

*Alethe anomala* (Shelley)

*A. a. grotei* should stand as *A. a. albigularis* (*Callene albigularis* Reichenow 1895, Orn. Monats. p.87. Uluguru) a name not preoccupied by *Bessornis albigularis* Tristram.

*Turdus libonyanus* (Smith)

I do not now consider than *T. l. tropicalis* should be kept separate from the nominate form.

*Turdus litsipsirupa* (Smith)

Much additional material shows that *T. l. stierlingi* should be placed as a synonym of the nominate form.

*Turdus camaronensis* (Sharpe)

A population exists in the Ituri region of the north-east Congo and Bugoma in Uganda which is darker and less reddish above than the nominate, less olive below, with less marked pale loreal patch and weaker bill. This is *T. c. prigoginei* Hall (1966, Bull. B.O.C. 86, p. 24. Moera) replacing *graueri* Sassi, 1914, preoccupied, and erroneously identified with *T. princei*.

*Turdus* spp.

*T. gurneyi pilettei* is now known to extend further south to Kamituga, Kivu, and *T. oberlaenderi* to extend to Kamituga and to Bwamba in Uganda.