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MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS

XV

by

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1. A NEW RACE OF SHELLEY'S FRANCOLIN *FRANCOLINUS SHELLEYI* OGILVIE-GRANT FROM NATAL AND ZULULAND.

The austral populations of Shelley's Francolin are characterized as a new subspecies to science under the following name:

Francolinus shelleyi sequestris, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Albert Falls, near Pietermaritzburg, Natal. 25 August, 1951. Collected by Robin Guy. In the collection of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. Reg. No. 2308.

Diagnosis: Similar to *F.s.shelleyi* Ogilvie-Grant, 1890: Umfuli River, Southern Rhodesia, but rather darker, less greyish, and more boldly marked with Fuscous-Black (*vide* Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. xlvi) on the upper-parts. More clearly differentiated on the ventral surface, being more densely mottled with Fuscous-Black over the lower breast and upper abdomen, and with the breast, body-sides and flanks rather darker (Hazel (pl. xiv) as against Tawny (pl. xv)). Similar in size.

Material examined: *F.s.sequestris*, 6. *F.s.shelleyi* from Southern Rhodesia, 11.

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Cape. Perhaps to parts of the Orange Free State and Natal (formerly). This southern race appears to be a partial migrant, as specimens of it have been taken in the northern Transvaal (the Type of *M. coombesi*), Southern Rhodesia (*vide* Roberts, *Birds of South Africa*, 1940, p. 65) and the eastern Kaokoveld, north-western South-West Africa.

This hawk becomes seriously soil stained in a short space of time through foraging on the ground, while marked plumage colour changes are wrought by actinic action, the dorsal feathering of worn birds being darker, browner and lacking the powdery grey bloom of freshly moulted examples. The habit this species possesses of sitting in the intense sunlight on the top of some tree, bush or telephone pole no doubt accounts for the speed with which this change takes place.

The name is from the Latin *argenteus*, of silver, which is descriptive of its general appearance in the field as a large, whitish gull-like hawk.

3. THE SOUTH AFRICAN RACES OF THE TURTLE DOVE *STREPTOPELIA CAPICOLA* (SUNDEVALL)

The Cape Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola* (Sundevall) is in all probability the most widely distributed and numerous of all the species of Columbidae occurring within the limits of sub-continental South Africa. It inhabits a wide variety of types of country, favouring light woodland, the wooded fringes of cultivation, thornveld savannas, etc., and has in all probability increased greatly during the past century as a result of the planting of groves of exotic trees on farms in the Karoo and eastern highveld. Geographical variation is well developed in this species, but still comparatively poorly understood, and currently only three geographical races are recognised within the limits of South Africa, these being *S.c. capicola* (Sundevall), 1857: Rondebosch, near Cape Town, south-western Cape Province, *S.c. damarensis* (Hartlaub and Finsch), 1870: Otjimbingwe, Damaraland, South-West Africa, and *S.c. tropica* (Reichenow), 1902: Songea, Southern Province, Tanganyika Territory. Recently, Macdonald, *Contribution to the Ornithology of Western South Africa*, 1957, pp. 72-73, reviewed the variation in the western populations of southern Africa, in so doing describing a new race from the Kaokoveld of north-western South-West Africa under the name *S.c. onguati* Macdonald, 1957: Onguati, near Kamanjab, Kaokoveld, north-western South-West Africa. In addition to naming *S.c. onguati*, Macdonald restricted the range of *S.c. capicola* to the south-western Cape Province ("Cape flats, as far east as

Knysna”), thereby leaving the subspecific classification of the populations of the eastern Cape, Orange Free State, southern Transvaal and Natal undecided. In all recent standard works, the latter populations are placed with the nominate race, but Macdonald actually implies that they are nearer the extremely pallid *S.c.damarensis*, from which they are said to be only distinguishable by being “slightly darker”. A preliminary comparison of material in the Durban Museum from the eastern Cape, Orange Free State, Transvaal (highveld) and the interior of Natal with recently taken material from South-West Africa (May, 1959) suggested that the populations of the south-eastern highlands are not readily assignable to *S.c.damarensis*, as implied by Macdonald, nor are they referable to the distinctly darker *S.c.capicola*. In order to plot the significant racial characters of the putative new race and map out the ranges of the various South African forms of this turtle dove, a reasonably comprehensive material was assembled in the Durban Museum and studied as a unit. For the loan of material for this research project I am grateful to the Directors of the following museums: South African Museum, Cape Town (through Dr. J. M. Winterbottom); East London Museum (through Mr. Walter J. Lawson); Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg; Transvaal Museum (through Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky); and the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin). Master A. Findlay, of Durban, has also kindly assisted with material from the midlands of Natal.

Geographical variation in this species of turtle dove affects both the colouration of the plumage and, to a lesser degree, corporal size. Within our limits the pattern of variation shown by the populations follows that of a great many other polytypic species with similar distributions, *i.e.*, the palest coloured populations in the arid interior (Kalahari Desert) and west, and the darkest in the higher rainfall areas of the south, south-east and east. Critical study of the assembled material before me suggests that no less than five geographical races should now be admitted to the South African list as against the present three.

In the species *S.capicola*, individual variation is quite extensive within each recognised race, and is particularly troublesome from the viewpoint of formal museum taxonomy. Study of the polytypic variation is complicated by the fact that most museum collections do not possess large enough samples from single localities (important as not all populations are strictly sedentary), while the general standard of dove skins is deplorably low, the specimens being usually badly warped, stained, foxed and fat burnt. In addition, the presence

of serious soil staining on the ventral surfaces of many skins is a factor which requires to be taken into consideration in effecting any worthwhile taxonomic appraisal of the material.

It is proposed to admit five races of *S. capicola* from within the limits of sub-continental South Africa, one of which is described as new, and the nomenclature, characters and ranges of these are as hereunder given.

(a) ***Streptopelia capicola capicola*** (Sundevall)

Columbam vinaceam var. *capicolam* Sundevall, *Kongl. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Handl.*, (n.s.), 2, No. 1, 1857, art. 3, p. 54: Cape Colony. Type from Rondebosch, near Cape Town, Cape Province, South Africa.

Head-top rather bluer than Deep Quaker Drab (*vide* Ridgway, 1912, pl. li), becoming paler anteriorly; hind-neck Brownish Drab (pl. xlv); neck ring glossy black, edged with Light Neutral Gray (pl. liii); mantle, inner wing-coverts and tertials about or slightly greyer than Sepia (pl. xxix), often with a vinous or purplish grey overlay on the upper parts of the back, while the feathers are edged with a slightly darker colour, thereby imparting a scalloped effect (lost through abrasion); rump and upper tail-coverts about Deep Neutral Gray (pl. liii). On the upper-parts, breast colour varying from Pale Vinaceous-Drab (pl. xlv) to Light Brownish Drab (pl. xlv). Blue-grey of the shoulders, lower median- and secondary-coverts about Neutral Gray (pl. liii).

Measurements: Wings of 10 ♂♂ 152-163 (158.0), 8 ♀♀ 152-156.5 (154.0) mm.

Material examined: 31. South-western and southern Cape Province (Kirstenbosch, near Cape Town, 1 ♀; Kommetjie, 1 ♀; Pine-lands, 1 ♀; Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary, Retreat, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Zoetendalsvlei, Bredasdorp, 1 ♂; Jonkersberg, 1 ♂; Grootvadersbosch, Swellendam, 1 ♀; Hermanus, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 o; Quartel Fontein, Caledon, 1 ♀; Fraserburg, 1 ♀; Ceres Road, Tulbagh Div., 1 ♂; Melkbos, Strand, 1 ♂; Oudtshoorn, 1 ♀ juv.). Little Namaqualand (Pokkiespram Mts., Richtersveld, 1 ♀). Eastern Cape (Hanover, 1 ♂; Committees Drift, Albany Div., 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Fort Jackson, 1 ♂; Need's Camp, near East London, 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Kei Bridge, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Embotyi, near Lusikisiki, Pondoland, 1 ♀ juv.; Mzamba, Fossil Head, Pondoland, 1 ♂).

Type: In the Royal Natural History Museum, Stockholm, Sweden.

Range: Western and south-western Cape Province (north through Little Namaqualand to the Richtersveld, but not in the valley of the Orange R.), eastwards through the southern Karoo and coastal

districts to the eastern Cape, and extending northwards in the moist coastal belt to about the Pondoland/Natal border. Intergrades to the north-east of its established range with the next subspecies.

Remarks: It is not possible to follow Macdonald, *loc.cit.*, in restricting the dark nominate race to the winter rainfall area, as specimens agreeing perfectly with south-western Cape topotypes have been examined from the Richtersveld (north-western Cape) and many localities in the eastern districts of the same Province.

When viewed in series, the dark head-top and saturated mantle, rump and wings, and especially the deep blue-grey in the latter, characterize the nominate race of *S.capicola*.

(b) ***Streptopelia capicola abunda***, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Breeding. Farm Sarsgrove, near Mooi River, Natal midlands, South Africa. Altitude c. 4,500 ft. a.s.l. 28 February, 1960. Collected by P. A. Clancey. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

Diagnosis: Similar to the nominate race, as defined above, but differs in having the head-top markedly paler (about Light Neutral Gray (pl. liii), as against the Deep Quaker Drab of *S.c.capicola*), and whitening anteriorly; hind-neck paler (about Ecru-Drab (pl. xlvi)); neck ring less prominent, owing to the paler face and neck colouration; mantle, inner wing-coverts and tertials much paler and greyer (close to or greyer than Hair Brown/Olive Brown (pls. xlvi and xl), and usually less scalloped; rump and upper tail-coverts less blackish, being pale Neutral Gray. On the under-parts generally paler, more white over the throat, and with the breast colouration in freshly moulted birds being usually Pale Brownish Drab (pl. xlv), or slightly paler; flanks less washed with blue-grey. Blue-grey of the shoulders, lower median- and secondary-coverts paler (about Deep Gull Gray (pl. lii)). Averaging slightly larger in size.

Measurements: Wings of 12 ♂♂ 156.5-168 (161.1), 8 ♀♀ 152-159 (154.8) mm.

Material examined: 38. Eastern Cape Province (Britstown, 1 ♂; Doornhoek Farm, Cradock, 1 ♂; Elandshoek Farm, Aliwal North; 1 ♂; Fish River mouth, 1 ♀; Happy Valley Farm, Cathcart, 1 ♂; Mosheshford, 1 ♀; Mt. Currie, Kokstad, 1 ♂ juv.). Northern Cape Province (Riverton, near Kimberley, 1 ♂, 1 ♀). Orange Free State (Glen, Modder River, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; "Modder River", 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Bethlehem, 1 ♂, 1 ♀). Eastern Transvaal (Game Farm "Malamala", near Newington, 1 ♂, 1 ♀). Natal (Ixopo district, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ juv.; Pietermaritzburg, 1 ♂; Hillcrest, 1 ♀; Umvoti Vlei, near Greytown,

2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Umlaas Road, 1 ♀; Estcourt--Weenen road, 1 ♂; Mooi River, 6 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀).

Measurements of the Type: Wing 160.5, culmen from base 21, tail 110 mm.

Range: East and north-east of the range of *S.c.capicola*, being the race of the south-east African highlands, occurring in the north-eastern Karoo districts of the Cape Province (Britstown), and in the interior of the eastern Cape (Cradock, Aliwal North, Cathcart, Mosheshford, are localities from which specimens have been examined), Griqualand West, northern Cape, Orange Free State, Basutoland, Transvaal (except in the western, northern and eastern thornveld districts), and Natal and southern Zululand. Intergrades with *S.c.tropica* to the north and east of its stated range.

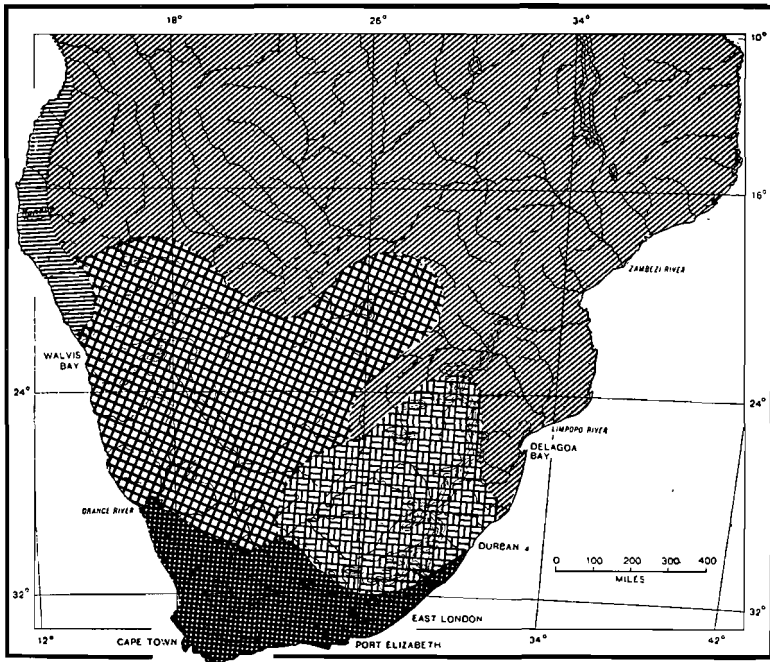
Remarks: Paler general colouration, particularly the greyer back, distinguishes *S.c.abunda* from *S.c.capicola*. From *S.c.tropica* distinguished in having the mantle greyer, less brown, and the throat and breast lavender grey and not pink, and from *S.c.damarensis* separable by its darker general colouration.

The single specimen from Hillcrest, Natal, shows the influence of *S.c.tropica* in being browner on the mantle than any of the others in the good series of Natal *S.c.abunda* before me. It is also markedly pinkish over the sides of the head, throat and breast. Two July birds from Mooi River, Natal, are like *S.c.tropica* below and *S.c.abunda* on the back, and appear to be visitors from an area of contact between the two forms.

(c) ***Streptopelia capicola damarensis*** (Finsch and Hartlaub)






Turtur damarensis Hartlaub and Finsch, in Finsch and Hartlaub, *Die Vögel Ostafrikas*, 1870, p. 550: Damaraland. *Type* from Otjimbingwe, on the Swakop River, Damaraland, South-West Africa (*vide* Macdonald, *Contr.Orn.West.South Africa*, 1957 p.73).

Closely similar to *S.c.abunda* of the south-eastern highlands, but rather paler and duller on the head-top, becoming much more whitish anteriorly; mantle paler and greyer (about Smoke Gray/Light Drab (pl. xlvi)); rump and upper tail-coverts paler and more powdery blue-grey (about Deep Gull Gray). On under-parts, much whiter over the throat, malar surfaces and ventral surfaces of the neck, and lower throat and breast paler (between Pale Ecru-Drab and Pale Drab-Gray (pl. xlvi)); lower breast and abdomen markedly whiter and flanks paler. Blue-grey on wings about Gull Gray (pl. liii), this colour not restricted to the shoulders, median- and secondary-coverts, as in the races previously dealt with, but extending



STREPTOPELIA CAPICOLA (Sundevall)

Sketch-map showing the ranges of the five South African races of the Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola*.

-  *Streptopelia capicola capicola* (Sundevall)
-  *Streptopelia capicola abunda* Clancey
-  *Streptopelia capicola damarensis* (Finsch and Hartlaub)
-  *Streptopelia capicola onguati* Macdonald
-  *Streptopelia capicola tropica* (Reichenow)

over the coverts to the tertials and adjacent inner secondaries and edges of the scapulars; secondary-coverts whiter edged in most.

Measurements: Wings of 9 ♂♂ 156-170.5 (162.9), 10 ♀♀ 155.5-161 (158.6) mm.

Material examined: 35. North-western Cape Province (Upington, Orange River, 1 ♂). Northern Cape Province (Zoetvlei, Vryburg, 1 ♀). Bechuanaland Protectorate (Kedia, Lake Dow, 1 ♂; 10 miles south of Nata, 1 ♀; Thamalakane R., Shorobe, 1 ♂; 23 miles south of Letlaking on Moshaneng road, 1 ♂; Lehututu, 1 ♂). Western Southern Rhodesia (Eastern Matopos, 1 ♂; Umguza Forest Reserve, 1 ♂; Woodvale Airport, Bulawayo, 1 ♂, 1 ♀). South-West Africa

(Barbi Farm, Helmeringshausen, 1 ♀); Otjikota, Tsumeb, 2 ♀♀; Kalkrand, 2 ♀♀; Farm Hoffnung, 10 miles east of Windhoek, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Windhoek, 1 ♀; Osona, near Okahandja, 1 ♂; Farm Elizabeth-hill, near Okahandja, 1 ♀; 7 miles west of Okahandja, 1 ♂ (near *S.c.onguati*); Omaruru, 1 ♂; Okambahe, Omaruru, 1 ♂; Onguati, Khan R., 1 ♂; Okanjande, 1 ♀; Ombu, Erongo Mts., 1 ♀; Farm Klipkop, 18 miles south of Otjiwarongo, 2 ♀♀; Kenilworth, Outjo, 1 ♂; Ikuma R., 1 ♀; Ondonga, 2 ♀♀).

Type: In the collection of the Übersee-Museum, Bremen, Western Germany. Collected by Andersson.

Range: From the valley of the lower Orange River (south of the river in Bushmanland and Kenhardt), northwards through Great Namaqualand and Damaraland to the southern edge of the Kaokoveld and Ovamboland, and in the northern Cape Province (Gordonia and Bechuanaland (east to Vryburg)), western, central, southern and eastern Bechuanaland Protectorate, and parts of western and north-western Matabeleland, Southern Rhodesia. The area of any possible intergradation between *S.c.damarensis* and *S.c.onguati* is not at present known.

Remarks: Paler general colouration and more extensive grey in the wings separate *S.c.damarensis* from *S.c.abunda*.

(d) *Streptopelia capicola onguati* Macdonald

Streptopelia capicola onguati Macdonald, *Contribution to the Ornithology of Western South Africa*, 1957, p. 73: Onguati (Onguati Farm), near Kamanjab, Kaokoveld, north-western South-West Africa.

Still paler than *S.c.damarensis*, and described as having the sepia colour of the upper-parts (mantle, inner wing-coverts and tertials) reduced to a light wash, blue-grey being the predominant colour. The forehead is pale blue-grey and the breast lilac-grey (after Macdonald).

Measurements: The wing-measurement of the *Type* as given in the original description is 155 mm.

Material examined: None.

Type: In the collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), South Kensington, London. Reg. No. 1950: 50:142.

Range: The western Kaokoveld, north-western South-West Africa, and the adjacent arid littoral of Moçamedes and Benguela, Angola.

Remarks: This new race was based on totally insufficient material and evidence, and as far as can be determined from the information

given in his writings, Macdonald proposed *S.c.onguati* on two skins: the Onguati ♂ (*Type*) in the British Museum, and another example from Eckenberg Farm in the collection of the Übersee-Museum, Bremen, collected in 1952 by Dr. Abel of that Institution. There are no specimens of *S.c.onguati* in the collections of South African museums at the present time, and as a result I am unable to comment constructively on the status of this new form.

As noted under *S.c.damarensis*, a single adult ♂ in the collection of the East London Museum from 7 miles west of Okahandja, Damaraland, agrees in the main with the original diagnosis of *S.c.onguati*, being slightly paler and greyer over the mantle, wing-coverts and tertials than the rest of my recent material of *S.c.damarensis*. This specimen confirms a trend towards increasing greyiness and pallor in north-western Damaraland birds, as demonstrated by Macdonald. Mr. Melvin Traylor kindly informs me that a small series from the arid coast of Moçamedes in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, is applicable to *S.c.onguati*.

(e) ***Streptopelia capicola tropica*** (Reichenow)

Turtur capicola tropica Reichenow, *Ornith.Monatsber.*, vol. x, 1902, p. 139: East Africa. *Type* from Songea, Southern Province, Tanganyika Territory.

Synonym: *Streptopelia vinacea bailunduensis* Neumann, *Verh. Ornith.Ges.Bayern*, vol. xx, 1933, p. 226: Chipepe, Bailunduland, Benguela, Angola.

Similar to *S.c.abunda*, but with the head-top duller, less bluish (about Light Mouse Gray (pl. li), often with a slight pinkish overlay), and even whiter anteriorly; mantle, inner wing-coverts and tertials darker and warmer brown, less grey (about Olive-Brown (pl. xl)), often with a rusty or vinous overlay on the upper back, especially in the eastern populations; rump and upper tail-coverts slightly paler. On under-parts, lower throat and breast paler and more pinkish (about Pale Vinaceous-Fawn (pl. xl) or darker), and the lower breast and abdomen whiter, this often resulting in the breast colouration being distinctly zoned; cheeks and sides of neck and crown pinker. The pink colouration over the head often extends on to the upper mantle below the black neck-band, while on the ventral surface it tends to make the white of the throat less conspicuous than in *S.c.abunda*. Blue-grey of shoulders, lower median and secondary-coverts rather paler and duller (Pale Neutral Gray (pl. liii)). Averaging rather smaller in size, particularly the female.

Measurements: Wings of 7 ♂♂ 158-164 (160.1), 8 ♀♀ 144-155.5 (150.8) mm.

Material examined: 54. Northern Portuguese East Africa (Villa Pereira, Boror, 1 ♀). Nyasaland (Fort Hill, 2 ♂♂; Mphunzi, Dedza, 2 ♀♀). Southern Rhodesia (Holdenby, Inyanga, 1 ♂; Inyanga (lowveld), 1 ♂; confluence of HonDI and Mtarazi Rivers, Inyanga (Oapaca woodland at 3,000 ft. a.s.l.), 1 ♂; Nyahuvu, Headlands, 1 ♂; Rusape, 1 ♀; 20 miles east of Salisbury, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Selukwe, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀; Nkai, 1 ♂; Kana R., 1 ♂, 1 ♀; near the Victoria Falls, 3 ♂♂; Kavira Hot Springs, Wankie, 1 ♀; Wankie Game Reserve, 1 ♂; Nata R., 1 ♂; Umguza Forest Reserve, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Matopos, 1 ♀; Chatsworth, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀). Transvaal (Potchefstroom, 2 ♂♂; Newington, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀). Swaziland (Lubuli, near Nsoko, 1 ♂). Zululand (Otobotini, 1 ♂; Ingwavuma, Lebombo Mts., 2 ♂♂; Ingwavuma R., 1 ♀; Mahlabatini, 1 ♂). Northern Cape Province (Zoetvlei, Vryburg, 1 ♂). Bechuanaland Protectorate (Nokaneng, 1 ♀; Motlhatlogo, 1 ♀ juv.). Northern South-West Africa (Ohopoho, 1 ♂; Kabuta, Caprivi Strip, 1 ♂; Linyanti, Caprivi Strip, 1 ♀). Angola (near Duque de Bragança, 1 ♂; Dondi, 4 ♂♂; Cacusó, west of Malanje, 1 ♂).

Type: In the Zoological Museum, Berlin, Germany.

Range: From the lowlands of Zululand, Swaziland, Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa, the eastern, northern and western Transvaal, northwards to the districts of Tete, Sofala and Manica, Portuguese East Africa, most of Southern Rhodesia, and north-westwards to the northern Bechuanaland Protectorate (including Ngamiland) and the northern districts of South-West Africa, from the eastern Kaokoveld (Ohopoho), eastwards to the Caprivi Strip. Extralimitally, ranging to Angola in the west (except arid littoral of south-west, where *S.c.onguati* occurs), and Northern Rhodesia, southern and eastern Belgian Congo, Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa, eastern Tanganyika Territory (west of Rift Valley), except in south, where it extends eastward, Uganda, and the western interior of Kenya Colony (north and east of Mts. Elgon and Kenya). Also on the Comoro Islands and Madagascar.

Remarks: Warmer, browner upper-parts and inner wing-coverts and tertials, and pronounced pinkish colouration to the sides of head and neck, throat and breast characterize *S.c.tropica*.

Some of the eastern populations, notably those of Nyasaland and north-eastern Southern Rhodesia, consist of birds with rather richer and browner upper-parts than in the case of the populations of western Southern Rhodesia, the Transvaal and northern Bechuanaland Protectorate, but Angola examples are again dark. The evidence before me suggests that it would be more advisable to admit a

measure of dorsal colour variation within the component populations of *S.c.tropica*, than to contemplate the subdivision of the taxon into western (*S.c.bailunduensis*) and eastern (*S.c.tropica*) subspecies.

Benson, *Ibis*, vol. 103b, 1, 1960, p. 49, shows that the populations of the Comoros are referable to this race. It is evidently an introduction to the archipelago from the eastern mainland of Africa.

4. THE RACES OF THE JACOBIN CRESTED CUCKOO *CLAMATOR JACOBINUS* (BODDAERT) OCCURRING IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE ZAMBESI RIVER

The Jacobin Crested Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert) is a widely distributed polytypic and dimorphic cuckoo of the Ethiopian and Oriental Regions in which geographical variation is reasonably well developed. The best modern arrangement of the subspecies of *C.jacobinus* is that of Peters, *Check-List of Birds of the World*, vol. iv, 1940, p. 13, whose findings are based on the work of Friedmann (*vide Bull.U.S. Nat. Mus.*, No. 153, 1930, p. 269) and Hartert (*vide Novitates Zoologicae*, vol. xxii, 1915, pp. 253-254). On the basis of the recorded evidence that white breasted examples occur in South Africa alongside the indigenous, dimorphic *C.j.serratus* (Sparrman), in which the pied morphs have the throat and breast washed with grey and streaked with a darker shade, Peters, *loc.cit.*, kept *C.serratus* specifically distinct from *C.jacobinus*, and the probability that such white breasted birds are non-breeding migrants from Asia or elsewhere has been overlooked. In recent standard works on South African birds (Vincent, *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 38; McLachlan and Liversidge, *Roberts' Birds of South Africa*, 1957, p. 184; Smithers *et alia Check List of the Birds of Southern Rhodesia*, 1957, p. 69, etc.) only *C.j.serratus* is admitted as occurring in Africa south of the Zambesi River, and the old records of whitish breasted birds from as far south as Natal seem to have been conveniently forgotten.

Through the kindness of Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin, Zoological Assistant of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, I have been able to examine a large section of the material of *C.jacobinus* preserved in the collection under his control. Critical study of this material in conjunction with that in the Durban Museum shows conclusively that the small-sized, whitish breasted nominate race of *C.jacobinus* (Boddaert), 1783: Coromandel Coast of India, of peninsular and eastern India, Assam, Burma and Ceylon, occurs on migration as far south as Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa during the course of its sojourn