



LANIOTURDUS

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Editorial

This is now the eleventh edition of Lanioturdus that I have edited. Looking back to Lanioturdus 41 (1), the first I edited, I note that I wrote "I do not see myself as a longterm replacement in this position but rather as someone who will fill the gap until a permanent editor can be found. However, I have the feeling that this statement might well end up in the category of 'famous last words.'" How true that statement has turned out to be! However, I must hasten to add that I have thoroughly enjoyed editing the journal. My first attempt at editing was also our first electronic edition of Lanioturdus and looking through all the electronic issues to date I see that we have come a long way since the early attempts.

The last four issues have been set by Eckart Demasius and I believe that Eckart has done a fine job after initially finding himself up against a rather steep learning curve. Eckart also has a huge library of birding related digital photographs, some of which we have used to illustrate various articles and which have, in my opinion, really enhanced the publication.

I would really like to know what you, the readers, think of Lanioturdus. I have had the odd email commending the journal and initially there were one of two who said they preferred Lanioturdus in the booklet form to the electronic format. Printing and postage costs made the booklet form prohibitively expensive forcing us to change to the electronic format. In this regard we are way ahead of most of the South African bird clubs some of which are now starting to investigate

The Charitsaub cranes were not at their water hole when we passed there.

No further cranes were seen by us over the next two days around Okaukuejo.

Note : Unless otherwise stated all photographs in this report by Eckart Demasius

Addendum by Richard Niddrie

The by now abundant rains and cool weather certainly aided the sighting of cranes. New Year's Eve produced the perfect ending to 2010 when Christiane Maluche and Richard Niddrie sighted the Chudop pair in the morning and, in the late afternoon, a flock of 10 Blue Cranes 10 km west of Aroe. We could not see whether any of the cranes were ringed. This was the first time that I had seen so many cranes together. It was a truly awesome sight with the heavy clouds and Fischer's Pan in the background providing the perfect setting. Only after absorbing this spectacle could the photographing commence.



Photo: Richard Niddrie

On 2 January the same Chudop cranes were sighted and in the evening the Salavadora pair. On the way back to Halali a lone Blue Crane was seen patrolling the main road 10 km east from Rietfontein.

A minimum of 19 possibly 20 confirmed sightings of Blue Cranes in the space of eight days must surely give hope for the future of Etosha's Blue Crane population.

Who were the People after whom some of our Bird Species are named? (Part 2 : Abdim's Stork to Franklin's Gull)

Neil Thomson

batqs@mweb.com.na

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* (Lichtenstein 1823) Named after Bey el-Arnaut Abdim (sometimes given as El Arnaut Abdim Bey) (circa 1780-1827), the governor of the Wadi Halfa area of the Sudan. Carnaby gives his nationality as Egyptian while Clinning describes him as Turkish. Abdim assisted Eduard Rüppell during the latter's expedition to north east Africa.

African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* (Bonaparte 1856) Named after Horace Benedict Alfred Moquin-Tandon (1804-1863), a French botanist and director of the botanical garden at Toulouse (although a qualified medical doctor). He published a number of ornithological papers including one on the birds of the Canary Islands where a black oystercatcher (now extinct) occurred.

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* (Smith 1839) Named after Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872), a Scottish army surgeon and zoologist who came to the Cape as surgeon to the Cape Mounted Rifles circa 1821. Smith persuaded the governor of the Cape, Lord Charles Somerset, to establish a natural history museum at the Cape and Smith was appointed the first superintendent in 1825. Smith undertook expeditions to the interior in the course of which many specimens were collected. (Smith's post at the museum was temporarily filled by Jules Verreaux when Smith was away on these expeditions). He described 79 southern African bird species and published "Illustrations of Zoology in South Africa" in five volumes. Some time after leaving South Africa Smith was in charge of medical services in the Crimea during the war but was unjustly accused of mismanagement probably because he fought with Florence Nightingale. Despite this he was knighted in 1859. Smith became a recluse after the death of his wife in 1864.

African Hobby *Falco curvieri* (Smith 1830) Named after Frederic Cuvier (1773-1838) a Frenchman who was the director of the Paris zoological and botanical gardens.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* (Smith 1834) Most sources agree that the bird was named after Colonel EJA Woodward (1761-1825) an English collector of bird paintings although McKay states that it was named for Charles Morris Woodford who visited South Africa on his way to or from the Solomon Islands between 1886 and 1888.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* (Thomson 1842) Named after Rear Admiral William Allen (1793-1864) an English naval officer involved in fighting the slave trade and who was a member of the Niger expeditions of 1832-1834 and 1841-1842.

Arnot's Chat *Myrmecocichla arnoti* (Tristram 1869) Named after David Arnot (1821-1894) who was born in Uitenhage (eastern Cape) and who practiced as an attorney at Colesberg. Arnot acted as an agent for the Griqua chief, Nikolaas Waterboer, and was involved in boundary delimitations of Griqualand West and the diamond fields prior to their annexation to the Cape Colony. He was regarded as an unscrupulous, unethical operator in these dealings but made a fortune for himself and his client. He was however a keen amateur botanist and ornithologist and a collector of fossils.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* (Smith 1836) Named after Sir William Jardine (1800-1874), 7th Baronet of Applegarth, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Jardine founded a museum at Jardine Hall, the catalogue for which contained a bird list of 6 000 species. Together with PJ Selby he published "The Illustrations of Ornithology" between 1825 and 1843 and he also edited the "Naturalist's Library" from 1838 to 1845.

Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila ayresii* (Gurney 1862) Named after Thomas Ayres (1828-1913) who was born in Hereford, England and came to Natal in 1850. Ayres began collecting bird specimens (most of which were sent to

Gurney) while resident in Pinetown before moving to the Australian goldfields where he failed to make his fortune. He returned to Natal and in 1865 moved to Potchefstroom from where he hunted and traded with the Boer settlers, making use of these expeditions to collect specimens. For some years he also ran a brewery which produced Ayres XX Pale Ale until the authorities prohibited private citizens from brewing. Ayres did much to encourage the early interest in natural history and ornithology of the young Austin Roberts. He was an accurate observer and thorough collector and was made an honorary member of the British Ornithologists Union in 1888.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* (Pallas 1776) Here there is confusion. According to Carnaby the species is named after Jean Francois Baillon (1744-1802) a French naturalist and collector. According to Clinning it is named after Louis Antoine Francois Baillon (1778-1855), a naturalist and dealer in natural history specimens while McKay suggests Emmanuel Baillon (d 1802) who worked chiefly on seabirds (the Tropical Shearwater honours a Baillon in its scientific name, *Puffinus bailloni*) and Craig maintains that it was named after L Baillon (1778-1851) who was a naturalist at Abbeville and who was the son of a writer and naturalist. Notwithstanding the confusing array of first names and dates it looks from the above as if there may well be confusion between a father and son here.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (Coues 1861) Named after the American Spencer Fullerton Baird (1823-1887) who was befriended by John James Audubon in his youth and who went on to become curator of the newly founded Smithsonian Institute in 1850 and later Secretary of the Institute.

Barlow's Lark *Calendulauda barlowi* (Roberts 1937) Named for Charles Sydney "Punch" Barlow (1905-1979). (He was nicknamed "Punch" because his sister was called Judy). Barlow was born in Natal and became chairman of the Barlow Rand Group and financed and accompanied Austin Roberts on his field trip to the then South West Africa in

1937. Barlow succeeded John Voelcker as chairperson of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, publishers of Roberts Birds of Southern Africa.

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* (Smith 1836) Once more there is confusion here. Some believe that the species was named after Dr G Bennett (1804-1893) who worked in Australia and New Guinea and who has a cassowary, a wallaby and the Barred Owlet-Nightjar, *Aegotheles bennettii*, named after him. It is however doubtful that he ever visited Africa. Others believe that it is named after Edward Turner Bennett (1797-1836) who was a surgeon but whose chief interest was in zoology. ET Bennett became secretary of the Zoological Society and is known to have corresponded with Andrew Smith. As the species was described by Smith it seems more likely that it is this Bennett for whom the species is named.

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii* (Hartlaub 1861) Named after the Swedish zoologist JW Grill (1815-1864) who was the director at Stockholm Museum.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (Fischer 1842) Named after Alexander von Nordmann (1803-1866), a Russian zoologist of German extraction born in Finland. He was professor of zoology and botany at Odessa and collected specimens in southern Russia. After his wife's death he returned to Finland and became professor of zoology at Helsinki University.

Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* (Schalow 1882) Named after Richard Böhm (1854-1884), a young zoologist who came to Africa in 1880 and achieved much in what is today Tanzania and the DRC before he died of malaria.

Bradfield's Hornbill *Tockus bradfieldi* (Roberts 1930), **Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi* (Roberts 1926) Named after Rupert Bradfield (1882 -1949) who was born in Queenstown, eastern Cape, and who took part in the South West Africa campaign in World War I. He later farmed at Quickborn in the

Waterberg District. Bradfield collected many bird and mammal specimens in the area where he lived, Swakopmund and the Namib but fell out with Austin Roberts of the Transvaal Museum (where most of his specimens were sent) over the naming of some of the species and sub-species. According to Hopcroft the swift was named after Bradfield's wife and the hornbill was named after Bradfield and his wife. The position of the apostrophe indicates however that the hornbill was named after only one person.

Burchell's Courser *Cursorius rufus* (Gould 1837), **Burchell's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles burchelli* (Sclater 1922), **Burchell's Starling** *Lamprotornis australis* (Smith 1836) Named after William John Burchell (1781-1863) who came to the Cape from England via St Helena in 1810 and who undertook a major expedition to the interior covering more than 7 000 km from 1811-1815. While primarily a botanist he also collected a wealth of bird and insect specimens and kept meticulous records. Burchell's collection of 265 southern African birds lies in the Oxford University Museum. Burchell himself described only four species of southern African birds and handed over most of his specimens to Swainson for final classification. He was also an accomplished artist. Burchell returned to London in 1815 and published his two volume "Travels in the Interior of Southern Africa" in 1822 and 1824.

Cape Shoveller *Anas smithii* (Hartert 1891) Named after Sir Andrew Smith (1797-1872). See above under African Broadbill.

Carp's Tit *Parus carpi* (Macdonald and Hall 1957) Named after Bernard Carp (1901-1966). Carp was born in Java and came to South Africa in 1948 where he was a successful businessman making his money out of gin. Wildlife was his hobby and he sponsored several expeditions for museum biologists notably to the Namib, the Richtersveld and the Caprivi Strip.

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* (Smith 1836) While the name may be onomatopoeic or a name from the Tswana language, there was a

Mr Coqui on the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony in the early 1800's who was a contemporary of Andrew Smith. The original description of the species provides no clues to the origin of the name.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (Scopoli 1769) Named after Charles Barney Cory (1857-1921), an American ornithologist who collected 19 000 bird specimens and donated them to The Field Museum in Chicago in exchange for a job and status in the department.

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* (Ranzani 1821) Named after Francois Le Vaillant (1753-1824) who was born in Dutch Guyana where his father was the French consul. He came to South Africa in 1781 and, while others before him had collected birds, Le Vaillant was the first real ornithologist to visit southern Africa. He travelled eastward as far as the Great Fish River and north possibly as far as the Orange River although he claimed to have been as far as the present day Keetmanshoop. His book "Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux D'Afrique" was published in six volumes. Le Vaillant however has earned a reputation for using his imagination to enhance his experiences and was not always accurate in describing his findings. He even "made" new birds from parts and feathers of others! Most of his collection went to his sponsor, Jakob Temminck and was later passed on to his son, CJ Temminck, to be incorporated into the museum at Leiden in the Netherlands. As mentioned previously Le Vaillant did not agree with the Linnaean system and gave all his birds French names. Another legacy of Le Vaillant was the formula he used to prepare and preserve skins, some of which have survived to this day. The preparation contained a large amount of arsenic which no doubt destroyed any insect pests which may have tried to attack the specimens.

Crested Guinea fowl *Guttera edouardi* (Hartlaub 1867) Named after Edouard Verreaux (1810-1868), the younger brother of Jules Verreaux, whom he joined at the Cape to assist with the collection and preparation of

specimens. He returned to Paris to the family business which was, at the time, the most important shop in the world dealing in natural history specimens.

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni* (PL Sclater 1864) Named after Dr John Dickinson (1832-1863) who was born in England and who studied medicine at the University of Durham after which he became a medical missionary. Sources differ on his participation in African expeditions. Clinning says that he was one of five Europeans on Livingstone's 1858 expedition that reached Lake Nyasa (Malawi) while Craig says that he was surgeon to the Oxford and Cambridge Central African expedition of 1861. Clinning also says that he joined Livingstone in 1861 on the Shire River in what is now Malawi where he collected specimens in his spare time. He died of blackwater fever.

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii* (Wagler 1827) Named after Johan Heinrich Christian Friedrich Sturm (1805-1862) who was a naturalist and bird artist who illustrated a number of German bird books. Carnaby, however, gives his nationality as Swedish.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (Wagler 1831) Named after Sir John Franklin (1786-1847) an English naval officer who fought at both Trafalgar and the battle of New Orleans. He is best known for his Arctic expeditions in search of the north west passage. He died together with his entire crew on the last expedition when his ships became trapped in the ice for two years and the men were forced to try to escape on foot.

The next article in this series will begin with Füllerborn's Longclaw and end with Northern Giant Petrel.