

## NEW RACES OF BIRDS FROM EASTERN AFRICA.

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During a recent revision of the Birds of Kenya and Uganda several races of birds were found to be un-named; I have accordingly proposed names for these, and indicated the salient features on which these races are differentiated. The known distribution of each will be dealt with in my forthcoming work on the Birds of Kenya and Uganda.

The following new races of Kenya and Uganda birds are here described for the first time.

### *BARBATULA PUSILLUS LOLLESHEID*, Subsp. Nov. Juba Red-fronted Pigmy Barbet.

Very like *pusillus affinis*, but paler below, less washed with buff on the flanks and abdomen, these areas being creamy-yellow. The frontal patch is uniformly more extended and rounded. This race is constantly smaller. Wings 46-50 mm.

Type, male, Serenli, 8/22, north corner of Juba River, in my collection.

Comparative material: 16 *affinis*, 7 *lollesheid*.

I had already drawn attention to these birds in my paper, *Journal E.A. and U. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, No. 35, March, 1930.

### *ISPIDINA PICTA JUBAENSIS*, Subsp. Nov. Juba Violet-eared Kingfisher.

The birds from the Juba River, as recorded by me in my paper Op. cit. are constantly smaller than any from Kenya or Uganda, and are recognisable as a small race. Wing variation, 43-50 mm. as against 52-57 mm. Tails, 17-20 mm. as against 23-28 mm. These differences constitute sufficient grounds on which to establish a geographical race.

Type: Male, Serenli, 7/22, in my collection.

Comparative material: 10 Juba birds; 20 from Kenya and Uganda.

Distribution: The mid reaches of the Juba River, from Dolo to Warega.

Observations: The birds from the lower Tana are intermediate but nearer the Uganda form. Specimens from the Ganda forest and Vanga are very close to the southern form *natalensis*.

### *ALSEONAX MINIMUS MARSABIT*, Subsp. Nov. Marsabit Little Brown Flycatcher.

Sclater states that the typical *murinus* of Kilimanjaro, extends to Marsabit; but in this he is wrong. The Marsabit birds differ in being smaller, wings 56-63 mm. mostly 56-57 mm. and in being much more

ashy-brown above, and are richer, more ochreous-brown below, without the greyish wash to the breast. They thus resemble the race *pumilus* to a certain degree.

Type: Male, Marsabit, 2/7/23 in my collection. Specimens available, 8.

**ALSEONAX MINIMUS INTERPOSITUS**, Subsp. Nov. Kenya Little Brown Flycatcher.

This race differs from true *murinus* of Kilimanjaro in being less dark greyish above, more brownish, and not so greyish on the breast.

In size the races are almost identical. I refer to this race all the birds from the Kenya highlands, Nairobi, Kenia, Aberdares, Mau to Elgon.

Type: Male, Molo Forest, 8/7/18 in my collection.

Observations: Out of a series of twenty odd skins from the range of this race there is only one which approaches the typical *murinus*.

**TROCHOCERCUS BIVITTATUS KIKUYUENSIS**, Subsp. Nov.

In comparing the highland birds with the nominate race from the lower Tana River, it is at once noticeable that the former are larger and the females are more strongly streaked on the breast. This character is not to be confused with dark appearance of the breasts of young of the nominate form.

A comparison of the wing measurements gives the following:

*T. bivittatus*: ♂♂, 62-70 mm. ♀♀, 62-68 mm. Tails, 68-76 mm., 65-70 mm.

*T. b. kikuyuensis*: ♂♂, 71-75 mm. ♀♀, 68-70 mm. Tails, 75-81 mm., 75-80 mm.

Type: Male, Kyambu Forest, 27/12/16, in my collection.

Comparative material: 19 of the new race; 24 of the nominate form.

Range: Nairobi and Ngong, Meru and Mt. Kenia, Aberdares, Mau.

**PARISOMA BÖHMI MARSABIT**, Subsp. Nov.

Differs from the races *P. b. bohmi* and *somalicum*, in being much paler fulvous on the abdomen and flanks and sides. Sclater writes of these birds, when comparing *somalicum* with the nominate form: "Birds from northern Kenya are intermediate, or perhaps may be separated." I had already noted the differences in my notes published in the *Journal E.A.U. Nat. Hist. Society*, No. 35, p. 66, and having a good series of the three forms I name the Marsabit bird as above.

Type: Male, Marsabit-Lasamis, 4/8/24, in my collection.

Friedmann compared his Somali material with the birds I have named and noted the paleness of the north Kenya form.

*ANTHREPTES COLLARIS JUBAENSIS*, Subsp. Nov.

This race is nearest to *elachior* of Mearns, but differs from that race in being much clearer yellow below, in both sexes, with only the very slightest trace of olive wash on the flanks in the males; in the females, the whole of the underside is canary-yellow with no greyish tinge to the throat.

Types, male and female: Hellesheid, Juba River, upper waters, July, 1922, in my collection.

Range: The mid and upper waters of the Juba River, Serenli to Dolo.

*EREMOMELA SCOTOPS KIKUYUENSIS*, Subsp. Nov.

Having obtained a good series of the nominate race from the coastal regions of Kenya, I am now able to state definitely that the up-country birds are a distinct race. They are larger, having wings of 60-66 mm. Tails, 46-48 mm. compared with 51-56 mm. and 34-40 mm. respectively. The bills of the upcountry birds are 2-3 mm. longer.

Type male: 22/3/16, Nairobi (breeding) in my collection.

Comparative material: 10 of this new form; 11 of the nominate race.

Range: The highland forests of Kenya from Kikuyu district to Mt. Kenia, Aberdares and the Mau.

*BRADYPTERUS ALTUMI MITONI*, Subsp. Nov.

Similar in size and general characteristics to *altumi* from Molo and Mt. Kenia, but considerably darker on the upper and lower surface.

Type, male. Lumi River, 10/7/20, in my collection.

*APALIS MELANOCEPHALA MOSCHI*, Subsp. Nov.

Most nearly allied to *melenocephala* but distinguishable from that species in both its forms by being paler above, the grey of the crown and the mantle being of the same shade without an olive wash on the latter area and without decided darker earcoverts. In size, these birds are intermediate between *A. m. melanocephala* and the highland form *A. m. nigrodorsalis*, Granvik. Breast and throat buff-cream; paler on abdomen and grey tinge in flanks.

Type: Male adult, Moschi, June, 1920, in my collection.

Observations: Of this bird, Sclater writes: "Distinctly more ashy coloured and not so dusky as Moreau's bird (*melanocephala*) and they cannot, I consider, be regarded as identical." This view coincides with mine. I possess a series of typical *melanocephala* and also the highland race; they are easily separable.

*GEOKICHLA GURNEYI CHUKA*, Subsp. Nov.

This very distinct bird is not to be confounded with *G. piaggiae keniensis*, Mearns, which is found in the same locality. It differs from

*otomitra* and *usambarae* by being much larger and differently coloured. Wings 123-126 mm. against 107-112 in *otomitra* and *usambarae*.

Crown slightly darker than the mantle which is dark olive; ear-coverts greyish, with an oblique buff line crossing it; ring round the eye, white, interrupted by a black mark on the upper lid and another correspondingly placed on the lower lid; a slight black moustachial streak; a narrow rufous preorbital line; throat and breast and flanks light orange with slight olive tinge on sides of the breast abdomen, vent, and under tail-coverts pure white. Bill long and strong, much more so than in *G. piaggiae keniensis*, 25 mm. Wings dark olive, with paler outer webs to the primaries; greater and first row lesser coverts darker and with triangular white mark at tips.

Type: Male, Chuka, 15/1/21, in my collection, shot feeding young.

Observations: The young of this bird is totally different to that of *G. piaggiae kenicensis*, and should not be confused with it at any stage. This bird has been submitted to Sclater and Stresemann who both agree that it is a new race.

***ERYTHROPYGIA HARTLAUBI KENIA*, Subsp. Nov.**

Differs from the nominate race in being darker above, and having the breast spots larger and more distinct; the amount of red in the tail is greater. The distribution is from Mt. Kenya to Kikuyu and Aberdares.

Type: Male, Mt. Kenia, Feb., 1919, in my collection (10 specimens).

***TURDOIDES SQUAMULATA JUBAENSIS*, Subsp. Nov.**

The birds from the Juba River differ from the typical race in being lighter olive-grey above, this colour extending up to the crown at a line with the posterior angle of the eyes; the ear coverts are not black, but dark greyish streaked at the lower border with white. Only the fore-part of the crown is streaked with black, this colour being limited to the centre of the feathers which are edged with olive-grey. The whole of the underside is lighter than in the nominate form.

Type: Male, Serenli, July, 1922, in my collection.

Range: The upper waters of the Upper Juba, from Dolo to Serenli.

Comparative material: Seven of the new form and 12 of the nominate race.

***DICRURUS ADSIMILIS JUBAENSIS*, Subsp. Nov.**

Most nearly related to *divaricatus*, but differing from that race by being smaller, with a much less forked tail; the inner webs of the wing feathers are pale, not black; the gloss on the body is a greenish-blue-black. This bird is not to be confused with *D. ludwigi*. Wings 110-120, av. 115.7 mm. Tails, 102.5 mm. Comparative measurements are: Kenya highlands, 120-135, av. 131 $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Tails, 114 mm. Fifteen examples.

Type: Male, Juba River, upper reaches, in my collection.

*AMYDRUS WALLERI KENIENSIS*, Subsp. Nov.

This race differs from that found on Mt. Elgon, by being considerably larger. The wing measurements are: Males, 135-140 mm.; females, 128-132 mm. Elgon birds: Males, 120-125 mm.; females, 115-123 mm.

The bills of the Mt. Kenia birds are longer and heavier, and there is a difference of 10-18 mm. in tail measurements of the two races. Type: Male, Meru Rd. 1920, in my collection.

I have submitted typical examples of this new race to Selater, who confirms my view and submits measurements of the material in the British Museum which substantiate the differences.

*LAMPROCOLIUS CURRUSCUS JOMBENI*, Subsp. Nov.

Differs from the race *mandanus*, mihi, of the coastal zone of Kenya by being more brightly coloured although the scheme is similar, and by being considerably larger. Average wing length of the coast form is 105 mm.; that of the form existing on the Jombeni Range, ♂ 121 mm., ♀ 116 mm.

Type: Male, Jombeni, N.E. of Mt. Kenia, 20/12/20, in my collection.

*EURILLAS VIRENS SHIMBA*, Subsp. Nov.

Differs from the race *marwitzi* of Kilimanjaro in being smaller and in having the breast and flanks washed with a greyish tinge. Wings, 76-81 mm. This race is alluded to by Bannerman, *Rev. Zool. Afr.* 1924, p. 25 as ? subsp.

Type: Male, Ganda Forest, Kenya coast, 3/24, in my collection.

Range: Limited to the coast from Vanga, Shimba hills to Tana River (lower).

*PHYLLASTREPHUS FISCHERI MARSABIT*, Subsp. Nov.

The birds from the isolated mountain of Marsabit (2,000-2,500 feet) cannot be united with the race *placidus* (of which *keniensis* is a synonym).

They differ by having the crown of the head scarcely darker than the colour of the mantle, both of these areas being olive-green, purer than in *placidus*; the upper tail coverts are paler, not so reddish; the underside is more whitish, due to the bases of the feathers being less dark grey.

Type: Male, Marsabit, 14/7/23, in my collection.

In type of colouration this race is intermediate between *fischeri fischeri* and *f. placidus*.

Comparative material: Ten of this new form; 28 *placidus*, including 18 from Mt. Kenia, and a series from Kilimanjaro.