

Col. and Mrs. MEINERTZHAGEN also sent the following notes :—

MYCEROBAS CARNIPES.

An examination of the large series of this bird in the British Museum discloses the fact that western birds differ from Sikkim specimens. The black on the plumage of the latter is denser and the mustard colour of a deeper tint, both above and below.

Birds from N. Persia, Turkestan, Gilgit, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, and the Himalayas east to at least Dharmasala must be known as :—

MYCEROBAS CARNIPES SPECULIGERA.

Coccothraustes speculigerus Brandt, Bull. Sci. Acad. St. Petersb. ix. p. 11 (1842).

Described from a bird obtained in North Persia.

In Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 90, Dr. Hartert renamed his *Oriolus meridionalis*, *Oriolus chinensis macassariensis*. It was therefore quite unnecessary for Mr. Mathews to give yet another new name to the same bird and for precisely the same reason that prompted Dr. Hartert's new name. Mathews's *Broderipus chinensis rileyi* (Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 114) is therefore consigned to redundant synonymy.

Mr. G. L. BATES sent the following remarks, with descriptions of seven

New Birds from the Mountains of N.W. Cameroon.

Mr. Bannerman described, from my former collections, a dozen new races of birds from the elevated region of N.W. Cameroon, mostly found on the large mass of high country called the Bansa Mountains. It is noticeable that these races nearly all differed from their nearest allies in the same manner, by being darker in colour and often slightly larger. I have now found other peculiar forms in the same general region, some of them differing from their nearest allies in the same way. On this last trip I collected in a district somewhat higher above sea-level than those I visited before,

the district called Oku (the seat of an interesting native iron industry), a little west of Kumbo, and really a part of the Bansa Mountains and near the highest part. This district yielded most of the novelties described below, including some which proved, to my surprise, to be distinct from those found before about Kumbo.

This mountain region is certainly a remarkable workshop of nature, as it were, for the making of peculiar forms of birds. These remarkable birds live mostly in the dark wooded ravines, a peculiar wild and sombre kind of place, with crooked trees growing among the rocks, all completely clothed with dark-coloured moss. This district is, of course, not so high as the Cameroon Mountain, but it is of greater extent, and more ancient, since there are no volcanoes still active, while that of the Cameroon Mountain is still active.

I have to thank Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Wells, of the bird-room at the Museum, for their help in describing these birds; and the description of the *Cisticola* is on the authority of Admiral Lynes, who asked me to describe it. Instead of doing so under his name, I do it along with the rest as my own, but recognize his part in the matter by giving this interesting little bird his name.

The types of these new forms are to remain at the British Museum (Natural History).

***Laniarius atroflavus craterum*, subsp. nov.**

Adult male and female. Five birds of both sexes differ from *Laniarius atroflavus*, described from the Cameroon Mountain, in the colour of the underside and in size. While the yellow of the underparts in typical *L. atroflavus* is pure and bright, in the birds here described it is of a dusky tint, as if dirty, the same exactly in my five adult specimens, all in fresh and new plumage, not really at all dirty. The throat also, which in both forms is lighter than the other underparts, is in typical *atroflavus* clear light yellow, and in the new form light yellow with a greenish tinge.

Measurements. Wing, three males, 87, 90, 89—two females,

90, 87 ; tail (of all) 77-81 ; tarsus 31-32 ; culmen 18-19 mm. The wings in *L. a. atroflavus* from Cameroon Mountain measure 80-86 mm. (7 measured).

Type : ♂, Oku, west of Kumbo, Cameroon, 11th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8246.

My two specimens formerly obtained at Genderu, much further north, agree best with the Cameroon Mountain form, though one of them is large, having a wing of 91 mm.

One specimen of *L. a. craterum* was obtained near Bam-bulue Lake, at an altitude of over 600 feet (and others were seen and heard there) ; the rest were shot in the ravines about Oku, at the same altitude—all in February 1925. The Oku ravines are connected with another larger crater-lake called Lake Malwe. These yellow-bellied birds were to be seen, by glimpses only, among the dark moss-covered and gnarled trees of these woods. They might be heard more frequently, for their cries were loud and startling—a peculiar whistling, or rather *swishing*, note, which appears as if each cry were followed by a quick echo. One of my specimens was a female that had laid two eggs within two or three days, and had no more to lay, as was shown by dissection.

***Andropadus concolor*, sp. nov.**

Adult male. The whole plumage may be described as olive-green, all the upper parts of uniform shade, the under-parts lighter, and the throat and the middle of the belly lightest and a little tinged with yellowish. The general colour of the plumage is like that of *Andropadus tephrolæmus bamendæ* except the head, which in the latter bird is grey ; the size and build of the two birds are much the same ; but my specimen, here described as a new species, has somewhat coarser rictal bristles, and a little more slender and pointed bill, with a small but distinct hook at the tip of the upper mandible.

Iris hazel ; feet grey ; bill black.

Measurements. Wing 87, tail 82, tarsus 23, culmen 16 mm.

Type: ♂, Lake Bambulue, near Bamenda, 2nd Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8200.

A single male (with large testes) shot in February in the wood bordering Lake Bambulue, a crater-lake half-a-mile in diameter, situated on the heights above Bamenda, at an altitude of between 6000 and 7000 feet, and distant some 8 miles from Bamenda.

***Cisticola ayresii lynesii*, subsp. nov.**

Adult male in summer plumage. Much darker throughout than in the typical *C. ayresii* of S. Africa or its N.E. African representative, *C. a. habessinica*; top of head and nape dull rust-brown, nearly spotless; feathers of mantle edged with umber-brown, with little of the lighter tints found in the other races.

Measurements of the three birds (all ♂ ad.). Wing 53, 53, 52; tail 30, 30, 28; tarsus 22, 21, 21; culmen 10, 9.5, 10.5 mm.

Type: ♂, Oku, west of Kumbo, Cameroon, 12th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8250. 1926.8.8

These three birds were all shot in the Oku district, in February 1925—not, of course, in the wooded parts, but on grassy slopes near villages. Others were heard and seen in the same district, and also once at Santa, near Bamenda, a place with similar situation and altitude (at least 6000 ft.). They always first attracted attention by the sounds they made in the air while flying. These I have described in my note-book “as a series of clicks with something of a buzzing quality in the tone.” Though doubtless made with the voice, these clicks sound so sharp and mechanical as to seem to be made with the wings. They are made while the little bird, almost too small to be seen in the air, flies about overhead with an irregular, jerky, nervous flight; then, after a little time, it drops down to a grass-stalk near the ground.

***Alseonax minimus okuensis*, subsp. nov.**

Adult male and female. Upperside of a shade darker grey-brown than *A. m. kumboensis*; no light loreal spot (a

brownish-white loreal spot is present in *A. m. kumboensis*); whole underside dusky except a little white on the throat and on the middle of the belly, and not at all buff or yellowish. This absence of any yellowish tinge from the underparts is a distinguishing mark from both *Alseonax minimus kumboensis* and *A. m. obscurus* of the Cameroon Mountain. In fact, this new race is more distinct from those two than those are from each other.

Iris dark brown; feet brownish-black; bill black, but base of the lower mandible light horn-colour.

Measurements. Wing, two males, 66, 67.5—two females, 64, 65; tail (of all) 47–50; tarsus (of all) 13–14; culmen (of all) 10–10.5 mm.

Type: ♂, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 7th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8217.

Four specimens obtained in February 1925 in the wooded ravines about Oku, at altitudes of 6000–6500 feet. They were in new plumage, and were sometimes seen in pairs; and this, with the state of the sex-organs, seemed to indicate a breeding-season already begun.

It seems very strange to find a distinct race of these little Flycatchers within less than twenty miles of the place where *Alseonax m. kumboensis* was discovered. But the altitude was still higher at Oku; and these wooded ravines on the different heights are isolated, and do not form one continuous network of woodland.

Platysteira laticincta, sp. nov.

Adult male. Like *P. peltata* in having no white wing-bar; all the upper parts deep glossy blue-black, except a little greyish-black on the rump; tail-feathers with minute white tips; the broad pectoral band of the same blue-black colour as the upper parts; under wing-coverts white, except those nearest the edge of the wing, which are black; remaining underparts white. The broad pectoral band distinguishes this bird from the males of all forms of *Platysteira peltata*, being much wider than in any of them; at its narrowest

place, in the middle, it is 13 mm. wide, while at the sides, opposite the bend of the folded wing, it is 25 mm. wide.

Iris apparently blue; feet purplish-black; eye-wattle light red.

Measurements. Wing 67; tail 54; tarsus 19; culmen 13.5 mm.

Type: ♂, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 8th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8226.

A single specimen obtained at Oku (west of Kumbo) in one of the forested ravines, at an altitude of 6000 feet or more.

Campethera wellsi, sp. nov.

Adult female. A single female Woodpecker closely agrees with the description of *C. tullbergi*, of Cameroon Mountain, in the colours of the top of the head and upper parts generally—golden olive-green back and wings, a red patch at the bend of the wing, black top of head with small whitish spots, and red back of head; but differs widely in the ground-colour of the underparts, though agreeing in being covered with dusky greenish speckles and spots on the underparts. While in *C. tullbergi* the ground-colour of the whole underside is yellow, in this bird there is no clear yellow at all on the underside; the ground-colour of the throat and the sides of the head is smoky grey, and that of the breast and belly is a pale dingy greenish-yellow. The crop-feathers have the small spots and speckles tending to run together to form fine cross-bars, and the breast is more densely and heavily spotted than in *C. tullbergi*, the spots becoming cross-bars both on the flank-feathers and on the under tail-coverts. This bird has the long bill and hard bones of an adult bird, and in the ovary were found small eggs beginning to form. It differs so much from *C. tullbergi* that I describe it as a separate species, especially as another very different bird found not far away seems to be the representative of *C. tullbergi*.

Measurements (one female). Wing 117 ; tail 72 ; tarsus 21 ; culmen 25 mm.

Type : ♀, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 9th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8233.

Shot (with native bow) near Oku—altitude 6000 feet or over.

***Campethera tullbergi bansoensis*, subsp. nov.**

Adult male. The specimen collected in the Banso Mountains in September 1922 (see 'Ibis,' 1924, pp. 17, 220) differs also from the two male specimens of *C. tullbergi* collected by Boyd Alexander on the Cameroon Mountain in the following particulars:—It is of a brighter bronze-green above ; the underside has the ground-colour of a duller and darker shade of yellow than in typical *C. tullbergi* ; the dusky green speckling of the sides of the head, throat, and crop is denser, and the speckles on the crop-feathers tend to run together into fine cross-bars ; the under tail-coverts are cross-barred (in the specimens of *C. t. tullbergi* they merely have round spots).

Measurements (one male). Wing 116 ; (tail in moult) ; culmen 24.5 mm.

Type : ♂, Banso Mountains, N. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 13th Sept., 1922. G. L. Bates coll. No. 6894. Reg. No. 1923. 10.26.112.

Mr. GREGORY M. MATHEWS sent the following :—

For *Puffinus carneipes zealandicus* in last number, p. 76, read *Puffinus carneipes neozealandicus*, as I find *zealandicus* preoccupied.

Galeocephala, new name for *Megacephalon* Gray, 1846, as used in the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xxii. p. 471, 1893.



1926. "Seven new Birds from the Mountains of N.W. Cameroon[Laniarius, Andropadus, Cisticola, Alseonax, Platystira, Campethera]." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 46, 87–93.

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