



FRANCOLINUS NAHANI.

*about  $\frac{5}{8}$  nat. size.*

## ANOTHER RARE FOREST FRANCOLIN

*Francolinus nahani*, Dubois

(Type locality—Ituri Forest, Congo)

BY DR. V. G. L. VAN SOMEREN

This rare Forest Francolin was described by Dubois, in 1905, from a single immature specimen, which had been sent home in a batch of birds from the Ituri Forest, Belgian Congo.

Although this bird was obviously young, yet it possessed such striking differences from any of the known and described species of Francolin that Dubois had no hesitation in describing it as a new species, and thus being first in the field with one of the most interesting ornithological discoveries from Africa within recent years.

From 1905 to 1913 nothing further was heard of this bird until specimens were sent to me by my collectors, along with that other rare Francolin, *F. l. schubotzi*, from the Mabira Forest, Uganda.

This forest is, roughly, 220 miles east, in a straight line, from the Ituri Forest. This fact is extremely interesting, for this bird is purely a forest species, and there are no large forests in the intervening country.

One point of dissimilarity between the Mabira birds and that from the Ituri is in the colour of the legs and bill: these were described as being grey, whereas in all my specimens these parts are crimson. This discrepancy may be accounted for by the fact that the colour of the legs fades after death; but in no single specimen in my collection are the legs grey, but rather a brownish yellow.

The sexes are alike.

Very little is known regarding the habits. My collectors report that these birds go in pairs and are frequently seen with guinea-fowl, and indeed they mistook *these* birds for young

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of that species, until a specimen was procured. This mistake was quite pardonable on account of the poor light which filters through the tops of the thick foliated trees.

I myself have only seen these birds on one occasion ; they were feeding under the undergrowth, and their presence was detected on account of the rustling of the dead leaves on the ground as they scratched and hunted for seeds and snails, which food appears to be their chief diet.

They were shy and most difficult to procure.

Like *F. l. schubotzi*, these birds are much smaller than most of the other francolin, and possess very slender bills.

So far as I am aware, neither eggs nor nestlings of these birds have been taken.

It is to be hoped that further information regarding these two rare Forest Francolin will be sought for by members living near the Mabira Forest.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE EARLY HOMINIDÆ

By E. WYNSTONE-WATERS, F.R.S., Edinburgh. (*Late Senior Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.*)

The discovery in 1912 of the Piltdown fragments has supplied us with a fifth species of the Hominidæ. Before touching on this interesting find, it will be well to review briefly the salient features of those portions which have been discovered of the other species.

In the year 1865 Sir John Lubbock (the late Lord Avebury) introduced two terms, which have since been in very general use. He proposed that the Stone Age should be divided into two portions. The people of the later period he called Neolithic ; while, extending far behind this Neolithic stock, and living under very different climatic conditions, we have what he termed the Palæolithic peoples—races of savages which roamed about during the glacial epoch, and were contemporary with such extinct forms as the Mammoth Elephant, Cave Bear, &c.