

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM THE BOROR DISTRICT OF PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

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IN December, 1908, the Transvaal Museum acquired a fine collection of about 400 birds, collected by Messrs. F. Vaughan-Kirby, F.Z.S., and Austin Roberts in the Boror District of Portuguese East Africa. A full account of the collection will appear later, either in the "Annals" or in the journal of the S.A.O.U. The Boror district is that portion of Mozambique Territory lying just north of the Zambesi River. The collection was made in a comparatively restricted area, the party never having been further north than the 17th degree of south latitude, nor further west than the 36th degree.

Amongst this collection there are several new to science. My thanks are due to Dr. Reichenow for kind assistance in verifying and comparing birds for me.

Anthoscopus robertsi, sp. nov.

Above pale grey-brown, with a distinct yellow-olivaceous tinge. Forehead, eyebrow, and cheeks pale cream; the latter washed with ashy. Throat and upper breast creamy-white passing into cream colour on the lower breast and sides of the body. Abdomen and flanks pale rufous-brown. Thighs pale yellowish. Upper tail coverts slightly washed with pale ochreous-brown. Wing-coverts grey-brown, edged with pale sandy-grey. Remiges ashy-brown edged with creamy-white on the outer web, and with very pale isabelline on the inner. Axillaries and under wing-coverts silky-white.

Measurements of skins : (a) Female (type). L. 78. Wing 53.4. Tail 29.5. Tarsus 13. Culmen 8.8.

(Iris brown. Bill bluish-slate, dark-brown on the culmen and genys. Tarsus pale cobalt-blue. L. 77. W. 52. C. 9. K. & R.) Boror (Villa Pereira), 17th May, 1908.

(b) Female (co-type). Length 78. Wing 50. Tail 26.5. Tarsus 12.5. Culmen 8.6. (Iris pale slate. Bill slate, tomia whitish. Tarsus slate. L. 75. W. 48. C. 8. K. & R.) Villa Pereira, Boror, Port. S.E. Africa, 5th May, 1908.

The second example has the wing-plumage in a somewhat worn condition, hence the smaller measurement.

This new species comes nearest to *A. caroli* Sharpe, but differs markedly from this species in the clear olivaceous grey upper surface, and white under wing-coverts.

Heliolais kirbyi, sp. nov.

Similar to *H. erythroptera* (Jard.), from which it is chiefly distinguished by its isabelline-brown upper surface, instead of grey-brown, and by its smaller size.

Above pale isabelline-brown, crown washed with grey. Upper tail-coverts pale rusty brown. Wing-coverts chestnut or red-brown. Remiges dark-brown, edged with red-brown on the outer and pale isabelline on the inner web. Lores and sides of head pale grey—a dusky spot in front of the eye. Chin and throat white, as is also the centre of the abdomen. Breast washed with very pale rusty yellow, stronger on the sides, shading into rusty-brown on the flanks. Tail feathers edged with rusty-yellow, and with a subterminal black bar before the white tip. (This is distinctly visible from above, and markedly different from the figure of *erythroptera* in the "Ibis," 1869, Plate I, fig. 2.)

(a) Male (type). Length of skin 134 mm. Wing 50.5. Tail 59. Tarsus 21. Culmen 13. Mpimba, Boror, P.E. Africa, 14th July, 1908. (Bill dark brown, gape and genys whitish. Iris brownish-yellow. Tarsus pale-yellow. Length 137. W. 51. Culmen 13. K. & R.)

(b) Female (type). Wing 49. Tail 58. Tarsus 20. Culmen (shot away). Villa Pereira, Boror, P.E. Africa, 24th June, 1908. (Bill brown above, flesh colour below. Iris brownish yellow. Tarsus pale yellow. L. 132. W. 49. K. & R.)



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