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XV.—*On the Birds collected by Mr. Claude H. B. Grant at various Localities in South Africa.*—Part II. By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. *With Field-Notes* by the Collector.

[Continued from above, p. 316.]

THE numbers in front of the names of the Birds are those of the 'Check-list of South-African Birds,' published by me in 1905 (Ann. S. Afr. Mus. iii. pp. 303-387), which is founded upon the four volumes of the 'Birds of South Africa' by myself and the late Dr. Stark.

In order to save space the following contractions are used :—

CC. = Cape Colony.

Tv. = Transvaal.

N. = Natal.

P. = Portuguese East Africa.

Z. = Zululand.

294. **TURDUS LITSITSIRUPA.**

Tv. Legogot, Apl. (2).

[Only in the Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal have I seen this species; in addition to the two secured, a single example was observed in the North-East Transvaal feeding on an open patch of ground on the Shongololo River, about twenty-five miles from the Portuguese border. Both the specimens shot were on different occasions sitting on the

top of the same tree in the early morning and indulging in a wild erratic sort of song; they looked for the moment much like Missel-Thrushes.

The soft parts are :—Irides deep brown; bill dark brown, lower mandible yellow; legs and toes whitish horn-coloured.]

295. *TURDUS GURNEYI*.

Z. Sibudeni, Jan. (5); **Tv.** Zuurbron, Apl. (1); Woodbush Hills, Nov., Dec. (3).

Nest with two young taken at Sibudeni, Jan. 30th.

The nest does not seem to have been described before, and I believe the eggs are not known. The male, female, and two nestlings taken on January 30th are in the collection.

The nestling is fulvous brown above with fulvous-yellow shaft-streaks; the wing-coverts already shew the characteristic white spots and tips; the under parts are pale fulvous yellow, most of the feathers being tipped with a black band, forming a rather irregular black cross-banding.

[I found this supposed rare Thrush quite common in the forests at Sibudeni, Zululand, and in the South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal. It is essentially a bird of the forests and is somewhat shy in habits. It was found breeding in the Nkandhla forest at Sibudeni, and several nests were seen, but only one was occupied and that contained two young. The nest, which was composed entirely of moss, was placed on a large horizontal limb of a tree some twelve to fourteen feet from the ground and was overhanging a native footpath. Both the adults were very bold and excited when the nest was robbed and were easily secured.

The soft parts of the adult are :—Irides brown; bill black; legs and toes whitish horn-coloured.

In the nestling the bill is brown and the gape pale yellow.]

296. *TURDUS OLIVACEUS*.

CC. Table Mt. slopes, Feb. (2); Knysna, Dec., Jan. (2); **Z.** Sibudeni, Oct., Nov., Jan. (7); **Tv.** Zuurbron, Apl., May (4); Woodbush Hills, Nov. (3).

["Umse" of Zulus.

I have carefully examined this series and cannot find one true *T. cabanisi*. The amount of grey on the flanks seems very variable.

[This Thrush was commonly noticed in the woods and forests of the Cape Peninsula, the Knysna district, Zululand, and Natal, and the South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal.

It is a thrush of the woods and forests, where it is found solitary or in pairs ; and although I have never taken the eggs, I secured many young birds and saw deserted old nests. It has a soft sighing call-note like our European Thrush, but no song. It is a fearless confiding bird, and spends much of its time amongst the under-wood.

The soft parts are :— Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes horny yellow ; base of upper mandible horn-brown.

In the young the bill is brownish, with the gape yellowish, and the legs and toes livid brown.]

298. *TURDUS LIBONIANUS*.

P. Coguno, Aug., Sept. (2) ; Beira, Nov. Dec. (3) ; Tambarara, July (1).

I cannot distinguish examples of this species from Rustenburg (near the type locality) from those from Nyasaland or from the present series. I am not, therefore, inclined to uphold Neumann's subspecies *T. libonianus tropicalis*, to which, if distinct, Mr. Grant's birds should be referred.

A young bird, labelled Beira, Nov. 25, with the tail full-grown, shews a few fulvous shaft-streaks on the wing-coverts, while the general tone of colour is more olive and less silvery ; below, the breast is spotted with black ; the bill is black.

[I have only seen this Thrush in the Portuguese country, where, however, it was not common. It frequents both the forests and the more patchy country, is essentially thrush-like in habits and call, and spends much of its time on the ground searching for food. In the Inhambane district I found it feeding on pollen in company with Sunbirds and Bulbuls.

The soft parts of the adult are :—Irides brown ; eyelids, bill, legs and toes pale yellow.

In the young the bill is blackish brown.]

300. *MONTICOLA RUPESTRIS*.

CC. Knysna, Apl. (1) ; Plettenberg Bay, Feb. (1).

[This Rock-Thrush was sparingly seen in the Knysna district of the Cape Colony only ; it frequented the open country, sitting about on the rocks and clods of earth, and chasing insects on the ground much like a Wheatear.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes blackish brown.]

301. *MONTICOLA EXPLORATOR*.

Tv. Wakkerstroom, Mch., Apl. (5).

[This species was only observed in the South-Eastern Transvaal, and was noticed in pairs on the rock-strewn mountain-sides, usually sitting on some conspicuous boulder ; it was quite tame. In habits it resembles *M. rupestris*.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes blackish brown.]

302. *MONTICOLA BREVIPES*.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl. (1).

A young bird in the spotted stage.

[The young specimen sent was caught in a mouse-trap baited with cheese. Although a good look-out was kept, no adults or other young were seen during the Namaqualand trip, a fact which was distinctly curious.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes blackish brown ; gape pale yellow.]

304. *MYRMECOCICHLA FORMICIVORA*.

Tv. Wakkerstroom, Mch., Apl. (7).

[Since the Central Cape Colony trip I have only seen this species on the highlands around Wakkerstroom, S.E. Transvaal. It frequents open grass-country, usually in pairs, and sits on clods or the top of ant-heaps, whence it makes springs straight up in the air, I presume to catch some

passing insect ; it also feeds largely upon ants. The call is somewhat Chat-like, and the flight is low and laboured, with rapid beats of the wings.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill, legs and toes black-brown.]

305. MYRMECOCICHLA BIFASCIATA.

Tv. Zuurbron, Apl., May (6).

[This striking Chat was only observed at Zuurbron, in the South-Eastern Transvaal, between the middle of April and the first week of May. It frequented the larger boulders at the bases of the kopjes and hills, and in actions and habits resembled the true Wheatears.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

306. PRATINCOLA TORQUATA.

1. Western typical race (*P. torquata typica*) :—

CC. Port Nolloth, July, Aug. (10) ; Durban Rd., Mch., Sept. (4).

2. Eastern race (*P. torquata orientalis*, subsp. n.) :—

CC. Plettenberg Bay, Feb. (2) ; **Z.** Sibudeni, Oct., Nov. (7) ; Umfolosi Station, June, July, Aug. (15) ;

Tv. Zuurbron, Apl., May (5) ; Wakkerstroom, Mch. (1) ; Woodbush, June, Nov. (5) ; Klein Letaba, Aug. (1).

The fine series of this Stonechat collected by Grant enables me to distinguish two quite separable subspecies in South Africa.

A Western race, from Namaqualand and the Cape Town neighbourhood, is distinguishable in the male by the restriction of the rufous patch on the breast, which does not extend to the flanks or more than about half the length of the under parts. The female is even more distinct : it has a white patch on the abdomen distinctly marked out from the surrounding pale fulvous, and the under tail-coverts are pure white ; the chin and throat, too, are white with black bases to the feathers, and form a marked contrast to the rufous breast.

In the Eastern race the rufous of the breast in the male

extends over the flanks, leaving only a small and not very distinct white patch in the middle of the abdomen. In the female the whole of the under parts are tawny rufous, there is no distinct white patch on the abdomen, and the under tail-coverts are more or less tinged with rufous; the throat, which is white in the other subspecies, is in this form tawny, and though slightly paler than the breast in no way forms a marked contrast to it.

The *Muscicapa torquata* of Linnæus was founded solely on Brisson's "Gobe-mouche à collier du Cap de Bonne Espérance." A reference to that work shews clearly that the description and figure apply to the Western race found near Cape Town. This is also the case with Levaillant's "Traquet pâtre," on which Strickland founded his *Pratincola pastor*. I am driven therefore to find a new name for the Eastern subspecies, and I would propose to call it *Pratincola torquata orientalis*. As types of the species, I select a pair taken at Umfolosi Station, in Zululand—the male on August 4, and the female on June 30, 1904.

The British Museum contains examples of the typical form from Kugelfontein and Komaggas in Little Namaqualand, and from Cape Town. The new subspecies is much more abundantly represented. The following are its chief localities:—**CC.** Deelfontein, Knysna, Chalumma River, Port Elizabeth, and Notinsila in Pondoland; **N.** Durban, Pinetown, Maritzburg, and Newcastle; **Tv.** Macamac, Rustenburg, and Potchefstroom; Tati and Lake Ngami in Bechuanaland; Chiquaqua in Mashonaland; Nyasaland and Angola.

[“Sanquawane” of Zulus.

This Stonechat is resident and was commonly seen in every locality visited from the Cape northwards, but was not met with anywhere in the Portuguese territory. In appearance, habits, and call it exactly resembles *P. rubicola*. It appears to be an early breeder, as fledged young were taken in September, October, and November

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill, legs and toes black.]

307. *SAXICOLA MONTICOLA*.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., May, June (7); **Tv.** Wakkerstroom, Apl. (1).

There are seven males and one female of this remarkable Chat in the collection. Of the seven males, two dated May 8 and June 18 are in what I have termed stage 3 in the 'Birds of South Africa,' *i.e.*, black with white shoulders and abdomen; another pair of males, dated April 5 and 29, are in stage 5, in which the crown is grey and the white of the abdomen is not nearly so conspicuous—in fact, it appears to be gradually wearing off; finally, three males, dated Klipfontein, April 17 and 24, and Wakkerstroom, April 11, are in stage 6—grey with white shoulders,—and in one of these there are a few black feathers on the breast, which seem to be disappearing. I fear that these examples do not throw much more light on the plumage-changes of this interesting species.

[This Chat was common in Namaqualand, but wild, and it was not seen again till Wakkerstroom was reached, when a single pair was met with, the male being secured. It was usually observed in pairs, and frequented the rocky sides of the hills and mountains. The call is a clear whistle and the flight is swift. It is somewhat wary and difficult of approach.

The soft parts are:—Irides dark brown; bill, legs and toes black.]

308. *SAXICOLA PILEATA*.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., May, June, July (13); Durban Rd., Mch. (1); **Tv.** Woodbush, June (6).

The examples from the North-Eastern Transvaal are intermediate between this, the typical form, and *S. p. livingstonii*. The white on the forehead is more restricted, but the black band is of much the same breadth as in specimens from Namaqualand. It seems to me best to refer these birds to *S. pileata*.

[This Wheatear was very common in Namaqualand; but only an occasional individual was seen in the Cape Peninsula, and it was not observed elsewhere, except at Woodbush.

It is essentially a ground-bird, and has many actions like a Wheatear and others similar to a Robin, while I have only occasionally seen it perch on bushes or sticks. It is very active, chasing insects like a Wheatear, and often, when only wounded, will run down holes. I did not observe it breeding.

The soft parts are:—Irides deep brown; bill, legs and toes black.]

313. SAXICOLA FAMILIARIS.

CC. Plettenberg Bay, Mch. (1); **Z.** Jususie Valley, Dec. (2); Sibudeni, Nov. (2); **Tv.** Klein Letaba, Aug. (2); Turfloop, Mch. (2).

The examples from the Transvaal have the black band on the tail-feathers a good deal narrower than those from Cape Colony. In this respect they approach *S. falkensteini*, which ranges from the Zambesi Valley northwards. They have been distinguished by Reichenow as *S. familiaris hellmayri*; but, as they are obviously only intermediate between what can hardly be regarded as more than subspecies, it does not seem worth while to recognize this additional name.

[This little Chat was noted in Namaqualand, the Knysna, Zululand, and the Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal, but, except in Namaqualand, was not common anywhere. It is a tame and confiding bird, and can often be seen sitting about on heaps of stone, old iron, or wood around habitations, whence it makes short flights and runs to catch some insect; where the country is wilder, it frequents the rocky sides of the hills. It is an active species, and in many ways reminded me of the European Redstart (*Ruticilla phœnicurus*).

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill, legs and toes dark brown.

313 a. SAXICOLA FAMILIARIS GALTONI.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl. (1).

A single skin of the Familiar Chat from Little Namaqualand seems closer to the Great Namaqualand form than to that from the Cape.

315. POLIOCICHLA SINUATA.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., May, July (5).

Almost indistinguishable from *Saxicola familiaris*, except by the emargination of the primary.

[Found only in Namaqualand, where it is plentiful. In habits and appearance it resembles *S. familiaris*, and the two can easily be confounded in the veld.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes dark brown.]

317. POLIOCICHLA POLLUX.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., June (3).

[I have only noted this Chat from Namaqualand, where it was not uncommon. It is partial to sitting on the tops of bushes and boulders, from which it flies off to catch its food on the ground ; this consists of insects. After securing and devouring its prey it returns again to its perch to watch. In size and appearance it greatly resembles the adult male of *Saxicola monticola*.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

312. POLIOCICHLA LAYARDI.

CC. Port Nolloth, July, Aug. (17) ; Klipfontein, May, June (2).

The Port Nolloth series is a shade paler than the Klipfontein pair, and approaches *Saxicola albicans*. This is a species of singularly restricted distribution. It is known only from Aliwal North, Upington, Deelfontein, and Namaqualand, and appears to be practically confined to the valley of the Orange River.

[Only noted from Namaqualand, where it was particularly common and frequented both the hills and the flats, sitting about on the boulders and tops of bushes, and usually catching its prey on the ground. It is very active, resembling *S. familiaris* in this and many other ways.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes dark brown.]

319. *THAMNOLEA ARNOTTI*.**Tv.** Klein Letaba, July (2).

[The two specimens secured are the only ones I have ever seen of this Chat; they were shot on the rocky slopes of Madzimbabombi Mt. In appearance and flight it resembles *Saxicola monticola*; but I did not hear its call.

The soft parts are:—Irides dark brown; bill, legs and toes black.]

320. *COSSYPHA BICOLOR*.

CC. Knysna, Feb. (1); **Z.** Sibudeni, Nov., Dec. (4); **Tv.** Woodbush, Nov., Dec. (4).

One of the birds from Woodbush dated Dec. 12 is a fully fledged young bird of the year. The head and back are black, spotted with yellow, the wings and tail much as in the adult, and the under parts dull yellowish, many of the feathers, especially on the breast, being edged with black, and producing a somewhat speckly appearance.

[“Ebinda” of Zulus.

This “Robin” was noted from the Knysna, Natal, and Zululand, the South-Eastern, Eastern, and North-Eastern Transvaal, and the Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa. It is a woodland bird and is somewhat shy and retiring in habits, although its loud and clear call-note easily betrays its presence; it also has a song of several clear liquid notes. Like the other Robin-Chats it is sometimes trapped in gins set for mice. I have not discovered the nest.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill black; legs and toes amber-coloured. In the young the bill is brownish and the gape pale yellow.]

321. *COSSYPHA NATALENSIS*.**P.** Coguno, July (1).

[Although I have seen this bird in several localities, notably Natal and Zululand, the North-Eastern Transvaal, and the Beira district of the Portuguese country, owing to its haunting forest, and being very shy and retiring in habit,

I have only secured it from the Inhambane district. In habits it greatly resembles *Tarsiger stellatus*.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill black; legs and toes brown.]

323. *COSSYPHA CAFFRA*.

CC. Table Mt. slopes, Jan. Feb. (5); Tokai, Feb. (2); Durban Rd., Mch., Sept. (3); Plettenberg Bay, Mch. (1); **Tv.** Zuurbron Mch., May (2); Wakkerstroom, Apl. (1); Woodbush, May, June (2); Legogot, Apl. (1).

COSSYPHA CAFFRA NAMAQUENSIS, subsp. nov.

CC. Klipfontein, June (1).

This form of the Cape Robin differs from the typical form commonly found throughout Southern Cape Colony and Natal in the great extension of the white on the sides of the head; instead of forming a comparatively inconspicuous eyebrow, it makes a broad band on either side of the head from the base of the bill over the eye to above the ear-coverts, where there is a very conspicuous white patch; this at once distinguishes it from the common Cape Town form; and except that the orange-rufous of the throat and chest is of a slightly darker and richer shade, as was noticed by Sharpe when examining the Deelfontein bird ('Ibis,' 1904, p. 322), there does not seem to be any other appreciable difference.

Only a single example was procured by Grant. This, the type of the subspecies, is a female from Klipfontein, Namaqualand, dated June 19, 1903.

I have found two other specimens in the British Museum. One of these, also a female, was obtained previously by Claude Grant at Deelfontein in July; the other, a male, is labelled "Hopetown, Atmore."

Measurements of the type: length 170 mm., wing 89, tail 86, culmen 12, tarsus 27; of the Hopetown male, length 186 mm., wing 87, tail 90, culmen 12, tarsus 27.

The Namaqualand Robin-Chat doubtless replaces the Cape Robin-Chat in the valley of the Orange River and in Northern and North-Western Cape Colony.

[“Geelgat” of Cape Colonists.

The “Cape Robin” was noted in Namaqualand (where only the specimen sent was seen), the Cape Peninsula, the Knysna, and the South-Eastern, Eastern, and North-Eastern Transvaal. It was not plentiful in the latter locality, but was extremely so at the Cape.

The Cape Robin frequents undergrowth in woods and forests or bush-filled kloofs, and spends much of its time on the ground searching for insects amongst the débris; in this and other habits it much resembles the European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). I have not taken the nest, but it breeds during the summer season and probably has two broods, as young were found in September and February.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill black; legs and toes dark brown. In the young all the soft parts are paler, and the gape yellow.]

325. *AËDONOPSIS SIGNATA*.

Z. Sibudeni, Dec. (2).

[“Twa-Twa” of Zulus.

Only in Zululand have I seen this bird, where it was sparingly noticed in the depths of the Nkandhla Forest at Sibudeni. It was usually seen sitting among the upper branches of the undergrowth, uttering at intervals the call-note from which the Zulu name is derived. It was, on the whole, a scarce bird, and nothing was noted of its other habits.

The soft parts are:—Irides of a raw sienna colour; bill dark brown; legs and toes light brown.]

327. *POGONOCICHLA STELLATA*.

Z. Sibudeni, Nov. (1); **Tv.** Woodbush Hills, Nov. (3).

[This species frequents thick forest, and is not easy to procure, owing to its shy and retiring habits, but it is probably quite plentiful in all forest areas, where I have overlooked it. In habits and actions it resembles the European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), and the alarm-call is also the same.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill black; legs and toes pale brown.]

330. *ERYTHROPYGIA ZAMBESIANA*.

P. Tete, Sept. (1 ♂).

This is the type-locality, where it was first procured by Sir John Kirk.

[This is the only specimen I have seen of this species. It was feeding among the small bushes at the foot of some hills. The red tail was very conspicuous as it flew from one bush to another.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill blackish, pale yellow at base of lower mandible; legs and toes pale brown.]

331. *ERYTHROPYGIA LEUCOPHRYS*.

Z. Hluhluwe Stream, Aug. (1); **Tv.** Woodbush, May (1); **P.** Coguno, June (1).

[Besides the three localities where specimens were collected, I have observed what was apparently this species on one occasion near Beira. It is by no means common, and altogether I have only seen it on three or four occasions, usually in pairs.

The example shot in Zululand was warbling from the top of a small tree; the male from Inhambane was courting a female and was shewing off, running along the branches with the head held low and the wings drooping, the tail being widely spread and held more or less erect; on coming close to me it flew off at a tangent and back to an upper branch, and repeated the performance.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill dark brown, pale yellowish white at base of lower mandible; legs and toes pale brown.]

334. *ERYTHROPYGIA CORYPHÆUS*.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., June (4); Port Nolloth, July (2).

[I have only observed this species in Namaqualand, where it was fairly common and frequented the patches of rough scrub in the kloofs and along the dry water-courses. It is an active little bird, and was only seen singly; it feeds largely on insects. It was apparently breeding during my visit.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill, legs and toes blackish.]

335. *LIOPTILUS NIGRICAPILLUS*.

Tv. Zuurbron, May (3) ; Woodbush Hills, Nov. (4).

[The South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal are the only two localities where I have seen examples of this species. It haunts the woodlands and is very shy and retiring, and consequently difficult to secure. It has a sharp call-note, and in appearance and movement in a wild state much resembles the Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), but owing to its frequenting the thickest and densest part of the brush, little could be learnt regarding it.

The soft parts are :—Irides reddish brown ; bill, base pale coral, apical portion brownish white ; legs and toes pale brown.]

336. *MELÆNORNIS ATER*.

Tv. Legogot, May (8) ; **P.** Tete, Sept. (1).

[I have noted the Black Flycatcher from several localities on the eastern side of South Africa ; it is especially plentiful in the Barberton district of the Transvaal.

I must say that I at first mistook it for the male of *Campothera nigra* or *Dicrurus ludwigi*. These three species can easily be confounded, until the calls and habits have been carefully noted.

It frequents well-timbered country, especially where the bush is patchy, and is usually observed sitting on dead branches, from which it darts out on insects like a true Flycatcher. The call is low and not often heard, and the flight much resembles that of *Dicrurus ludwigi*.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

337. *BRADYORNIS INFUSCATUS*.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., June (3) ; Port Nolloth, July (6).

[Namaqualand is the only locality where I have met with this species. It is commonly seen perched on the tops of the bushes, but is not always easy of approach. In habits and appearance it much resembles the Chats, with which it was formerly associated.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark hazel ; bill dark brown ; legs and toes black.]

338 a. *BRADYORNIS GRISEUS*.

Tv. Klein Letaba, July, Sept. (2) ; Legogot, Apl. (8) ; **P.** Coguno, June, July, Aug. (10) ; Masambeti, Oct. (1) ; Beira, Jan. (1).

These birds match very well a bird in the British Museum from Mapicuti in Mozambique, and one from the Ivuna River in Zululand, identified by Sharpe ('Ibis,' 1900, p. 112) with this species. It was originally described by Reichenow from the interior of German East Africa, and there are a large number of examples from Nyasaland in the collection. It comes near *B. murinus*, but is smaller (wing 82–86 against 100–104 mm.). I find the dark streaks of the head common to both species and very variable in their development.

[I have noted this Flycatcher in the Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal and the Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa. It could not be said to be plentiful in the Transvaal, but was more so in the Portuguese country, being particularly common around the Coguno Camp.

This Flycatcher usually frequents clearings and gardens near human habitations, where it sits on the lower branches of trees and shrubs, from which it darts out on its prey. I have also seen it catch insects on the ground, sometimes devouring them there, but more often carrying them back to its perch. It is a silent and fearless little bird, and allows one to pass within a few feet without taking flight.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel ; bill blackish horn-coloured, pale at the base of the lower mandible ; legs and toes almost black.]

328. *BRADYORNIS SILENS*.

Tarsiger silens Stark & Selater, Birds S. Afr. ii. p. 219.

CC. Durban Rd., Mch., Sept. (4) ; **Z.** Umfolosi Station, July (2) ; **Tv.** Woodbush, Jan., June (3).

One nest with three eggs taken at Durban Road, Sept. 19.

A nestling with the tail only half-grown is in rather an interesting stage, which I have not seen before. It is

blackish brown above, thickly spotted with pale fulvous ; the secondaries shew a little white edging, and the tail is white-tipped. Below it is white, stippled with black.

[I have seen this species in the Cape Peninsula (where it is plentiful), in Zululand, and in the North-Eastern Transvaal ; from all these localities specimens were secured. I have also noted it at Pretoria, where I have observed it in the grounds of the Zoological Garden.

This bird has more the habits of a Shrike than those of a Flycatcher, and it is very fond of sitting on the top of some bush or small tree after the manner of *Lanius collaris*, for which at a short distance it can easily be mistaken ; in fact, many colonists will tell you that it is one and the same bird, and call it by the local name of the Shrike.

It breeds in the summer season, and probably has two broods, as I have taken the eggs in the Cape Peninsula in September and shot young birds in January in the North-Eastern Transvaal, unless it breeds later in the latter locality, which is just possible.

I took the nest and three eggs on the 19th of September at the Cape ; this was placed about ten feet from the ground in the fork of a small bush forming part of a hedge bordering a by-road. The nest was cup-shaped and composed of twigs of heather and wild sage, lined with chicken-feathers and downy seeds. The old birds were quite jealous, and were easily procured. It has a loud call and a sort of song.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes black. In the young the bill and legs are darkish brown, and the gape is yellow.

In an immature male in second plumage the bill and legs and toes are not of so deep a black as in the adult.]

340. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.

P. Beira, Nov. 29, Dec. 31, Feb. 7 (3).

[I have only noted the European Spotted Flycatcher in the Beira district, where it was quite numerous during the summer. Its habits are too well-known to need repetition.]

341. *MUSCICAPA CÆRULESCENS*.

N. Illovo, Nov. (2) ; **P.** Coguno, Aug. (1) ; Masambeti, Nov. (1) ; Tambarara, Mch. (1).

[The Blue-grey Flycatcher was noted in Natal, where a single pair was seen, and in the Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa. It is distinctly uncommon everywhere, and is a woodland-haunting species. All that were seen have been sitting on the trunks of fallen trees and stumps and were tame and confiding. In attitude and flight it is a true Flycatcher, and the call is like the "zee-zee" of *Muscicapa grisola*.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, upper mandible black, lower mandible, legs and toes slate-coloured.]

342. *ALSEONAX ADUSTA*.

CC. Knysna, Dec. (4) ; **Z.** Sibudeni, Oct., Jan. (4) ; Umfolosi Station, July (1) ; Ngoye Hills, Oct. (1) ; **Tv.** Zuurbron, Apl. (1) ; Woodbush, Nov., Dec. (4) ; **P.** Cuguno, Aug. (1).

Two young birds are in the series ; one, a nestling with an undeveloped tail, is marked "Knysna, Dec. 26," and the other from Sibudeni, dated Jan. 18, has a nearly fully developed tail. Both are profusely spotted on the head and back with pale rufous, and have the secondaries edged with the same colour. Below there is a little black stippling on the white.

["Mbusi" of Zulus.

This little Flycatcher is common in the Knysna, Natal, Zululand, South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal, and the Inhambane district of Portuguese East Africa. It was also noted sparingly in the Beira and Gorongosa districts, but was not seen near Tete. It is a woodland species, although occasionally frequenting more sparsely timbered country, as at the Umfolosi in Zululand. Usually observed in pairs, it is a quiet and retiring bird. In habits and flight it bears a strong resemblance to *Muscicapa grisola*, but its smaller size instantly distinguishes it.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes almost black.]

343. *CHLOROPETA NATALENSIS*.

Z. Hluhluwe Stream, Aug. (1) ; **Tv.** Woodbush, Nov., Dec. (3).

[Eastern Zululand and the North-Eastern Transvaal are the only localities in which I have seen this species. I have found it only in the long grass and reeds bordering the streams, where it sidles up the stems like a Reed-Warbler and drops back again on taking alarm, while I have never seen it fly. The alarm-note is rather harsh and Sedge-Warbler-like ; in fact, in general habit and the situations it frequents it resembles a Sedge-Warbler rather than a Flycatcher.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill, upper mandible dusky brown, lower pale yellow ; legs and toes brownish black.]

346. *SMITHORNIS CAPENSIS*.

P. Coguno, Aug. (1) ; Beira, Feb. (1) ; Tambarara, July (3).

[The Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa are the only localities where I have seen this quaint Flycatcher. In both the former localities it was scarce, but in the latter many individuals were seen. I have usually noticed it sitting quietly on the low boughs of the smaller trees in the depth of the forests, whence it darts out on passing insects and back again to its perch. It is a confiding and fearless bird, and will allow itself to be passed quite close without shewing any fear. It has a loud cry of "karroo," somewhat drawn out, and another not unlike the alarm-note of a squirrel.

The soft parts are :—

Adult. Irides brown ; bill, upper mandible black, lower fleshy ; legs and toes yellowish.

In a young male :—Irides of a raw sienna colour ; bill, upper mandible blackish brown, lower fleshy ; legs and toes greenish.]

347. *BIAS MUSICUS*.

P. Masambeti, Oct. (1).

[Twice only have I seen this Flycatcher, on the first occasion the specimen was shot, and some three days later I saw

another male flying over the tops of some trees, but out of shot. The male secured was sitting on a tall tree and was warbling quietly and sweetly to itself, occasionally darting out to catch some passing insect and returning each time to the same perch; after watching it for some time I shot it. Whether the female was somewhere close by I cannot say; anyhow, nothing could be seen of her and the shot did not make her reveal herself.

The soft parts are:—Irides yellow; legs and toes pale lemon-chrome.]

348. *PLATYSTIRA PELTATA*.

P. Beira, Dec. (1).

[Only in the Beira district of Portuguese East Africa have I seen this bird, and there I found it in one locality, in a stretch of trees and bushes bordering an intermittent river. Even there it was scarce, and only some four or five birds were observed; two were shot, but one was so damaged that it was useless for preservation. It is fearless and active in its habits, searching every leaf and branch and uttering every few seconds a sharp “zee” call-note.

The soft parts of the female secured were:—wattle bright orange; bill black; legs and toes slate-coloured. Irides shot away.]

349. *BATIS CAPENSIS*.

CC. Table Mt. slopes, Jan., Feb. (6); Knysna, Jan., Feb. (6); Plettenberg Bay, Mch. (1); **N.** Illovo, Nov. (2); **Z.** Sibudeni, Oct., Nov., Jan. (7); **Tv.** Zuurbron, Apl., May (8); Woodbush Hills, Dec. (3).

[“Gwisisiba” of Zulus.

A common bird of the woods and forests of the Cape Peninsula, the Knysna district, Natal, Zululand, and the South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal, but not met with in the extensive woods and forests of the Portuguese country. It was generally seen in pairs or family-parties, and frequented the thicker undergrowth, but seldom the larger trees. It is a true Flycatcher in habits and calls.

The soft parts are :—

♂. Irides bright yellow or lemon-yellow ; bill black ; legs and toes very dark slate.

♀. Irides pale yellow ; bill black ; legs and toes slaty. In a young female the irides are yellowish grey.]

349 *a.* *BATIS FRATRUM.*

Shelley, *Ibis*, 1900, p. 522.

P. Masambeti, Nov. (1).

The single example is marked a male, and was shot on Nov. 12. It agrees in every respect with the type of the species procured by the Woodward brothers at St. Lucia Bay in Zululand. That specimen was stated to be a male by the Woodwards, though not so marked on the ticket, but was surmised by Shelley, who described it, to be a female, as it had no black breast-band. The present example goes to shew that this species differs from the others of the genus in that respect, and it also extends the range considerably northwards. So far as I am aware, it has not, till now, been taken since its first discovery in Zululand.

[The specimen secured is the only one I have ever seen of this species. Its call, which is different from that of other members of the genus, first arrested my attention. It was shot in a belt of wood containing thick undergrowth ; the female was not seen and was probably breeding at that time of year, but careful search failed to discover her. Its habits and actions appear to resemble the other Flycatchers of this genus.

The soft parts are :—Irides yellow ; bill, legs and toes black.]

350. *BATIS MOLITOR.*

Z. Umfolosi Station, Aug. (1) ; Jususie Valley, Dec. (1) ; **Tv.** Klein Letaba, July, Aug. (2) ; Woodbush, May, June (4).

[♂, "Mbunsasane" ; ♀, "Gwisisiba" of Zulus.

I have observed this bird only in the localities where specimens were collected. In the Portuguese country its place is taken by the following form.

This bird does not inhabit forest, but is commonly found in bush-veld country, where it is met with singly and in pairs,

pottering about the trees and bushes searching for insects. I have seen it catching insects on the wing, but it more often captures them from leaves and bark, occasionally on the ground. The flight is slow and jerky, and usually only from bush to bush; the call is a low whistle, the alarm-note being harsh. I have not succeeded in finding the nest.

The soft parts are:—Irides bright yellow; bill, legs and toes black.]

BATIS PUELLA SOROR.

Reichenow, Vög. Afr. ii. p. 485; C. Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 93.

P. Coguno, July (5); Masambeti, Nov. (1); Beira, Nov., Dec., Feb. (3); Tambarara, Apl., July (3).

This species, first taken in South Africa by Claude Grant, differs from *B. molitor* in its smaller size (the wing averaging 53 against 63 mm.) and in the greater extension and development of the white eyebrow. In the female the chestnut of the throat and breast-band is of a much lighter shade. It replaces *B. molitor* in Portuguese East Africa.

[This form was found common in the Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts, but was not noticed near Tete. In habits it resembles the true *B. molitor*. The soft parts are also similar.]

351. BATIS PRIRIT.

CC. Klipfontein, Apl., June (3).

The male Pririt Flycatcher only differs from that of *B. molitor* in its slightly smaller dimensions. The outer tail-feather in both species is white along the outer web, as well as at the tip. The description given in Sclater and Stark (vol. ii. p. 257) is erroneous in this respect.

[This little Flycatcher was only found in Namaqualand, where it is decidedly scarce; it frequents the bushes in the numerous kloofs among the mountains. It was in pairs, and in habits, call and actions is similar to *B. molitor*.

The soft parts are:—Irides greenish yellow; bill, legs and toes black.]

353. *TROCHOCERCUS CYANOMELAS*.

CC. Knysna, June (1); **N.** Illovo, Nov. (1); **Z.** Sibudeni, Nov., Dec. (3).

[I have not noticed this species elsewhere than in the Knysna district of the Cape Colony, Natal and Zululand. It is a forest-haunting bird, and apparently has much the habits of the following species.

The soft parts are:—Irides brown; bill, legs and toes blue-slate-coloured.]

354. *TCHITREA PERSPICILLATA*.

CC. Plettenberg Bay, Feb. (1); **Z.** Umfolosi Station, Sept. (1); Sibudeni, Nov. (2); Ngoye Hills, Sept., Oct. (2).

354 *a.* *TCHITREA PLUMBEICEPS*.

Reichenow, Vög. Afr. ii. p. 510.

Tv. Woodbush, Jan. (3); **P.** Coguno, June (2); Beira, Feb. (1); Tambarara, Apl. (1).

The birds from the Zoutpansberg district of the Transvaal are undoubtedly identical with those from Portuguese East Africa, which should be referred to this species (*cf.* Sclater, *Annals S. Afr. Mus.* iii. 1905, p. 385).

Two nestlings, dated January 12, from Woodbush, are interesting, since there is no trace of the spotted condition supposed to be characteristic of the family Muscicapidæ. The beak, wings, and tail, so far as grown, are chestnut, as in the adult. The head is also chestnut, but shews the lead-colour gradually appearing; below the birds are of a dirty grey.

[“Iufi” of Zulus.

The Paradise Flycatcher was noted commonly in the Knysna district of the Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, the Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal, and the Inhambane, Beira, and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa. It is a woodland bird, and frequents well-timbered country, being especially partial to shady rivers and streams, where it can be seen flitting among the trees, and the males look particularly graceful. It feeds on insects, which it catches on the wing from a fixed perch. The flight is slow and

undulating, and the call is somewhat harsh but clear. I have not succeeded in finding the nest, although I have taken young birds just out of it.

The soft parts are:—Adult ♂. Irides brown; wattle round eye and bill cobalt-blue; legs and toes slate-coloured. The female has no wattle and the bill is slate-blue. The young male is like the female, but the bill is dark horn-coloured, lighter at the base.

355. *DICRURUS AFER*.

CC. Plettenberg Bay, Mch. (4); **Z.** Sibudeni, Jan. (3); **Tv.** Klein Letaba, July, Aug., Sept. (7); Legogot, Apl., May (2); **P.** Coguno, July (2); Masambeti, Nov. (1); Beira, Dec. (1); Tambarara, Apl., May, June (3); Tete, Sept. (3).

Birds from Tete average a good deal smaller than those from Cape Colony, viz.:—

	Wing.	Tail.
Plettenberg Bay, ♂	138 mm.	124 mm.
„ „ ♂ juv. ...	125	113
„ „ ♀	130	117
Tete, ♂	126	112
„ ♀	116	106

[“Manengwani” of the Machangaan.

This species was noted in the Knysna district, Natal, Zululand, the Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal, and the Inhambane, Beira, Gorongosa, and Tete districts of Portuguese East Africa. It frequents well-wooded country, usually in pairs, and seems partial to the outskirts of the woods and forests; it regularly takes up its station on the branches of a bare or dead tree, from which it darts out on passing insects. On grass being fired it comes in numbers to catch the insects that are driven out, and will dash repeatedly right into the burning herbage with absolute fearlessness. The cry is loud and harsh, and the flight is somewhat swift.

The soft parts are:—♂ *ad.* Irides red; bill, legs and toes black. ♂ *juv.* Irides brown. ♀ *ad.* Irides rich brown.]

356. *DICRURUS LUDWIGI*.

N. Illovo, Nov. (1); **Z.** Ngoye Hills, Oct. (2); **P.** Masambeti, Oct. (1).

[Only in the three localities where specimens were taken have I seen this Drongo. It frequents wooded and forested localities, and seems partial to the interior of the bush, seldom being seen on the outskirts, and, although by no means wild, is not easy to see. In habits and flight it resembles *D. afer*, but the call is clearer and much more melodious.

The soft parts are:—Irides red; bill, legs and toes black.]

357. *CAMPOPHAGA NIGRA*.

Z. Ngoye Hills, Sept., Oct. (2); **Tv.** Legogot, Apl., May (3).

[Zululand and the Eastern Transvaal are the only localities where I have noted this species. I found it frequenting strips of wood and deep high hedges bordering gardens and enclosed lands and rough overgrown disused paths. It is a very silent and inconspicuous bird, and spends much of its time in hunting over the bushes for insects, or even catching them on the ground. The only call I have heard it utter has been a Flycatcher-like “zee.”

The soft parts are:—♂. Irides brown; bill black, gape protruding and yellow; legs and toes black. ♀. Bill dark brown; rest of colouring like the male, except the gape not so fleshy. *Juv.* ♂ like ♀.]

359. *GRAUCALUS PECTORALIS*.

Tv. Klein Letaba, Aug., Sept. (2); **P.** Coguno, Aug., Sept. (2); Tambarara, May (1).

[This species frequents ordinary “bush-veld” country and never occurs in the forests. It is a conspicuous bird and is seen both singly and in pairs, but is nowhere plentiful; it is, however, wary and shy, and cannot always be obtained. It haunts both the low bushes and the large trees, and catches insects from the branches on the wing, darting out after the manner of a Drongo, while occasionally it

devours them on the ground. I have not succeeded in finding it nesting nor have I heard its call.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

360. *GRAUCALUS CÆSIUS*.

CC. Knysna, Dec., Jan. (2) ; **Z.** Sibudeni, Jan. (1) ; Ngoye Hills, Oct. (2) ; **Tv.** Woodbush Hills, Nov. (4).

I am not aware that the Grey Cuckoo-Shrike has been previously taken north of Zululand.

[This species was noticed in the forests of the Knysna, Zululand, and the North-Eastern Transvaal. It is strictly a forest-haunting bird, and usually frequents the tops of the trees, and is somewhat active in habits, catching insects on the wing like a Drongo. It has a harsh cry and the flight is very Cuckoo-like. I have only observed it singly or in pairs. I could learn nothing regarding its nesting-habits.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

363. *COTILE PALUDICOLA*.

Z. Umfolosi Station, June, July (3).

[I can find no data among my notes to the effect that I have seen this Martin elsewhere than at the locality from which specimens were obtained. In flight and appearance on the wing it greatly resembles *C. riparia*.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill almost black ; legs and toes horn-brown.]

364. *COTILE CINCTA*.

Tv. Wakkerstroom, Mch. 21, Apl. 7 (6).

[In two localities only have I seen this Martin, on the high open country above the Nkandhla Forest in Zululand in January 1904, and again in the Wakkerstroom district in April of the same year, where numbers were hawking over the open country. In both localities it was apparently passing through on migration.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill, legs and toes black.]

366. PTYONOPROGNE FULIGULA ANDERSSONI.

CC. Klipfontein, May, June, July (6); Anemous, May (2).

These Rock-Martins are paler than those from other parts of Cape Colony, and must be referred to *P. f. anderssoni* Sharpe & Wyatt, the type of which is a female taken at Dariep, in Damaraland, on Oct. 27, 1860, by Andersson.

[Since the Central Cape Colony trip I have not seen the species elsewhere than in Namaqualand, where specimens were collected. It appears to be a resident, and is generally observed hawking along the sides of the mountains. Many nesting-places were observed, but it being the winter season no birds were breeding.]

The soft parts are:—Irides brown; bill almost black; legs and toes dark brown.]

367. HIRUNDO RUSTICA.

CC. Knysna, Apl. 3, 4, & 8 (3); **N.** Illovo, Nov. 14 & 20 (4); **Z.** Sibudeni, Dec. 20 (1); Jususie, Jan. 31 (1); **Tv.** Pietersburg, Feb. 24 & 28 (3); Turfloop, Mch. 15 (2); Woodbush, Nov. 15, Jan. 9, Feb. 2 (3); **P.** Masambeti, Oct. 31 (3); Beira, Jan. 6 (4).

An interesting series, among which are many young birds shewing the progress of the February moult. This is specially the case with the Pietersburg examples, where the steely-blue feathers are replacing the dull brown ones on the crown and the new rich rufous throat-feathers are taking the place of the old ones, which are faded almost to white.

[The European Swallow has been noted commonly from every locality visited in the summer season. I have not seen it before the beginning of October, and have noted it up to nearly the middle of April. My earliest record was on the 7th Oct., 1906, at Beira.]

In March 1903 vast numbers were congregated in and around Cape Town, preparing for the northward migration, but at the Knysna in April 1905 numbers were seen still hawking along the hill-sides.]

369. *HIRUNDO ALBIGULARIS*.

Tv. Wakkerstroom, Mch. 2 and 4 (2) ; Pietersburg, Feb. 23 (1).

[This species is also migratory, arriving and departing about the same time as the European Swallow. Besides the localities at which specimens were secured, I have noted it in Zululand (Sept. 1904), and on the Zambesi at Tete (Sept. 1907), while a single pair were seen near Beira in Oct. 1906, where they intended to nest on the supports of a railway water-tank, but were disturbed by natives and left the locality. The flight is swift and somewhat straighter than that of other Swallows, and is usually close over the surface of the ground.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel ; bill, legs and toes black.]

371. *HIRUNDO ATROCÆRULEA*.

Z. Sibudeni, Oct. 26, Nov. 14, 25 (4) ; Jususie Valley, Dec. 2 (1) ; **Tv.** Woodbush Hills, Nov. 3, 8 (4).

This is one of the rarest of Swallows in collections, and the present series is not only a valuable addition to the British Museum, but considerably extends the known range of the bird.

There were formerly four examples only of this bird in the British Museum, all from Natal, so that the known range is now extended north to Zululand and the North-Eastern Transvaal.

Four of the "Grant" examples are marked as females, and differ noticeably from the others, which are all marked males, in their much duller and less metallic coloration, especially on the lower surface, as well as in the absence of elongation of the outer tail-feathers. These average 145 mm. in the males, while in the females they average 70. I therefore suspect that the sexes differ, contrary to the general rule in the family. It is, of course, possible that the birds marked female may all be juvenile, but it does not seem very likely.

Of the four examples already in the British Museum Collection, only one, Wahlberg's cotype, is sexed. This is

a male, and, like the other three, has the outer tail-feather elongated.

Dr. Sharpe has described (Bull. B. O. C. xvi. 1906) a Blue Swallow from the Mabira Forest, Chagwe, Uganda, as *H. christyi*. I cannot see any difference between this supposed species and *H. atrocærulea*, and should be certainly inclined to consider them identical. There are two examples of *H. christyi*, both males and both taken in the Mabira Forest, on Aug. 7 and Sept. 11 respectively. I should infer, therefore, that this bird winters in Uganda and comes south in October to breed in the Eastern Transvaal and Natal. The only two dated examples in the British Museum are Wahlberg's, taken at Umvoti, Natal, Jan. 9, 1843, and Seeböhm's, taken at Lidgetton, Natal, March 29; these both confirm my supposition.

[“Nkonjane” of Zulus. The is the Zulu name for all Swallows.

This beautiful little Swallow was noted only from Western Zululand and the North-Eastern Transvaal. I have no data to shew whether or not it is resident in Zululand, as it is stated to be in Natal, but certainly in the North-Eastern Transvaal it is migratory, as it did not appear till the summer season had set in. Its flight is graceful and usually close to the ground, the birds choosing some sheltered spot under the lee of a wood or a road-cutting. The flight is seldom long sustained, and they will perch both on posts and wire-fencing or outstanding twigs of the trees.

The male, which is easily distinguished on the wing by its brighter colouring and the long filaments to the outer tail-feathers, has a sweet warble or “song,” which is uttered only on the wing.

I was told by the natives in Zululand that this species breeds in holes in the ground, after the manner of *H. griseopyga*, and I saw females in the North-Eastern Transvaal enter and leave holes in the hill-sides, but I did not succeed in finding any actual nests.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown; bill, legs and toes black.]

372. *HIRUNDO SMITHI*.

P. Tete, Aug. 25, Sept. 1, 16 (4).

[I first saw this Swallow near Beira in January, 1907, when I noted a single individual sitting on the telegraph-wire among numbers of *H. rustica*. On another occasion I saw a pair in that locality, but no more were observed until I reached Tete in August, where the birds could be seen hawking up and down the river near my camp on the Mazoe, congregating in flocks towards evening and roosting in the reeds. These flocks consisted wholly of young birds, and I only saw one pair of adults, the male of which I shot. I presumed that the young birds were on migration, but whether going north or south I could not, of course, ascertain. The flight and twitter of this Swallow are similar to those of *H. rustica*.

The soft parts of the adult are:—Irides dark hazel; bill, legs and toes black. In the young the gape is yellowish.]

373. *HIRUNDO GRISEOPYGA*.

Z. Umfolosi Station, July (3); Umzinele River, Aug. 15 (2 juv. taken from nest).

The nestlings are fully feathered, they have the crown rather darker and more uniform than in the adult; the rump is slightly tinged with rufous, as also are the under parts.

[I have observed this Swallow only in South-East Zululand, where it was by no means uncommon. Its flight and appearance much resemble those of *Chelidon urbica*, for which it might easily be mistaken. It usually hawks close to the ground and in more or less sheltered situations, and it has a regular Swallow twitter. I believe I can now record something of its nesting-habits for the first time. It apparently breeds early, as a fully-fledged young specimen was shot in July, and two others nearly ready to fly were taken from the nest in August.

It was long before I could find out where this bird bred, and nothing could be learnt from the natives; but one day in August 1904, having halted the waggon on the flats just above the Umzinele River in Zululand, when proceeding towards False Bay in search of wild hogs, my attention was

attracted by one of several of these Swallows suddenly disappearing into the ground. On going to examine the place I discovered a small hole of about six inches diameter, and on digging down I found the nest, containing two young, about a foot below the surface. The nest was composed of mud and lined with feathers and completely blocked the hole from below.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill black ; legs and toes horn-brown. In the young the gape is yellow.]

374. *HIRUNDO CUCULLATA*.

CC. Durban Rd., Sept. 24 (2) ; Knysna, Dec. 23 (1) ; Plettenberg Bay, Feb. 23, 27 (5) ; **Z.** Jususie Valley, Dec. 1 (1) ; **Tv.** Wakkerstroom, Mch. 2, 21 (2) ; Woodbush Hills, Nov. 15, Mch. 14 (2) ; Pietersburg, Feb. 23, Mch. 11 (3).

[Only during the summer season have I seen this Swallow. It usually arrives in September and departs again by April. I have noted it in the Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, and the South-Eastern and North-Eastern Transvaal. In Zululand and the North-Eastern Transvaal it is usually confined to the high veld, its place being taken in the low veld by the following species. Its breeding and other habits are too well known to need repetition.

The soft parts are :—Irides brown ; bill black ; legs and toes dark brown.]

375. *HIRUNDO PUELLA*.

Z. Jususie Valley, Dec. 1, 10 (5) ; Ngoye Hills, Oct. 15 (1) ; **Tv.** Klein Letaba, Sept. 22, 25 (2) ; **P.** Tete, Aug. 20 (1).

Three eggs from Jususie Valley were taken on Dec. 9th.

Probably this species is only a migrant in South Africa, but it is stated by Alexander to be resident on the Zambesi, and this seems to be confirmed by Mr. Grant's example taken at Tete in August.

[This species arrives and departs in South Africa in the same months as does *H. cucullata*. I have noted it in the Zulu coast country and the low-lying Jususie River Valley

in Western Zululand, the low veld of the Northern Transvaal, and the Beira and Tete districts of Portuguese East Africa. In the latter locality only three or four examples were seen, and were probably early arrivals from the north. It breeds after the manner of *H. cucullata*, forming a hanging mud nest with a long funnel. It was breeding in the Jususie Valley, and I found nests on the roofs of most of the old gold-drivings, which abound on the hill-sides. I, however, only succeeded in obtaining a single clutch of eggs, as young native boys plunder the nests and take the young, which they consider great delicacies, placing them alive and whole on a fire and eating them when partially cooked.

In general habits and cry it is a smaller replica of *H. cucullata*.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill black; legs and toes very dark brown.]

376. *HIRUNDO SEMIRUFA*.

Tv. Klein Letaba, Sept. 30 (1).

Doubtless only a summer migrant to South Africa. There are examples in the British Museum taken by Ayres at Potchefstroom on Aug. 22, Sept. 23, Dec. 29, and Mch. 17. These are the earliest and latest dates for South Africa.

[I have not noted the species elsewhere than in the North-Eastern Transvaal, where the specimen shot was seen in the low veld, but in October of the same year I saw three sitting on a wire fence on the outskirts of the town of Pietersburg.

The soft parts are:—Irides hazel; bill, legs and toes practically black.]

377. *HIRUNDO MONTEIRI*.

P. Beira, Nov. 24, 30 (3); Tete, Aug. 27, Sept. 8 (3).

[Monteiro's Swallow was only found in the Beira and Tete districts of Portuguese East Africa, and is evidently migratory, as it was observed in the former district during the summer of 1906-7 and entirely disappeared till the following August, when it was noticed sparingly around Tete. I have usually observed the birds in threes or fours, and

they appear to be always on the move, seldom remaining long in any one locality ; I have not noted any signs of breeding. It is decidedly scarce everywhere and frequents timbered country, where it is very partial to sitting on the topmost boughs of tall trees. As a rule, it hawks high overhead out of shot, and roosts at night in tall thick trees. In its flight and its call, which is distinctly louder than that of other Swallows, it resembles *H. semirufa*, but when sitting its pale throat can be plainly discerned.

The soft parts are :—Irides hazel ; bill black ; legs and toes dark horn-brown.]

379. *PSALIDOPROCNE HOLOMELÆNA*.

Z. Sibudeni, Oct. (1) ; **Tv.** Woodbush, Dec. (1).

[Although stated to be resident, I cannot help thinking that this Swallow must be migratory, at least in certain parts of South Africa, as I have seen it only during the summer season. I have noted it from the Knysna (summer 1904–5), Zululand (summer 1903–4), and the North-Eastern Transvaal (summer 1905–6). Usually in parties of from three to five or six, it frequents the outskirts of woods and forests or roads and clearings in the interior, where it hawks backwards and forwards about the level of the tops of the trees, generally towards evening. It is therefore somewhat difficult to shoot. Although usually silent, I have heard its call, which is a sharp twitter.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill black ; legs and toes dark brown.]

380. *PSALIDOPROCNE ORIENTALIS*.

P. Masambeti, Oct. 25 (1) ; Beira, Nov. 27 (1) ; Tambarara, Mch. 17, Apl. 13, June 12, July 3 (7).

From the dates, I should infer that this species is a resident.

[This graceful Swallow was noticed commonly in the Beira and Gorongosa districts of Portuguese East Africa from October to July, but when I reached Tete in August none were to be seen. It was usually observed in parties of half a dozen or more, and frequented the outskirts and the roads and clearings in the interior of the woods and forests, where

it hawks backwards and forwards over the same stretch of ground ; in Gorongoza it seemed very partial to the native lands, where it just flew clear of the heads of the standing grain. After several turns the birds frequently settled on the topmost and outstanding branches of dead trees, where they could be easily approached ; they shewed no fear even when a shot was fired near them. The call and flight of this species resemble those of *H. holomelæna*, but it is not nearly so silent.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill black ; legs and toes dark brown.]

381. *PITTA LONGIPENNIS*.

P. Tambarara, Mch. (1).

[The specimen secured is the only one that I have seen. It was accidentally caught in a springe set for *Petrodromus tetradactylus* in the Gorongoza forests. On enquiring from the natives, they said the bird was plentiful, but although I was continually on the look-out I did not see it, and could not learn the call, if it had any. My boys further told me that it was not essentially a ground-bird, but was equally at home among the branches, but, of course, I could not verify this.

The soft parts are :—Irides dark brown ; bill blackish brown, lighter at tip and middle of lower mandible ; legs and toes fleshy white.]

[To be continued.]

XVI.—*Notes on the Ornithology of Corsica*.—Part II.

By the Rev. FRANCIS C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

[Continued from p. 208.]

(Text-figures 11 & 12.)

34. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS* L. Tawny Pipit.

A summer visitor, breeding in fair numbers on the barren hillsides, and probably also locally in the low ground. Whitehead found it plentiful after the end of April, and breeding, but failed to obtain any nests. Giglioli, however,



Slater, William Lutley. 1911. "On the Birds collected by Mr. Claude H. B. Grant at various Localities in South Africa." *Ibis* 5(3), 405–437.

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