



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM THE
SILINDA FOREST

BY OUTRAM BANGS

THE birds listed here were collected by Doctor and Mrs. J. H. Sandground during the autumn and early winter of 1930, in, and at the edges of, the Silinda Forest. This Forest is sometimes called by the native Ndaou name, Chirinda.

Dr. Sandground was on a mission of six months' duration for the School of Tropical Medicine of the Harvard Medical School, to study certain parasitic diseases of man in South Africa. The region he was to visit is one from which the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy had no material, and at our request he kindly undertook to collect for us what he could in his spare time. In this work Mrs. Sandground proved an energetic and enthusiastic helper. In addition to his own especial interest,—parasites of man, and of other animal groups as well,—Dr. Sandground collected not only birds, but material, too, for other departments of the Museum. A few weeks after the work of collecting started, Dr. Sandground was fortunate in

securing the services of 'Seventeen,' a native 'boy,' aged about fifty, who had been taught to collect and skin birds by Mr. Swynnerton. Seventeen proved a great asset.

Headquarters were established at the American Mission at Mount Silinda, Southern Rhodesia. Mount Silinda is about one hundred and sixty miles due south of the railroad town of Umtali, and borders on the political line separating Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique) and Southern Rhodesia. Though a 'mountain,' it rises to an elevation of only some 1000 feet above the surrounding hilly terrain. Capping the mountain there is a patch of real rain-forest, a very extraordinary anomaly in the vegetation of Africa south of the Zambesi River. This mountain-top forest, perhaps not more than two square miles in extent, contains giant red mahogany and other valuable timber trees, and presents the general appearance of the rain-forests of central Africa. Its bird and mammal life is rich. Very abrupt is the change in the fauna, as well as in the flora, as one comes out of the forest into the farms on the slopes below. Among the farms is Swynnerton's old place 'Gungunya.' Many of the local forms of bird life bear Swynnerton's name and attest the work he did here some few years ago.

Chikore and Gogoyo are sub-stations of the American Mission, respectively twenty miles north and forty miles southeast of Mount Silinda. Specimens were taken at both these places in bush-veld associations radically different from the rain-forest.

During the latter part of his stay in the country, Dr. Sandground was working in the hospital at Lourenço Marques, in extreme southern Portuguese East Africa; while there he managed to spare one Sunday only for the collecting of birds. That day he took fourteen individuals belonging to eleven species. These I do not list here as they do not belong with fauna of the Silinda region.

To Dr. Friedmann, Curator of Birds in the U. S. National Museum, I give my very best thanks for his painstaking answers to several troublesome questions I put to him.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Phalacrocorax africanus africanus (Gmelin)

One immature female, Portuguese East Africa, Buzi River,
May 17, 1930.

ARDEIDAE

Bubulcus ibis (Linné)

One immature male, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April 23,
1930.

SCOPIIDAE

Scopus umbretta bannermani C. Grant

One adult female, Mount Silinda, May 8, 1930.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Elanus caeruleus caeruleus (Desfontaines)

One male, Mount Silinda, March 22, 1930.

Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis (Hartlaub)

One male, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 16, 1930.

Circaetus cinereus Vieillot

One female, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, May 3, 1930.

***Accipiter tachiro sparsimfasciatus* (Reichenow)**

One male, Mount Silinda, May 20, 1930.

PHASIANIDAE

***Pternistes afer swynnertoni* W. Sclater**

One adult (sex ?) of this well-marked local form, was taken at the Swynnerton farm, 'Gungunyana,' Silinda region, May, 1930.

***Guttera edouardi edouardi* (Hartlaub)**

One adult male, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May, 1930.

COLUMBIDAE

***Streptopelia semitorquata semitorquata* (Rüppell)**

One adult (sex ?), Mount Silinda, March 29, 1930.

***Streptopelia capicola tropica* Reichenow**

One male, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April 26, 1930.

***Tympanistria tympanistria tympanistria* (Temminck and Knip)**

One female, Mount Silinda, April 5, 1930.

***Turtur afer kilimensis* (Mearns)**

One male, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 13, 1930.

Aplopelia larvata larvata (Temminck and Knip)

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 5 and 8, 1930.

Vinago delalandii (Bonaparte)

Three females, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April, 20, 21 and 25, 1930.

CUCULIDAE

Cuculus solitarius Stephens

One male, Mount Silinda, April 13, 1930.

Cuculus poliocephalus rochii Hartlaub

One male, Mount Silinda, March 29, 1930.

Clamator jacobinus jacobinus (Boddaert)

One male, Mount Silinda, April 16, 1930.

Clamator cafer (Lichtenstein)

One male, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April 22, 1930.

MUSOPHAGIDAE

Turacus livingstonii livingstonii Gray

Two specimens, a male and one with sex undetermined, Silinda Forest and Mount Silinda, March 26 and 28, 1930.

Gallirex porphyreolophus porphyreolophus (Vigors)

Two males, Silinda, April 15, and Chikore, April 20, 1930.

ALCEDINIDAE

Halcyon albiventris orientalis Peters

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 6 and May 25, 1930.

MEROPIDAE

Merops apiaster Linné

One male, Mount Silinda, March 30, 1930.

Melittophagus pusillus meridionalis Sharpe

One male, Silinda, May 5, 1930.

BUCEROTIDAE

Bycanistes cristatus brevis Friedmann

Two adults (sex ?), Mount Silinda, April, 1930.

Lophoceros melanoleucos melanoleucos Lichtenstein

Two females, Mount Silinda, March 30 and May 23, 1930.

Bucorvus cafer Schlegel

One adult (sex ?), Silinda Forest, April, 1930.

PHENICULIDAE

Phoeniculus purpureus marwitzi (Reichenow)

One male, Southern Rhodesia, April 28, 1930.

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas schalowi Neumann

One adult male, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April 29, 1930.

TYTONIDAE

Tyto alba affinis (Blyth)

One adult male, Southern Rhodesia, Chikore, April 29, 1930.

STRIGIDAE

Strix woodfordi woodfordi (Smith)

Two females, Silinda, May 3 and 4, 1930.

Bubo africanus africanus (Temminck)

One adult (sex ?), Silinda, April 13, 1930.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Caprimulgus fossii clarus Reichenow

One adult male (wrongly marked as a female), Mount Silinda, April 5, 1930, with a wing measuring 165 mm. I feel sure that this identification is correct, and that the specimen is referable to this form and not to *C. fossii fossii* Hartlaub. (*cf.* Bowen, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vol. 83, p. 41, 1931.)

COLIIDAE

Colius striatus minor Cabanis

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 4 and 7, 1930.

CAPITONIDAE

Lybius torquatus torquatus (Dumont)

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 7 and 30, 1930.

Trachyphonus vaillantii vaillantii Ranzani

One male, Silinda, April 12, 1930.

INDICATORIDAE

Indicator minor minor Stephens

Three specimens, two males and one with sex undetermined, Mount Silinda, April 2, and May 1 and 20, 1930.

PICIDAE

Campethera abingoni abingoni (Smith)

One female, Mount Silinda, April 5, 1930.

EURYLAEMIDAE

Smithornis capensis capensis (Smith)

One female, Mount Silinda, May 8, 1930.

MOTACILLIDAE

Motacilla aguimp vidua Sundevall

Three specimens, two males and a female, from Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo and Buzi River, May 13 and 18, 1930.

Anthus leucophrys neumanni Meinertzhagen

Two males, one from Silinda, May 7, 1930, the other from Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 5, 1930.

Although nearer to *neumanni* than to *A. l. leucophrys* Vieillot, these two birds are not typical of either. Like *neumanni* they have very distinct throat spots, but their upper parts are as dark as in *leucophrys*. In other words, they are intermediate.

Macronyx croceus vulturinus Friedmann

One immature male, Mount Silinda, April 5, 1930. This specimen has a culmen length of 21 mm. The record extends the known range of the long-billed form from southern Mozambique to Gazaland.

I certainly believe *M. fülleborni* Reichenow to be specifically distinct from *M. croceus* (Vieillot), as suggested by Sclater in the 'Systema.'

TIMALIIDAE

Turdoides jardinei jardinei (Smith)

Three specimens, two males and a female, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, April 10 and May 16, 1930.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Pycnonotus tricolor pallidus Roberts

Four specimens, both sexes, Mount Silinda and Silinda, March 24, 25 and 26, 1930.

This form is not recognized by Sclater, but it seems to me valid.

Phyllastrephus terrestris suahelicus Reichenow

One female, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 16, 1930.

Sclater does not recognize *P. capensis intermedius* Gunning and Roberts. As I have but little material, I follow his ruling.

Arizelocichla milanjensis milanjensis (Shelley)

Three specimens, a male and two females, Mount Silinda, March 24 and April 2, 1930.

Chlorocichla flaviventris occidentalis Sharpe

One female, Mount Silinda, April 8, 1930.

MUSCICAPIDAE

***Alseonax adustus subadustus* Shelley**

Two females, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, April 2 and May 14, 1930.

Dr. Sandground, while he was working in the hospital at Lourenço Marques, in extreme southern Portuguese East Africa, spent only one day, June 29, 1930, collecting birds. Among those he took is a pair of *Alseonax adustus adustus* (Boie) quite like skins we have from the Cape Province and the Transvaal, and very different from the two Silinda birds of the strongly marked form *subadustus*.

***Hypodes cinereus kikuyuensis* (van Someren)**

Three specimens, two males and a female, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, Buzi River, May 10, 12 and 18, 1930.

***Bradornis pallidus murinus* Finsch and Hartlaub**

Three females, Rhodesia, near Silinda and Chikore, and Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, April 22 and 30 and May 13, 1930.

***Chloropeta natalensis natalensis* Smith**

One female, Mount Silinda, May 5, 1930.

***Batis capensis erythrothalma* Swynnerton**

One fine adult male of this form peculiar to the region, was taken at Mount Silinda, March 31, 1930.

Batis molitor molitor (Hahn and Küster)

One female, Portuguese East Africa, Buzi River, May 17, 1930.

I feel a little uncertain whether this skin should be called *molitor* or *soror* Reichenow, as I have been able to compare it only with one female, from Morogoro, which of course is *soror*. The present example has the chin spot and throat band darker than in the Morogoro bird, and therefore seems referable to *molitor*.

Platysteira peltata peltata Sundevall

Two females, Portuguese East Africa, Buzi River, May 17 and 18, 1930.

Trochocercus bivittatus Reichenow

One male, Mount Silinda, April 4, 1930.

Trochocercus albonotatus swynnertoni Neumann

Of this local form, peculiar to the immediate region, two specimens, male and female, were taken at Mount Silinda, March 24 and April 4, 1930.

TURDIDAE

Turdus libonyanus libonyanus (Smith)

Three specimens, two males and a female, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 18 and 20, 1930.

Monticola angolensis Sousa

One adult female, Mount Silinda, April 3, 1930.

Saxicola torquata stonei Bowen

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda and flatlands near Silinda, March 24 and April 30, 1930.

Cossypha heuglini euronota Friedmann

One adult male, Mount Silinda, May 22, 1930. This bird, with a wing length of 95 mm., exactly matches the type in color.

Pogonocichla swynnertoni (Shelley)

One adult female, Silinda, April 6, 1930. This local form is certainly very distinct, and unlike any of the other species. Roberts makes a monotypic genus for it,—*Swynnertonia*,—but this seems to me hardly necessary.

SYLVIIDAE

Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus (Linné)

One male, Mount Silinda, April 1, 1930.

Apalis flavida neglecta (Alexander)

One female, Silinda Forest, May 4, 1930.

Apalis chirindensis Shelley

One male, Mount Silinda, May 24, 1930. This local species is a welcome addition to the Museum's collection. I believe but few specimens of it ever have been taken.

***Sylvietta whytii whytii* Shelley**

Two females, Mount Silinda, May 20, 1930.

***Eremomela scotops scotops* Sundevall**

One male, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 16, 1930.

***Melocichla mentalis orientalis* (Sharpe)**

One male, Mount Silinda, April 6, 1930.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

***Campephaga flava* Vieillot**

Two specimens, an adult female and an immature male, Chikore, April 21 and 29, 1930.

***Coracina pectoralis* (Jardine and Selby)**

Two males, one from Chikore, April 29, the other from Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 13, 1930.

***Coracina caesia caesia* Lichtenstein**

One female, Mount Silinda, May 10, 1930.

DICRURIDAE

***Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii* (Smith)**

Three males, Mount Silinda, March 28, April 11 and May 4, 1930.

PRIONOPIDAE

Sigmodus retzii tricolor Gray

Three specimens, male and two females, Silinda, Chikore, and Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, April 12 and 22, and May 14, 1930.

LANIIDAE

Lanius collaris humeralis Stanley

One adult male, Mount Silinda, April 2, 1930.

Laniarius ferrugineus mossambicus (Reichenow)

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 3 and 11, 1930. The male has a wing length of 94, and the female of 86 mm. In both the bill is rather slender.

Dryoscopus cubla hamatus Hartlaub

Five specimens, both sexes, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, Buzi River and Gogoyo, April 1 to May 18, 1930.

Pomatorhynchus senegalus mozambicus (van Someren)

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 5 and 22, 1930.

Slater (*Systema Avium Aethiopicarum*, p. 627, foot-note) believes that he recognized rather too many forms of this species, and, when identifying specimens, it certainly seems to me that he did.

Anticromus minutus anchietae (Bocage)

One adult female, Mount Silinda, April 8, 1930.

Chlorophoneus rubiginosus bertrandi (Shelley)

Two adult females, Mount Silinda, May 7, 1930.

Chlorophoneus abbotti sandgroundi subsp. nov.

Three adult males, Mount Silinda, May 5 and 7, 1930.

Type, from Mount Silinda, no. 154,820, M. C. Z., adult male, collected May 7, 1930, by J. H. Sandground.

Characters.—Similar in general to *C. abbotti abbotti* Richmond of Kilimanjaro and *C. a. elgeyuensis* van Someren of Kenia, and with the throat, chest and breast intense reddish orange, but differing from both in that the lower belly, sides, flanks and under tail-coverts are bright yellow, instead of dull greenish or olive.

From *C. nigrifrons* and its subspecies the new form differs, as do *abbotti* and *elgeyuensis*, in fiery reddish orange, instead of yellow or orange yellow, under parts.

No.	MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters)			
	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen to base of forehead
154,820	91	86	26	20
154,821	93	82	26	20
154,822	91	81	24	19

Sclater in the 'Systema' does not mention *C. abbotti* at all, although he gives *C. elgeyuensis*. Sclater also lists the latter as a subspecies of *nigrifrons*. This, however, is at once contradicted by the distribution of the various forms, which is:—

C. nigrifrons nigrifrons (Reichenow). Kilimanjaro to Uluguru Mts., etc.

C. n. manningi (Shelley). Nyasa—Tanganyika, west to the Katanga, etc.

C. n. conceptus Hartert. West of Lake Tanganyika.

C. abbotti abbotti (Richmond). Kilimanjaro.

C. a. elgeyuensis van Someren. Kenia.¹

The only alternative is that the red-breasted and yellow-breasted birds from the same region are dichromatic forms of

¹ In this connection see Bowen, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vol. 83, p. 66, 1931.

the same subspecies. This is perhaps possible. Even in that event, I think the bird that is here named is valid. All other forms, whether red-breasted or yellow-breasted ones, have greenish or olive lower under parts, quite different from the bright yellow of these parts in the new form.

Swynnerton, (*Ibis*, 1908, p. 59) perceived the real relationship of the orange-breasted bird of the south, although he called it *manningi*, when he wrote, "This is the Nyassaland form of *L. abbotti* (Richmond), recorded now for the first time from South Africa." Roberts, (*Annals Transvaal Mus.*, vol. 10, p. 161, 1924) also records "*abbotti*" from South Africa—from Woodbush, Transvaal, and northwards. Possibly this was the same as the Mount Silinda form, possibly different yet.

It gives me much pleasure to name this bird for Dr. Sandground, who, in the little time he could spare, managed to secure so many birds for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

***Telephorus quadricolor quadricolor* (Cassin)**

One immature male, Mount Silinda, April 6, 1930. This specimen, in olive-green plumage with a yellowish throat, probably belongs to the form here listed.

***Malaconotus poliocephalus hypopyrrhus* Hartlaub**

One adult female, Chikore, April 30, 1930.

***Nicator chloris gularis* Hartlaub and Finsch**

One adult female, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 15, 1930.

PARIDAE

***Parus afer parvirostris* Shelley**

One male, Chikore, April 25, 1930.

***Anthoscopus caroli hellmayri* Roberts**

One male, Mount Silinda, May 22, 1930.

ORIOLIDAE

***Oriolus auratus notatus* Peters**

One adult female, Chikore, April 27, 1930.

***Oriolus monacha larvatus* Lichtenstein**

Two, male and female, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 6 and 25, 1930.

STURNIDAE

***Cinnyricinclus leucogaster lauragrayae* Bowen**

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 4 and 20, 1930.

These skins, and many others as well, bear out the characters of this form, which seems well marked. The male has a wing length of 58, the female of 52 mm. The male shows much white on the outer rectrix.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

***Zosterops senegalensis niassae* Reichenow**

Two, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 6 and 19, 1930.

NECTARINIIDAE

Cinnyris venustus niassae Reichenow

Four males, Mount Silinda, and Chikore, March 28 to April 26, 1930.

Cinnyris chalybeus subalaris Reichenow

Four adult males, Mount Silinda and Chikore, March 25 to May 7, 1930.

Chalcomitra amethystina kirkii (Shelley)

Seven, all males, Mount Silinda, Chikore, and Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, April 25 to May 13, 1930.

Chalcomitra senegalensis gutturalis (Linné)

Eight specimens, both sexes, Mount Silinda and Chikore, April 4 to April 26, 1930.

Cyanomitra olivacea olivacea (Smith)

Four males, Mount Silinda, March 24 to April 30, 1930.

One bird, taken March 24, has the flight feathers all in complete moult, and could not possibly have flown.

I do not know *olivacina* (Peters); if that form is really valid, possibly these skins should be referred to it. The exposed culmen length in the four is: 22, 22, 22, and 23 mm.

Anthreptes longuemarei nyassae Neumann

One adult male, Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, May 16, 1930.

PLOCEIDAE

Ploceus (Symplectes) bicolor stictifrons (Fischer and Reichenow)

Two specimens, male and female, Mount Silinda, April 1 and 8, 1930.

Ploceus (Hyphanturgus) ocularis ocularis Smith

Four specimens, an adult male, an adult female, and two immature, Mount Silinda, March 31 to May 10, 1930.

Euplectes hordeacea sylvatica (Neumann)

Four specimens, two adult males, one adult female, and one immature male, Mount Silinda, April 1, 4 and 11.

Euplectes capensis zambesiensis (Roberts)

One adult male, Mount Silinda, March 28, 1930.

Coliuspasser ardens ardens (Boddaert)

Two adult, full-plumaged males, Mount Silinda and flatlands near Mount Silinda, March 27 and April 30, 1930.

Hypargos niveoguttatus (Peters)

Two males, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, Gogoyo, April 11 and May 15, 1930.

Mandingoa nitidula nitidula (Hartlaub)

Two males, Mount Silinda, May 7, 1930. One of these is a high-plumaged bird with an orange suffusion on the chest and with reddish orange upper tail-coverts and lower rump. That is, it is in the plumage that Friedmann (Proc. New Eng. Zoöl. Club, vol. 10, p. 6, 1927) attributed to *M. n. nitidula* when he described, as new, *M. n. virens*. The other is an exact match for Friedmann's type of *M. n. virens*, with olive-green chest and upper tail-coverts.

Sclater has already suggested ('Systema,' p. 785, foot-note) that *virens* is a synonym of *nitidula nitidula*. '*Virens*' proves to be the young adult plumage of *nitidula*. Friedmann, who has seen these skins, now fully agrees with this.

Lagonosticta rubricata haematocephala Neumann

Three males, two adult, one immature, Mount Silinda and Portuguese East Africa, April 3 and May 17 and 22, 1930.

Estrilda astrild cavendishi Sharpe

One adult male, Mount Silinda, April 3, 1930.

Hypochoera funerea funerea (Tarragon)

One adult male, Silinda, April 12, 1930.

Steganura paradisaea paradisaea (Linné)

One female, Mount Silinda, April 6, 1930.

FRINGILLIDAE

Serinus sulphuratus shelleyi Neumann

Two males, Mount Silinda, May 5 and May 24, 1930.

Emberiza cabanisi orientalis (Shelley)

Two adult females, Silinda and Portuguese East Africa,
Gogoyo, April 12 and May 15, 1930.