



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

A NEW FORM OF THE LESSER VASA PARROT

BY OUTRAM BANGS

LATELY, through the generosity of Dr. Thomas Barbour, the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy has received two skins of the lesser vasa parrot, collected in the Sianaka Forest in eastern Madagascar. These birds are dull black in color (except the wings and tail), exactly as figured and described by Edwards, upon whom alone Linné based his *Psittacus niger*.

Three lesser vasa parrots, collected by Mr. F. R. Wulsin at Miandrivazo in western Madagascar in June, 1915, are very different, and are gray, not black. I therefore restrict *Coracopsis nigra nigra* (Linné) to eastern Madagascar, and name the pale gray form of the West:

***Coracopsis nigra libs* subsp. nov.**

Type, from Miandrivazo, western Madagascar, M. C. Z., no. 78,289, adult ♀, collected by F. R. Wulsin, June 24, 1915.

Characters.—Similar to *C. nigra nigra* (Linné) of eastern Madagascar, but much paler and grayer, less blackish; the gray of outer webs of primaries slightly paler, and much less contrasted with the general body color.

Upper parts dull gray (very near Mouse Gray of Ridgway), the rump rather more bluish. Lower parts browner (about Hair Brown of Ridgway), the under tail-coverts paler and more buffy.

MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters)

No.		Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen from cere
78,289	♀	232	161	25	— ¹
78,287	♀	229	153	23	22
78,288	♂	238	168	26	22

Mr. Wulsin also took at Miandrivazo ten examples of the greater vasa parrot (*C. vasa* (Shaw)), that are gray in color, quite like the lesser vasa parrots from the same place. The Museum of Comparative Zoölogy contains no skins of this species from the East. If, however, it shows the same differences as the lesser, and has a black eastern, and a gray western form, I think Shaw's name must be applied to the western one, as he says of it, "Grayish-black Parrot," etc., while on the next page he says of *C. nigra*, "Bluish-black Parrot," etc. In that case the name *melanorhyncha* Finsch must be considered, as it probably applies to a bird from the East.

¹ Extreme tip damaged by shot.