



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

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A NEW BABBLER FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO

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THE recent expedition of the Harvard Institute for Tropical Biology and Medicine to the Belgian Congo, made a collection of birds, in which is a specimen of *Turdoides melanops*. This differs sufficiently from any known form to require description, and I propose to call it

***Turdoides melanops ater* subsp. nov.**

*Type*, adult male, M. C. Z., no. 239,550, collected at Kamaniola, Belgian Congo, February 2, 1927, by D. H. Linder.

*Subspecific characters*.—Very much darker, above and below, than *T. m. sharpei*; browner, less grayish, than *T. m. clamosus*, and the throat the same color as the breast, not white with dark shaft spots as in *clamosus*; browner, less grayish than *T. m. grisescens*, as described by Reichenow.

*Measurements of type* (the only specimen): wing, 110.5; tail, 109; culmen from base, 19.5 mm.

Of all the known races of *T. melanops*, the present form seems closest to *clamosus* van Someren, which was described from the Great Rift Valley of East Africa (Kenya Colony). *Turdoides grisescens* (Reichenow), described (Orn. Monatsb., 1908, p. 47) from Ngawatura, seems to be a synonym of *sharpei* Reichenow, according to Gyldenstolpe (Kungl. Svenska Vet. Handlingar, ser. 3, vol. 1, no. 3, 1924, pp. 166-167).