



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
NEW ENGLAND ZÖOLOGICAL CLUB

NEW BIRDS FROM TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

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DURING the last four months of 1926 Mr. Arthur Loveridge collected in the Usambara and Uluguru Mountains, Tanganyika Territory, in the interests of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. I am indebted to Mr. Outram Bangs for the opportunity to study the birds collected in this interesting region. The collection contained nearly four hundred specimens of 115 species, of which the following species and subspecies are new.

Turdinus spadix sp. nov.

Type, adult male, no. 237,500, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected at Nyingwa, Uluguru Mountains, Tanganyika Territory, October 14, 1926, by Arthur Loveridge, (the only specimen taken).

Specific characters.—Apparently most closely allied to *T. pyrrhopterus*, but smaller, much browner on the upper parts, and with small, poorly developed rectal bristles.

Description.—Entire upper parts, head, nape, interscapulars, scapulars, lesser wing-coverts, back, rump and upper tail-coverts Brussels brown, darkest on the head and lightest on the nape; remiges, middle and greater wing-coverts dark fuscous, externally edged with rufous Brussels brown; rectrices (worn) dark Brussels brown, the shafts black; superciliary stripe from base of nostril to posterior border of cheeks pale tawny buff; sides of

head tawny brown; a dark, indistinct line through the eye immediately below the superciliary stripe; the feathers of the auriculars and cheeks with whitish shafts; under parts light grayish brown, only the chin, throat and middle of belly whitish; chin and throat whitish, lightly flecked with pale avellaneous; breast light grayish tawny olive, forming a wide band across the under parts, separating the whitish throat from the whitish centre of the abdomen; flanks and sides of abdomen the same as breast, gradually becoming darker towards the sides; middle of abdomen light grayish white; under tail-coverts and thighs grayish tawny; under wing-coverts tawny olive; bill (dried) blackish brown; feet (dried) light brown.

Measurements of type: wing, 59; tail, 65; culmen from base, 13; tarsus 24.5 mm.

Known only from the type locality.

OPIFEX gen. nov.

Generic characters: Similar in appearance to *Orthotomus*, but with only ten rectrices; tail graduated, the distance between the tips of the innermost and outermost pair about two thirds the length of the tarsus. Wing longer than tail; the tenth (outermost) primary more than half as long as the next.

Type of genus (and only known member):

Opifex altus sp. nov.

Type, adult female, no. 237,501, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected at Nyingwa (8000 ft. altitude), Uluguru Mts., Tanganyika Territory, October 19, 1926, by Arthur Loveridge.

Description of type.—Forehead, crown and nape rufous Sanford's brown, brightest on forehead and washed with Brussels brown on back of crown, becoming quite dark on the occiput and nape; scapulars, interscapulars, back and rump buffy olive brown; upper tail-coverts like the rump but tipped with olive tawny; upper wing-coverts and remiges fuscous, externally edged with buffy olive brown, the edgings wider on the inner remiges than on the outer ones; a white spot on the bend of the wing; the inner web of the remiges internally margined with whitish; tail-feathers dark brown, margined with dull olive tawny; sides of the head, lores, orbital region, cheeks and auriculars light rufous Sanford's brown, like the forehead and crown

but lighter; chin and middle of throat white, lightly flecked with very light Sanford's brown; sides of throat like sides of head; breast pale dull gray; abdomen white, merging gradually into the gray of the chest; flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts dull grayish tawny; under wing-coverts gray with some white tips; bill (dried) black with lighter tip; feet (dried) dark brown.

Measurements of type: wing, 51; tail, 41.5; culmen from base, 13.5 mm.

Male similar in coloring to female. Measurements of male: wing, 46-48; tail, 32.5-35.; culmen from base, 13.5-14. mm.

Known only from the type locality.

***Malaconotus alius* sp. nov.**

Type, adult male, no. 237,504, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected at Bagilo, Uluguru Mts., Tanganyika Territory, September 28, 1926, by Arthur Loveridge. A female was taken at the same place, September 20, 1926.

Specific characters.—This very distinct species has no near relatives, the black top and sides of the head easily distinguishing it.

Description of type.—Whole top of head from base of bill back to the end of hind neck, sides of head, lores, cheeks and auriculars black glossed with bluish black; scapulars, interscapulars, back, rump, upper tail-coverts, innermost secondaries, upper wing-coverts and tail Roman green washed with yellowish, especially on the rump and upper tail-coverts; remiges fuscous on the inner webs, bright Roman green on the outer webs, the inner webs margined interiorly with picric yellow; under parts yellowish, the chin and throat bright lemon chrome, the yellow extending in a narrow line around the posterior edge of the black auriculars and merging gradually with the Roman green of the back; breast and abdomen lemon chrome suffused with pyrite yellow, gradually darkening towards the flanks which are Roman green like the back but slightly lighter; thighs and under tail-coverts lemon chrome; bend of the wing bright lemon chrome; under wing-coverts pale yellow; bill (dried) black; feet (dried) blackish brown.

Measurements of type: wing, 106; tail, 103; culmen from base, 27 mm.

Female similar to male but smaller. Measurements of female: wing, 101; tail, 99; culmen, 27 mm.

Known only from the type locality.

Hypargos nitidula virens subsp. nov.

Type, adult male (sexed female by native collector, but undoubtedly a male), no. 237,508, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected at Amani, Usambara Mts., December 1, 1926, by Arthur Loveridge. Two females were taken at Bagilo, Uluguru Mts., September 20 and 25, 1926.

Subspecific characters.—Male similar to *H. n. nitidula* but with chest olive green, not washed with orange, and upper tail-coverts golden olive, not brownish.

Description of type.—Head, nape, scapulars, interscapulars, back, rump, middle and lesser wing-coverts and innermost secondaries dark citrine washed with yellowish; upper tail-coverts golden olive; tail-feathers fuscous basally and on the inner webs, tips and outer webs dark citrine, the middle pair entirely dark citrine; greater wing-coverts and remiges fuscous externally, edged with yellowish dark citrine; lores, region above and around eye, cheeks, and chin dull scarlet; throat and breast olive green, slightly lighter than the back; abdomen and flanks grayish, darkest on the flanks and lightest and suffused with olive in the middle of the abdomen, all the feathers with a round, subterminal white spot on each web, the two spots on each feather entirely distinct; under tail-coverts light olive buff; thighs light grayish olive; under wing-coverts pale cream washed with olive; bill (dried) black basally and along the gonyes and culmen nearly to the tip, rest of the bill dusky orange yellow; feet (dried) dusky yellowish brown.

Measurements of type: wing, 52; tail, 35; culmen from base, 10 mm.

Female similar to that of *H. n. nitidula*, but throat and breast olive green and upper tail-coverts golden olive; bill (dried) black. Immature female like adult female but duller above; throat and breast dull gray, slightly washed with olive; abdomen and flanks pale grayish, very lightly washed with olive, the feathers with no subterminal white spots; bill (dried) black.

In the *Ibis*, 1910, p. 681, Bannerman described the plumages of typical *nitidula* and gave a colored plate (Pl. XI) of the adults. E. C. Chubb (*Ibis*, 1911, p. 771) wrote that a pair collected at Durban, Natal, differed from Bannerman's East African birds. The descriptions given of the Natal birds fit exactly the present new race. Therefore it seems that *H. n. virens* ranges along the coastal districts in Natal, and probably Portuguese East Africa, and occurs in higher altitudes not far from the coast nearer the Equator. The Uluguru and Usam-

bara Mountains are only about a hundred miles from the coast in Tanganyika Territory.

***Spermospiza ruficapilla cana* subsp. nov.**

Type, male, no. 237,509, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected by Arthur Loveridge at Amani, Usambara Mts., Tanganyika Territory, November 26, 1926. A female was taken at Amani the same day.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *S. r. ruficapilla* but much lighter, the black of *ruficapilla* being represented by slatey gray in *cana*.

Description of type.—Back, rump, interscapulars, scapulars and wing-coverts deep neutral gray; crown and occiput deep neutral gray washed with mummy brown; forehead, sides of head (including a broad band over the eyes), cheeks, lores, chin, throat, breast and sides of body, scarlet red; abdomen, lower flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts deep neutral gray; upper tail-coverts dull scarlet red; remiges moulting, the old ones dark brown with grayish tawny outer edges, the new ones dark neutral gray; rectrices moulting, the old ones very dark neutral gray slightly glossed and indistinctly margined basally with dull reddish, new ones very dark neutral gray; bill (dried) dull blue violet basally and for the proximal two thirds of the culmen, the rest light spectrum red becoming lighter at the tip; feet (dried) dark brown.

Measurements of type: wing, 66.5; tail, 58; culmen from base, 15.5 mm.

Female similar to female of *S. r. ruficapilla*, but the very dark, blackish gray of the latter replaced by deep neutral gray and the red of the upper tail-coverts duller. Measurements of female: wing, 66; tail, 55; culmen from base, 14 mm.

Although the type and paratype are not fully adult, there can be no doubt that the race is much paler in adult plumage than the typical form. The new (adult) feathers show this very clearly.