

A NEW RACE OF *FRANCOLINUS SQUAMATUS* FROM  
TANGANYIKA.

BY H. B. CONOVER.

IN identifying some Francolins collected in Tanganyika and Uganda, it has been found that specimens of *Francolinus squamatus* from the Usambara District southeast of Mt. Kilimanjaro belong to an unnamed race. This, therefore, may be known as

***Francolinus squamatus usambarae*, subsp. nov.**

*Type* from Magamba, 8 miles north of Loshota (Wilhelmstal), Usambara District, Tanganyika Territory. Altitude 5200 feet. Adult male in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History. Collected June 14, 1926 by H. B. Conover. Original number 1201.

*Characters*.—Differs from all other races of *Francolinus squamatus* by the dull black markings on the head, which consist of (1) a dull black line extending from behind the ear coverts forward over the ear to the back of the eye and continued faintly over the eye above a white superciliary stripe, (2) a streak of thickly spread dull black spots beginning at the gape and extending below the eye to below and behind the ear coverts where they merge into the dark brown markings of the neck; although always very conspicuous, they vary somewhat in density in different specimens, but are always most widely scattered at the gape and densest under the ear coverts. These spots also continue about the lower edge of the white throat, but are duller, more brownish and more scattered. White of throat purer and more sharply contrasted with sides of head and fore-neck. Lores and superciliary stripe pure white.

The upper parts are nearly plain, lacking the conspicuous vermiculations observed in allied forms. Below nearest to *kapitensis*, but throat pure white instead of pale grayish.

*Description*.—Feathers of the pileum sepia, each feather edged very indistinctly with light gray. Lores, superciliary stripe and throat pure white. Forehead whitish with a dull black spot at the tip of each feather. A narrow dull black line extending from behind the ear coverts over the ear to back of the eye and continued faintly above the white superciliary stripe. This black line is separated from the auriculars by a more or less inconspicuous whitish line, a continuation of the superciliary stripe. Sides of face white, densely spotted with small dull black spots which are densest under the ear coverts and more scattered at the gape. These spots are continued about the lower edge of the white throat, but are duller and more brownish. Ear coverts plain grayish brown. Feathers of the sides

and back of the neck with a rounded spot of black, bordered laterally by conspicuous light gray (almost white) and a bright brown spot at the extremity. Foreneck the same only slightly duller, with black spots reduced. Mantle and wing coverts dark brown, widely edged, except at tip, with dull gray. Lower back, rump, upper and under tail coverts, and tail pure dark brown (unvermiculated), slightly deeper along the shaft. No vermiculations on upper parts except on outer edges and tips of secondaries. Feathers of the chest brown, widely edged with dark gray. Rest of under parts dull brown, widely edged with dull gray, except that on the lower breast and upper abdomen the feathers are edged with dirty white. Lower belly dark drab. Bill and feet coral. Iris brown. Wing (flat) 197, tail 115, culmen (exposed) 26, tarsus 52, middle toe (with claw) 52 mm

*Range*.—Probably confined to the Usambara Mountains.

#### SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

*Francolinus squamatus squamatus*.—CAMEROON: Bitye, River Ja 1 ♂;<sup>1</sup> Sanaga River, Sakbayeme 1 ♂;<sup>1</sup> Son-Tenjam 1 ♀;<sup>1</sup> Elat 1.<sup>2</sup>

*Francolinus squamatus zappeyi*.—KENYA: Victoria Nyanza Lake 1 ♂<sup>3</sup> (type); Eldoma Ravine, el. 7500' 2♂;<sup>1</sup> Molo 1 ♂.<sup>2</sup> UGANDA: Entebbe 1 ♀;<sup>1</sup> Kigezi 2 ♂, 2 ♀;<sup>1</sup> Were 1 ♂.<sup>3</sup>

*Francolinus squamatus keniensis*.—KENYA: Nyeri, el. 5943', 1 ♂ (type) 1 ♀;<sup>4</sup> Wambugo, el. 5500' 1 ♀,<sup>4</sup> Kenia 1 ♂, 1 ♀.<sup>3</sup> ABYSSINIA: Ladu, Sisamo 1 ♂.<sup>2</sup>

*Francolinus squamatus kapitensis*.—KENYA: Juja Farm, Athi River 1 ♀ (topotype);<sup>4</sup> Nairobi 1 ♂.<sup>4</sup>

*Francolinus squamatus maranensis*.—TANGANYIKA: Maranu, Mt. Kilimanjaro, el. 5000' 1 ♂ (?) (type), 1 ♂;<sup>4</sup> Mt. Kilimanjaro, el. 7000' 1 ♀.<sup>4</sup>

*Francolinus squamatus usambarae*.—TANGANYIKA: Magamba, Usambara 1 ♂ (type), 2 ♀, 1 ♀ juv.;<sup>1</sup> Phillipshof, Usambara 1 ♂.<sup>3</sup>

Mackworth-Præd. (Ibis, 1922, p. 133) says he cannot separate Kilimanjaro specimens from those of Kenia or of the Athi Plains near Juja. This does not agree with my conclusion. Two birds before me, one from Nairobi and another from Juja (topotypical

<sup>1</sup> Specimens in Conover Collection, Field Museum, Chicago.

<sup>2</sup> Specimens in Field Museum, Chicago.

<sup>3</sup> Specimens in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge.

<sup>4</sup> Specimens in U. S. National Museum, Washington.

of *kapitensis*) are much grayer on the back and paler below than birds from Kilimanjaro or Kenia. In comparison with *zappeyi* they are darker on the belly and grayer on the upperside.

*F. s. dowashanus* (Madarasz) seems to be a synonym of *zappeyi*. Madarasz's description fits the type of the latter and the type localities are probably very close together.

Mearns's type of *maranensis*, although marked as a male, is undoubtedly a female, as the specimen shows no sign of spurs and is the same size as two other females from the same region. It also has apparent marks of immaturity on some of its secondaries.

*Keniensis* and *maranensis* are very similar, but the latter has the tail banded with black. This at first sight seems to be a mark of immaturity, but a juvenile female from Usambara does not show this banding. All three Kilimanjaro specimens have the tails banded. Kenia birds have the tail vermiculated.

A bird from southern Abyssinia which I have placed under *keniensis* is not typical. The feathers of the lower breast and belly have much wider and whiter edges and the upper parts are grayer and more heavily vermiculated with black.

I am indebted to the officials of the following institutions for the loan of specimens necessary for this investigation, and especially to the last two for the loan of types: Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge; U. S. National Museum, Washington.

6 Scott St., Chicago, Ill.