

A LIST OF THE BIRDS COLLECTED BY MR. R. P. CURRIE IN LIBERIA.

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Although Mr. Currie's trip to Liberia, under the auspices of the United States National Museum, was largely devoted to the collecting of insects, he nevertheless managed during his sojourn in that country, from February 1 until May 10, 1897, to obtain a small series of birds. These specimens, 57 in number, were referred to the writer for determination and report. They prove to represent 39 forms, 4 of which are here described as new, while another, *Dryotrionchis spectabilis*, is sufficiently rare to be worthy of special mention. All the matter between quotation marks, together with the data relating to length, extent, colors of the unfeathered parts, as well as the Liberian, or English, and Golah, or native, names are from Mr. Currie's notes. The writer is also indebted to him for information respecting the locality at which the birds were secured.

Mount Coffee, where Mr. Currie's collecting was done, is one of the numerous low hills along the St. Paul River, about 25 miles from Monrovia. The land, which begins to rise near the coast, attains in the vicinity of Mount Coffee an altitude of from 400 to 500 feet. The greater portion of the region is covered with heavy tropical forest, interrupted here and there by small clearings. The undergrowth in the forest is not particularly heavy, but abandoned rice fields are, under the influence of the hot, moist climate, rapidly converted into impenetrable thickets. The river, here about 100 yards in width, flows with considerable current over an exceedingly rocky bed and receives the tribute of numerous minor streams. These latter, particularly when they run through the forest, are, like the clearings, favorite resorts for birds.

Family CURSORIIDÆ.

GALACHRYZIA MARCHEI (Oustalet).

Glareola marchei OUSTALET, Bull. Soc. Philom., I, 1877, p. 104.

Galactochrysea marchii SHARPE, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XXIV, 1896, p. 726.

Two adult males and an immature female, all taken along the St. Paul River. The two adults measure, respectively: Length, 180.6, 185.6 mm.; expanse, 450, 465.5 mm.

Family RALLIDÆ.

SAROTHRURA PULCHRA (Gray).

Crex pulchra J. E. GRAY, in Griffith's ed. Cuvier, Anim. Kingd., Aves, pp. 410, 542.

Sarothrura pulchra STONE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1894, p. 148.

One adult male of this pretty rail is in the collection. Length, 177 mm.; expanse, 254.5 mm. "Bill dark horn or blackish, paler at base beneath; feet black."

Family PHASIANIDÆ.

FRANCOLINUS AHANTENSIS Temminck.

Francolinus ahantensis TEMMINCK, Bijdr. tot de Dierk., I, 1854, p. 49, pl. 14.

One adult female. Length, 353 mm.; expanse, 534 mm. The English name of the species is "Guinea fowl" in Liberia; in the Golah dialect it is "Chine-chilo."

Family FALCONIDÆ.

DRYOTRIORCHIS SPECTABILIS (Schlegel).

Astur spectabilis SCHLEGEL, Nederl. Tijdschr., I, 1864, p. 13, pl. 6.

Dryotriorchis spectabilis SHARPE,¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., I, 1874, p. 279.

One fine adult example of this rare hawk is in the collection. The entire upper surface, excepting the tail and the wing quills, has a distinct slaty cast; otherwise this individual agrees perfectly with published descriptions. Length, 546 mm.; expanse, 953 mm. It was shot in the forest, and was in the act of swallowing a green snake, part of which was subsequently found in its throat. Mr. Currie states that it was very tame and unsuspicious. Golah name of the species, "Seepwah."

The specimen obtained by Mr. Currie is apparently the ninth of which any record has been published. All of these have come from a restricted area on the western coast of Africa extending only from Liberia to Gaboon. A list of those previously recorded is here added:

1. One specimen from Elmina, Gold Coast. Schlegel, Nederl. Tijdschr., I, 1864, p. 13, pl. 6.
2. One adult, from the interior of Fantee. Shelley, Ibis, 1874, p. 90.
3. One young, from Gaboon. Gurney, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1880, p. 621.
4. One adult female, from the Du Queah River, Liberia. Büttikofer, Notes Leyden Mus., VIII, 1886, p. 246.
5. One adult male, from Schieffelinville, Liberia. Büttikofer, Notes Leyden Mus., X, 1888, p. 65.
6. One specimen, from Barombi, Cameroons. Reichenow, Journ. f. Orn., 1895, p. 102.
7. One, from Sebbe, Togo, alive in the Berlin Zoological Garden. Ornith. Monatsberichte, II, 1894, p. 128; Reichenow, Journ. f. Orn., 1895, p. 102.
8. One female, from Victoria, Cameroons. Reichenow, Journ. f. Orn., 1896, p. 7.

¹ The authority for this combination is usually quoted as Shelley, Ibis, 1874, p. 90, but Dr. Sharpe (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., I, 1874, p. 279), seems to have been the first actually to write *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*.

Family MUSOPHAGIDÆ.

TURACUS MACRORHYNCHUS (Fraser).

Corythaix macrorhynchus FRASER, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1839, p. 34.

Turacus macrorhynchus GRAY, Gen. Birds, II, 1845, p. 395.

One adult male, taken April 22, 1897. It is in fresh plumage with indications of a not quite completed molt. "Feet black;" length, 439 mm.; expanse, 512 mm. Called "Redwing" by English-speaking Liberians.

Family CUCULIDÆ.

CENTROPUS SENEGALENSIS (Linnæus).

Cuculus senegalensis LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat., 12th ed., I, 1766, p. 169.

Centropus senegalensis KUHL and SWINDEREN, Buff. and D'Aub. Nom. Syst., 1820, p. 6.

A single specimen is in the collection, a young bird just acquiring its first plumage, killed April 16, 1897. Although many of the feathers are still in their sheaths, and the wings and tail very imperfectly developed, a brief description of the plumage may be of interest. Head, cervix, and tail dull black, the last with ill defined brown bars; back, scapulars, and upper surface of wings bright chestnut, heavily barred with black, these bars decreasing in width and regularity on the outer feathers of the wings; under surface vinaceous cinnamon, much paler on the middle of the posterior portion. This specimen is one of two which Mr. Currie kept for some time alive. (See Plate VII.)

Family CORACIIDÆ.

EURYSTOMUS GULARIS Vieillot.

Eurystomus gularis VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., XXIX, 1819, p. 426.

One specimen, a male. Length, 263 mm.; alar expanse, 516 mm.

EURYSTOMUS AFER (Latham).

Coracias afra LATHAM, Ind. Orn., I, 1790, p. 172.

Eurystomus afra STEPHENS, in Shaw's Gen. Zool., XIII, 1826, p. 97.

One male, taken in a clearing; the only one seen. Length, 260 mm.; expanse, 533 mm. Golah name, "Bah-yiddie."

Family MEROPIDÆ.

MEROPS ALBICOLLIS Vieillot.

Merops albicollis VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., XIV, 1817, p. 15.

Three specimens, sex uncertain. The species is reported by Mr. Currie to be common. "Bill black; feet olive-green; iris crimson." Called "Dry-time bird" in English; the Golah name is "Way-dwa." There is very little individual difference observable in these specimens, even in size. Two of them—one taken February 13, the other March 13—are molting the tail feathers.

MELITTOPHAGUS GULARIS (Shaw and Nodder).

Merops gularis SHAW and NODDER, Nat. Misc., IX, 1798, pl. 337.

Melittophagus gularis GRAY, Gen. Birds, I, 1846, p. 86, pl. 30.

Two specimens, male and female. "Bill and feet black; iris crimson."

Male.—Length, 219.5 mm.; extent, 304 mm.

Female.—Length, 205 mm.; extent, 297 mm.

There seems to be no observable difference in color between the sexes.

Family BUCEROTIDÆ.

ORTHOLOPHUS LEUCOLOPHUS (Sharpe).

Berenicornis leucolophus SHARPE, Zool. Rec. for 1871, 1873, p. 54.

Ortholophus leucolophus GRANT, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XVII, 1892, p. 426.

One female, taken April 30, 1897. Length, 684 mm.; extent, 650 mm. This is an immature specimen, with black throat, and agrees with the description of the young of *leucolophus* given by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant,¹ except for the presence of a conspicuous buffy white spot on the outer webs of most of the primaries.

LOPHOCEROS SEMIFASCIATUS (Hartlaub).

Buceros semifasciatus HARTLAUB, Journ. für Orn., 1855, pp. 356, 361.

Lophoceros semifasciatus SHELLEY, Ibis, 1888, p. 59.

A pair of adult birds is in the collection. According to Mr. Currie's notes, both were shot in the forest near the clearing at Mount Coffee. The English-speaking Liberians call this species "Palm bird," while the Golah name is "Pwehah-pwehah."

One of the specimens was taken February 23, the other March 19, 1897; both show indications of a molt not quite completed. The naked skin on the sides of the throat is slate black, not blue, as given by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant.² The feet and the bare skin encircling the eyes are also black.

Male.—Length, 600 mm.; expanse, 800 mm.

Female.—Length, 570 mm.; expanse, 800 mm.

HORIZOCERUS,³ new genus.

Chars. gen.—Genus generi "Lophoceros" dicto affine, sed cauda valde cuneata, rostro prope recto, hujus cornu minimo, acute carinato, facile distinguendum.

Type.—*Toccus hartlaubi* Gould.

The strongly wedge-shaped tail, comparatively straight bill, with its very small, *sharply* keeled casque, to say nothing of conspicuous color differences, appear fully to justify the creation of a separate genus for

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XVII, 1892, p. 426.

² Idem., p. 401.

³ ὁρίζω, limito; κέρας, cornu.

the species commonly known as *Lophoceros hartlaubi*. In fact, it bears less apparent relationship to the species with which it has usually been associated than it does to *Ortholophus leucolophus*. From *Ortholophus* the present genus may be satisfactorily distinguished by the absence of a conspicuous crest, and particularly by the comparative length of the tail, which is barely longer than the wing, instead of about twice as long.

HORIZOCERUS HARTLAUBI (Gould).

Toccus hartlaubi GOULD, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1860, p. 380.

One adult male, just completing the molt, taken February 19, 1897. "Bill slate black, the tip dark red; feet slate color;" length, 406 mm.; expanse, 445 mm. The Liberian English name of this species is "Monkey-bird," because of its alleged habit of following monkeys; in the Golah language it is called "Hin-gongeh."

Family CAPITONIDÆ.

BARBATULA DUCHAILLUI Cassin.

Barbatula duchaillui CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1855, p. 324.

One adult male. Length, 177 mm.; extent, 266 mm. "Bill black; feet nearly so."

Family PICIDÆ.

DENDROMUS CAROLI ARIZELUS, new subspecies.

Campothera caroli BÜTTIKOFER, Notes Leyden Mus., VII, 1885, p. 221 (*nec* Malherbe).

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Dendromus caroli*, but entire under surface, including lower tail-coverts, clear uniform olive green, the spots apparently smaller and less numerous; these, together with superciliary stripe, lining of wing, light markings on outer webs of primaries, and inner webs of secondaries, strongly tinged with greenish, not buffy; spots on exterior webs of primaries much smaller; rufous area on side of head lighter and more yellowish; crown distinctly more olive greenish.

Length, 178 mm.; expanse, 340 mm.; wing, 101 mm.; tail, 60 mm.; exposed culmen, 24 mm.; tarsus, 19 mm.; middle toe, 17 mm.

Description.—Type, adult male; No. 161763, U.S.N.M.; Mount Coffee, Liberia, February 19, 1897; R. P. Currie. Above golden olive green, the head much duller, and its feathers tipped with dark red; a few more or less concealed spots of pale greenish on the feathers of the hind neck. Wings fuscous, the exposed surface when closed, in color like the back; outer webs of primaries with small spots of greenish yellow; inner webs of all the quills, at least basally, with wide indentations of the same color. Tail brownish black, the outer feathers with small lateral spots of greenish yellow. Under surface greenish olive, heavily spotted with greenish yellow, these markings largest posteriorly; superciliary stripe greenish yellow; postocular region, including auric-

ulars, reddish chestnut; under wing-coverts and axillars light greenish yellow with a decided buffy tinge. Bill in life slate color; tarsi dull light green.

The single specimen obtained by Mr. Currie differs so much from a Gaboon example, as above indicated, that it without doubt represents an undescribed race, if, indeed, not a distinct species. It is evidently the same as Dr. Büttikofer's specimens from Liberia, exhibiting all the differences from true *caroli* mentioned by him,¹ as well as others which apparently escaped his notice. The specimen at hand from Gaboon, the original locality of *caroli*, corresponds closely with published descriptions of this form, and is apparently a typical example. No specimens from the territory intervening between Liberia and Gaboon have been available in the present connection; but the differences between *caroli* and *arizelus* are such as seem to indicate subspecific relationship, and *arizelus* has, therefore, been given a trinomial designation.

Family MOTACILLIDÆ.

MOTACILLA VIDUA Sundevall.

Motacilla vidua SUNDEVALL, Cefv. K. Vet. Akad. Forh. Stockh., 1850, p. 128.

One specimen, an adult male in breeding plumage.

Family PYCNONOTIDÆ.

STELGIDILLAS,² new genus.

Chars. gen.—Genus generi "*Chlorocichla*" dicto simile, sed maxillæ tcmii parte subterminali distincte serrata; nec corpore subtus clare flavescente.

Type.—*Andropadus gracilirostris* Strickland. The uncertainty which has attended the determination of the proper generic affinities of *Andropadus gracilirostris* has led to the placing of this species in three different genera, with the characters of none of which does it sufficiently agree. From *Criniger* it may be at once distinguished by the depressed and slender bill—the maxilla with serrations on the cutting edge just posterior to the subterminal notch. The narrow, depressed bill separates it easily from either *Andropadus* or *Eurillas*, while from *Chlorocichla*, to which it seems to be most closely allied, it differs in the presence of serrations on the distal portion of the maxillar tomium. All the known species of *Chlorocichla*, moreover, are yellow or yellowish olive below, and the genus, as restricted by Captain Shelley,³ is a well-defined group.

The species described by Cabanis as *Andropadus gracilis*⁴ is not perfectly typical, but should apparently be associated generically with *gracilirostris*. The genus will then include *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

¹ Notes Leyden Museum, VII, 1885, p. 221.

³ Birds of Africa, I, 1896, p. 63.

² στελγίς, strigilis; ἰλλάς, turdus.

⁴ Orn. Centralbl., 1880, p. 174.

(Strickland), *Stelgidillas gracilirostris liberiensis* (Reichenow), *Stelgidillas gracilis* (Cabanis).

STELGIDILLAS GRACILIROSTRIS LIBERIENSIS (Reichenow).

Andropadus gracilirostris liberiensis REICHENOW, Novit. Zool., II, 1895, p. 160.

One specimen, April 1, with molt not yet entirely completed. It agrees perfectly with Dr. Reichenow's description of *liberiensis* which seems to be a sufficiently well characterized subspecies of *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*.

The measurements of this example are: Length, 199 mm.; extent, 262 mm. "Bill black, lower mandible slightly paler beneath; feet black; iris crimson."

BLEDA SYNDACTYLA (Swainson).

Dasycephala syndactyla SWAINSON, Birds W. Af., I, 1837, p. 261.

Bleda syndactyla RICHMOND, Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 183.

One adult male, apparently typical. Length, 251 mm.; extent, 330.5 mm.; "iris deep red."

EURILLAS VIRENS (Cassin).

Andropadus virens CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1857, p. 34.

Eurillas virens OBERHOLSER, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXII, 1899, p. 15.

One specimen, taken April 1, an immature male, in the plumage described by Dr. Hartlaub as *Andropadus erythropterus*. "Bill black, lighter apically; feet light horn brown."

PYCNONOTUS BARBATUS (Desfontaine).

Turdus barbatus DESFONTAINE, Mém. Acad. Roy. de Sciences, p. 500, pl. XIII.

Pycnonotus barbatus GRAY, Hand-list Birds, I, 1869, p. 268.

Two specimens, taken February 12 and April 28, respectively. Both are in worn breeding plumage; and the latter has apparently just begun to molt. One of them has an appreciable wash of yellow on the lower tail-coverts. "Bill and feet black; iris reddish brown. The English-speaking Liberians know this species as the "Pepper bird;" in the Golah dialect it is called "Bweh-lay."

Family MUSCICAPIDÆ.

TCHITREA NIGRICEPS Hartlaub.

Tchitrea nigriceps HARTLAUB, Journ. f. Orn., 1855, pp. 355, 361 (ex Temminck manuscript).

Terpsiphone nigriceps SHARPE, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1874, p. 306.

Two adult specimens, male and female. The former is a very handsome bird in perfect plumage; the latter agrees with Dr. Sharpe's description of the supposed female,¹ being very much duller colored. The upper parts, excepting, of course, the head, are considerably darker

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., IV, 1879, p. 360.

than in the male, while the under surface, particularly the posterior portion, is lighter.

Male.—Length, 190 mm.; extent, 203 mm.; “bill and feet bright blue black.”

Female.—Length, 153 mm.; extent, 215 mm.; “bill dark horn, paler at base; feet blue black.”

The Golah name of this bird is “Wee-su-waw.”

ARTOMYIAS USSHERI Sharpe.

Artomyias ussheri SHARPE, Ibis, 1871, p. 416.

Two specimens, adult male and female. The male is slightly paler and more grayish than the female, but otherwise identical. They agree with Dr. Sharpe's description¹ except for the lack of whitish tips to the wing quills and greater coverts. These whitish tips are probably, as suggested by Dr. Sharpe,¹ evidences of immaturity.

These two individuals measure as follows: Male, length, 140 mm.; extent, 254 mm.; female, length, 142 mm.; extent, 264 mm. It is interesting to notice the larger size of the female. The Golah name for the species is “Bweh-bweh-dee.”

Family NECTARINIIDÆ.

ANTHREPTES RECTIROSTRIS (Shaw).

Certhia rectirostris SHAW, Gen. Zool., VIII, 1811, p. 246.

Anthothreptes rectirostris GADOW, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., IX, 1884, p. 119.

Four specimens. The two adult males appear not to differ from typical examples, though one is rather lighter below than the other, besides being considerably smaller. Length, 99 mm.;² extent, 182 mm.; length, 112.6 mm.; extent, 173 mm. “Bill and feet black; iris chocolate brown.”

Another specimen is sexed female with a query, and may possibly be an immature male. Length, 108 mm.; expanse, 167 mm. The upper surface is dull greenish olive with a conspicuous mixture of bronzy tipped feathers; the lesser wing-coverts are bronze green; the under parts are yellow, clearest on the median portion of the abdomen, shaded with olive green on the sides, paler on the throat and duller on the breast, both of which are slightly tinged with ashy.

The fourth specimen is a young bird in first plumage, and is apparently *rectirostris*, although so young that without more specimens for examination it cannot be determined with absolute certainty. The upper surface is dull olive washed with greenish; wings dark brown with exterior edgings of golden olive; under parts pale dull yellow, the throat only washed with this color, as it is so imperfectly feathered that the slate gray bases of the feathers give their tint to the whole area.

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., IV, 1879, p. 145.

² Tail imperfect.

ANTHREPTES COLLARIS HYPODILUS (Jardine)

Nectarinia hypodilus JARDINE, Contr. Orn., 1851, p. 153.

Two specimens, male and female. "Bill and feet black, iris brown."

Male.—Length, 109.2 mm.; extent, 148.5 mm.

Female.—Length, 102 mm.; extent, 144 mm. The latter shows indications of a molt not quite completed.

This species is apparently divisible into three well defined geographical races. In southern Africa occurs *Anthreptes collaris collaris*; in southeastern Africa *Anthreptes collaris zambesianus*, and in the western part of the continent *Anthreptes collaris hypodilus*. True *collaris* differs from both of the other forms in having the secondaries, greater and primary coverts edged externally with golden olive instead of metallic green; the posterior lower parts are much darker and duller yellow than in *zambesiana*; less orange yellow and more shaded with olivaceous laterally than in *hypodilus*. From *hypodilus*, with which it has usually been considered identical, *zambesianus* may be readily distinguished by the much paler, less orange tinted posterior under surface, as well as by the paler shade of the exterior margins to secondaries, primary and greater wing-coverts.

ANTHREPTES IDIUS, new species.

Chars. sp..—Similar to *Anthreptes fraseri*, but decidedly smaller; the outermost primary scarcely more than half as long; rather darker, and much less yellowish olive green throughout. This most noticeable on wings and tail.

Description.—Type, male (immature?), No. 161807, U.S.N.M.; Mount Coffee, Liberia, March 16, 1897; R. P. Currie. Upper parts dark olive green, rather duller on the head; wings fuscous, the lesser coverts, edgings of the others and of the quills, like the back; tail-feathers greenish olive, with broad olive green exterior margins. Sides of head and neck olive green; eye ring olive yellow; entire under surface deep olive yellow, almost uniform, but rather paler on chin, and shaded with olive green on sides and flanks; lining of wing olive yellow. "Bill dark horn, paler beneath; feet olive green." Length, 122 mm.; extent, 178 mm.

In details of structure and in pattern of coloration this new species is identical with *Anthreptes fraseri*, and does not need comparison with any of the other species of the genus. There is a possibility that *idius* may eventually turn out to be merely a geographical race of *fraseri*, but until such shall be proved to be the case it may stand as a species. The single specimen procured by Mr. Currie is sexed male, and if this be correct the absence of pectoral tufts, notwithstanding the lack of any other evidence, would seem to indicate immaturity; for it is quite probable, though of course not certain, that the adult male would, like that of *fraseri*, possess these ornaments.

The following table shows the comparative size of the two species:

Measurements.

Name.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
<i>Anthreptes fraseri</i> , adult female	64	42	16	9.5
<i>Anthreptes idius</i> , male [immature?]	54	38	14	9

Mr. Currie states that this species was not uncommon in the "bush" about Mount Coffee, and that its Golah name is "Zemeh."

CINNYRIS CYANOLÆMA (Jardine).

Nectarinia cyanolæma JARDINE, Contr. Orn., 1851, p. 154.

Cinnyris cyanolæmus SHARPE and BOUVIER, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, I, 1876, p. 41.

Three specimens—male, female, and young male. The two first are apparently typical birds in breeding plumage; "bill and feet black;" length of female, 139 mm.; extent, 200 mm. The immature male differs from the adult female in being darker, more sooty above, including wings and tail; the top of the head is sooty blackish instead of olive brownish; the sides of head and neck blackish slate instead of light brownish; the throat dull white, washed with olive yellow instead of light brownish, and *sharply* defined from the surrounding darker areas; breast and abdomen light olive green instead of brownish white; lining of wing sooty grayish instead of whitish.

The Golah name of the adult male of this species is "Zemeh-dee;" the young male is called "Zemeh," thus not distinguished from *Anthreptes idius*.

CINNYRIS JOHANNÆ Verreaux.

Cinnyris johannæ J. and E. VERREAUX, Rev. et Mag. Zool., 1851, p. 314.

One adult male of this brilliantly plumaged sunbird is in the collection. "Bill and feet jet black;" length, 145.6 mm.; extent, 209 mm.

CINNYRIS CHLOROPYGIA (Jardine).

Nectarinia chloropygia JARDINE, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., X, 1842, p. 188.

Cinnyris chloropygius BONAPARTE, Consp. Avium, I, 1850, p. 407.

One adult male. "Bill and feet black;" length, 103 mm.; extent, 133 mm. Mr. Currie reports the species common in the vicinity of Mount Coffee. In the Golah dialect it is called "Zemeh," a name apparently applied indiscriminately to a number of small birds.

Family PLOCEIDÆ.

MALIMBUS SCUTATUS (Cassin).

*Scobius*¹ *scutatus* CASSIN, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1849, p. 157.

Malimbus scutatus GRAY, Hand-List Birds, II, 1870, p. 43.

Two adult specimens, male and female. "Bill and feet black; iris crimson." Length, male, 175 mm.; expanse, 282 mm. Length, female, 172 mm.; expanse, 266 mm.

¹ Typographical error for *Sycobius*.

MALIMBUS RUBRICOLLIS BARTLETTI (Sharpe).

Malimbus bartletti SHARPE, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XIII, 1890, p. 479.

One adult male. "Bill black; feet purplish-black; iris chocolate brown." Length, 214 mm.; expanse, 337 mm. Golah name, "Way-see-eh." This form undoubtedly intergrades with the more southern *Malimbus rubricollis*, to which it is closely related; and its name should thus be, as above given, a trinomial.

NIGRITA BICOLOR (Hartlaub).

Pytelia bicolor HARTLAUB, Syst. Verz. Bremen, 1844, p. 76.

Nigrita bicolor SCLATER, Contr. Orn., 1852, p. 83.

One specimen, apparently not different from a Fantee example. "Bill black; feet dark brown; iris crimson." Length, 114 mm.; extent, 163.5 mm.

AMAURESTHES FRINGILLOIDES (Lafresnaye).

Ploceus fringilloides LAFRESNAYE, Mag. de Zool., 1835, pl. 48.

Amauresthes fringilloides REICHENBACH, Singv., 1861, p. 86, pl. 44, fig. 322.

One specimen, April 22, 1897, in fresh plumage, with molt not quite completed. Length, 135 mm.; expanse, 195 mm.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ.

HIRUNDO NIGRITA Gray.

Hirundo nigrita GRAY, Gen. Birds, I, 1845, pl. 40.

Three specimens, two males and one female, April 13 and 28, 1897, all showing some indication of incomplete molt. The latter seems to be somewhat less purplish than the males, but there is no other apparent difference. One of the males measures, length, 142 mm.; extent, 303 mm. "Bill and feet black."

Family DICRURIDÆ.

DICRURUS MODESTUS ATACTUS, new subspecies.

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Dicrurus modestus modestus*, but plumage of body, particularly above, much more glossy, the velvety appearance almost entirely absent; no conspicuous contrast between the feathers of head and back.

Wing, 118 mm.; tail, 104 mm.; exposed culmen, 22 mm.; tarsus, 20 mm.; middle toe, 15 mm.

Description.—Type, sex unknown, No. 147202, U.S.N.M.; Fantee, West Africa. General color glossy black, with bluish metallic reflections, these most evident on the upper parts, nearly absent on the throat; top of head almost uniform with the back, though slightly greenish, as are the upper tail-coverts; wings brownish black, the lesser coverts like the back, the remaining coverts and the quills glossed

externally with greenish blue; tail brownish black, glossed exteriorly with greenish.

Comparison of specimens from Fantee and Liberia with an adult from Gaboon seems to indicate the existence of two races of *Dicrurus modestus*. True *modestus* comes from Prince's Island, and according to Dr. Sharpe¹ *D. coracinus* from Gaboon is identical with *modestus*, as it should be from a geographical standpoint, thus leaving the northern form without a name. Dr. Sharpe also mentions¹ the more glossy appearance of specimens from the Gold Coast, but without separating them from *modestus*.

Mr. Currie obtained one specimen, an immature male, apparently identical with examples from Fantee. Length, 225 mm.; expanse, 251 mm. It was shot in the forest, where the species is stated by Mr. Currie to be not uncommon. Golah name, "Zāla-we."

DICRURUS ATRIPENNIS Swainson.

Dicrurus atripennis SWAINSON, Birds W. Africa, I, 1837, p. 256.

One adult male, March 16, 1897. It is in process of molt, wings and tail being imperfect. Taken in the forest; "not uncommon." Length, 235 mm.; expanse, 321 mm.; "bill and feet black; iris crimson." Golah name, "Zāla-we."

Family LANIIDÆ.

LANIARIUS MULTICOLOR Gray.

Laniarius multicolor GRAY, Gen. Birds, I, 1845, p. 299, pl. 72.

The collection contains one adult male of this brilliantly colored shrike. Length, 230 mm.; expanse, 317 mm. Mr. Currie states that no others were seen. Golah name, "Dah-zo." Bill in life black; feet drab; eyelid purplish.

Family STURNIDÆ.

PHOLIDAUGES LEUCOGASTER (Gmelin).

Turdus leucogaster GMELIN, Syst. Nat., I, 1788, p. 819.

Pholidauges leucogaster CABANIS, Mus. Hein., I, 1850, p. 198.

One specimen, an immature male in the plumage of the female. "Bill black, paler at base below; feet black; iris lemon." Length, 184 mm.; extent, 306 mm.

Family PRIONOPIDÆ.

SIGMODUS CANICEPS Bonaparte.

Sigmodus caniceps BONAPARTE, Consp. Av., I, 1850, p. 365.

One adult male, apparently a typical specimen. Length, 225 mm.; extent 348 mm. "Iris bright yellow; bill deep crimson, lighter

¹ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., III, 1877, p. 233.

toward the tip; feet vermilion; naked ring around eye orange red." Known to English-speaking Liberians as "Baboon bird;" Golah name, "Way-ye."

FRASERIA PROSPHORA, new species.

Chars. sp.—Similar to *Fraseria ochreata*; the crown, sides of head, and neck not blackish, but uniform in color with the back; lower surface not pure white, the markings not sharply defined.

Description.—Adult, sex undetermined, No. 161784, U.S.N.M.; Mount Coffee, Liberia, February 19, 1897; R. P. Currie. Upper surface uniform slate color, slightly more bluish on lower back and rump; wing-quills and tail-feathers dull brownish black, edged externally with slate color; sides of head and neck like the crown. Lower parts grayish white; the sides and flanks slate gray; the jugulum a lighter shade of same, spotted with darker; the feathers of breast and abdomen with narrow slate-gray tips, producing a slightly squamated effect; lower tail-coverts each with a subbasal, V-shaped marking, and a narrow terminal bar of slate color; inferior wing-coverts brownish slate, the feathers broadly tipped with white; axillars white terminally, slate gray basally; thighs slate gray, edged with white. "Bill slate black; feet plumbeous." Wing, 87.5 mm.; tail, 73 mm.; exposed culmen, 14 mm.; tarsus, 21.5 mm.; middle toe, 14 mm.

This new form is distinguishable at sight from *Fraseria ochreata* by the lighter and uniform shade of the upper surface, including the sides of head and neck; by the grayish instead of pure white under parts, the markings of which are much paler and much less sharply defined, giving a clouded and mottled appearance in place of a clear-cut squamate effect, particularly on breast and jugulum. The crissum is irregularly barred with slate color instead of being pure white. While it is barely possible that *prospora* is a race of *ochreata*, and thus its representative in Liberia, yet the two birds are so different that until the connection be established it seems better to accord them both specific rank.



Oberholser, Harry C. 1899. "A list of the birds collected by Mr. R. P. Currie in Liberia." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 22(1182), 25–37.
<https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.22-1182.25>.

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