

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

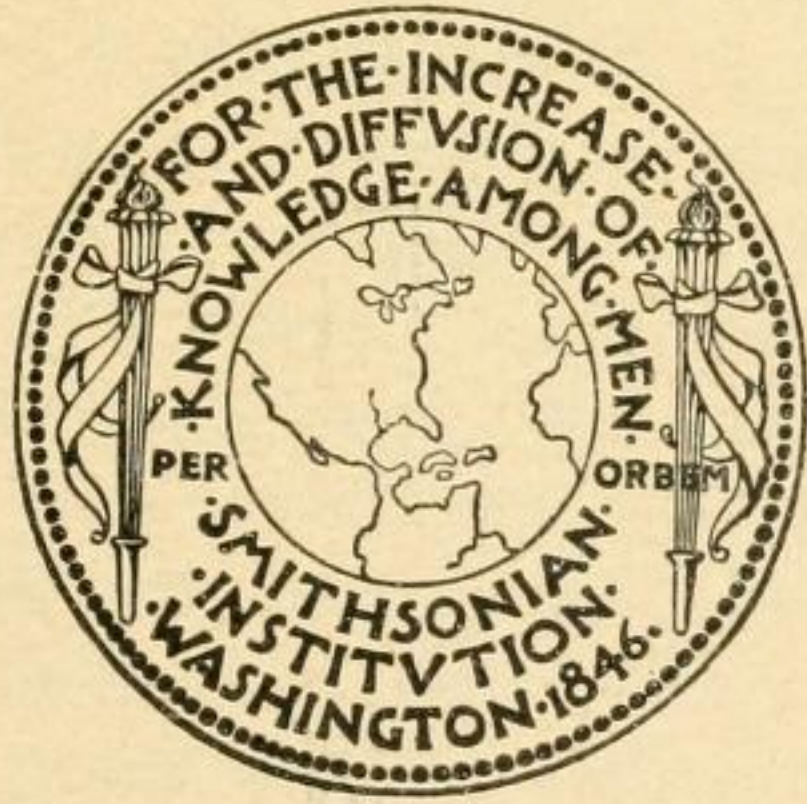
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DESCRIPTIONS OF TEN NEW AFRICAN  
BIRDS

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## DESCRIPTION OF TEN NEW AFRICAN BIRDS.

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This paper is the eleventh dealing with the results of the Smithsonian African Expedition under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt. It embraces descriptions of ten new species and subspecies of birds, eight of which were discovered by members of the Expedition.

*Francolinus schuetti* Cabanis is represented in East Africa by three slight but quite recognizable forms, from the Mount Kilimanjaro region, from the Mount Kenia region, and from the intervening Kapiti Plains, respectively. Specimens from each of these areas are quite uniform, and are described below.

### FRANCOLINUS SCHUETTI MARANENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kilimanjaro Francolin

*Type-specimen*.—Adult male. Cat. No. 117819, U. S. N. M. Collected at Maranu, Mount Kilimanjaro, German East Africa, altitude 5,000 feet, April 5, 1888, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Francolinus schuetti schuetti*. Crown sepia; feathers of back and scapulars dark brown, edged, except at tip, with pale gray, with chestnut shaft-streaks and coarse marginal black speckles; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts vandyke brown vermiculated with black; outer webs of outer primaries mottled and penciled with rusty brown; rectrices vandyke brown broadly banded with black; feathers of chest broccoli brown with broad apical shaft-stripes of prout's brown, without speckles; lower breast, upper abdomen, and flanks broccoli brown with darker brown centers to the feathers and narrow submarginal creamy white stripes.

*Measurements of type* (from skin).—Wing, 168 mm.; tail, 83; exposed culmen, 25.5; tarsus, 54; middle toe (without claw), 42.

*Material*.—Five specimens from Mount Kilimanjaro, German East Africa, collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

*Remarks*.—The juvenal plumage of this form has been described by Mr. Oberholser (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 28, 1905, p. 834).

**FRANCOLINUS SCHUETTI KAPITENSIS**, new subspecies

Kapiti Plains Francolin

*Type-specimen*.—Probably adult male (specimen not sexed). Cat. No. 213421, U. S. N. M. Collected at Juja Farm, near the Athi River, British East Africa, altitude about 4,200 feet, May 24, 1909, by J. Alden Loring. Original number, 111.

*Characters*.—Crown brownish olive mixed with gray; feathers of back and scapulars grayish hair brown mixed with black, broadly bordered with hair brown, without chestnut shaft-streaks or conspicuous marginal black spots; general color of lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts olive-brown; outer webs of outer primaries plain dark brown; rectrices mars brown coarsely vermiculated with black; feathers of chest hair brown with narrow apical shaft-stripes of broccoli brown, thickly flecked with black near the shafts; lower breast, upper abdomen, and flanks hair brown dotted with black near the feather-shafts, and with broad creamy buff submarginal bands.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 167 mm.; tail, 85; exposed culmen, 26.5; tarsus, 51; middle toe (without claw), 41.

*Material*.—Three specimens from Juja Farm and Nairobi, British East Africa.

*Remarks*.—Two developed spurs on each tarsus, and its larger size, make it quite certain that the type is a male, as females usually lack developed spurs.

**FRANCOLINUS SCHUETTI KENIENSIS**, new subspecies

Mount Kenia Francolin

*Type-specimen*.—Adult male. Cat. No. 214739, U. S. N. M. Collected at Nyeri (altitude 5,943 feet), base of Mount Kenia, British East Africa, September 16, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 16828.

*Characters*.—Crown bistre; feathers of back and scapulars bistre thickly vermiculated with black, and narrowly bordered with brownish gray finely mixed with blackish; lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts bistre vermiculated with black; outer web of outer primaries plain dark brown; rectrices brown, finely vermiculated with black; feathers of chest hair brown with a large apical spot of sepia; lower breast, upper abdomen, and flanks sepia, the feathers broadly edged with buffy white penciled with sepia.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 175 mm.; tail, 84; exposed culmen, 27; tarsus, 49; middle toe (without claw), 40.

*Material.*—Three specimens from Nyeri and Wambugu, British East Africa.

**NECTARINIA JOHNSTONI IDIUS, new subspecies**

Mount Kenia Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird

"*Nectarinia deckeni* Lorenz," HÖHNEL, narrative of Count Teleki's "Expedition to Lake Rudolf," English translation, vol. I, 1894, p. 374, note, *nomen nudum*; Ibis, 1894, p. 452.

*Nectarinia johnstoni* SHARPE, Bull. B. O. C. No. 12, 1893, p. ix (Mount Kenia).

*Type-specimen.*—Adult male. Cat. No. 215664, U. S. N. M. Collected on Mount Kenia at 14,000 feet, British East Africa, September 26, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 16909.

*Characters.*—Similar to *Nectarinia johnstoni johnstoni* Shelley, but slightly larger; adult male with metallic feathers of upper parts more golden and less bluish green, this being exactly reversed in the coloration of the under parts; crissum more intense black. Adult female decidedly darker brown than the female of *Nectarinia johnstoni johnstoni*.

*Measurements of type.*—Adult male. Wing, 84 mm.; longest tail-feather, 215; culmen (chord), 31.5; tarsus, 19.

*Comparative measurements.*—Average of ten adult males of *Nectarinia johnstoni idius*: Wing, 82.6 mm.; longest tail-feather, 195.7; culmen (chord), 31.3; tarsus, 18.6.

Average of eight adult males of *Nectarinia johnstoni johnstoni* from Mount Kilimanjaro: Wing, 81.2; longest tail-feather, 175.9; culmen (chord), 30.9; tarsus, 17.7.

One adult male (Cat. No. 211929, U. S. N. M.) of *Nectarinia dartmouthi* from Mount Ruwenzori: Wing, 82.5; longest tail-feather, 175; culmen (chord), 26.2; tarsus, 19.5.

Average of seven adult females of *Nectarinia johnstoni idius*: Wing, 74.1; tail, 55.9; culmen (chord), 29.3; tarsus, 17.7.

Average of two adult females of *Nectarinia johnstoni johnstoni*: Wing, 72; tail, 52; culmen (chord), 29.2; tarsus, 16.8.

One adult female (Cat. No. 211986, U. S. N. M.) of *Nectarinia dartmouthi*: Wing, 73; tail, 55; culmen (chord), 26; tarsus, 19.

*Remarks.*—Males of this form require no comparison with *Nectarinia dartmouthi* Grant, but females resemble females of *dartmouthi* more than those of *johnstoni*, although they may be readily distinguished from the former by their longer bill and shorter tarsus.

**CINNYRIS MEDIOCRIS KENIENSIS, new subspecies**

Mount Kenia Double-collared Sunbird

*Type-specimen*.—Adult male. Cat. No. 215737, U. S. N. M. Collected at West Kenia Forest Station, 7,500 feet, British East Africa, September 19, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 16865.

*Characters*.—Adult male similar to *Cinnyris mediocris mediocris* Shelley, but slightly larger, with metallic feathers of upper parts less golden green; red band across chest paler and more bricky red; lining of wings, and under parts posterior to red chest-band much paler, the latter more yellowish olive-green. Adult female with upper parts paler and more greenish olive-brown; under parts paler and yellower. In both sexes there is much more grayish white on the outer webs and tips of the outer tail-feathers.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 56 mm.; tail, 46.5; culmen (chord), 18.2; tarsus, 17.7.

*Comparative measurements*.—Average of ten adult males of *Cinnyris mediocris keniensis*: Wing, 55.1; tail, 48.4; culmen (chord), 18.7; tarsus, 17.6.

Average of nine adult male topotypes of *Cinnyris mediocris mediocris* Shelley: Wing, 52.3; tail, 45.7; culmen (chord), 18.4; tarsus, 17.5.

Adult female (Cat. No. 215733, U. S. N. M.) of *Cinnyris mediocris keniensis*: Wing, 50; tail, 40; culmen (chord), 17.5; tarsus, 17.5.

Adult female (Cat. No. 215733, U. S. N. M.) of *Cinnyris mediocris mediocris*: Wing, 46; tail, 37; culmen (chord), 17; tarsus, 17.

**CYANOMITRA CHANGAMWENSIS, new species**

Changamwe Olive Sunbird

*Type-specimen*.—Adult female. Cat. No. 215725, U. S. N. M. Collected at Changamwe (near Mombasa), British East Africa, November 25, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17587.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Cyanomitra olivacea ragazzii* (Salvadori), but much smaller, and paler on the under parts; upper parts olive green of the same shade as in *ragazzii*; under parts pale grayish pea green washed with yellow, most strongly on the throat and upper chest; pectoral plumes canary yellow; bill uniform brownish black.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 53 mm.; tail, 54; culmen (chord), 20; tarsus, 14.2.

*Remarks.*—A second female specimen (Cat. No. 215727, U. S. N. M.) is albinistic. The upper parts are whitish drab, washed with yellow; under parts grayish white washed with yellow; bill and feet uniformly brown; wing, 52; tail, 41; culmen (chord), 19.7; tarsus, 13.5.

**ANTHREPTES COLLARIS ELACHIOR, new subspecies**

Lesser Collared Sunbird

*Type-specimen.*—Adult male. Cat. No. 215747, U. S. N. M. Collected at Changamwe (near Mombasa), British East Africa, November 25, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17593.

*Characters.*—Smaller and paler than *Anthreptes collaris zambesianus* (Shelley); upper metallic parts less coppery golden green; middle under parts canary instead of lemon yellow; outer webs of secondaries yellowish olive-green instead of bronzy yellowish green; sides paler and grayer.

*Comparative measurements.*—Average of six adult males of *Anthreptes collaris elachior* (five from Changamwe and one from Zanzibar): Wing, 46.7 mm.; tail, 35.8; culmen (chord), 13.7; tarsus, 14.3. Average of seven adult males of *Anthreptes collaris zambesianus* (from Taveta, Juja Farm, and Honi River (in the Mount Kenia district), British East Africa): Wing, 50.3; tail, 42; culmen (chord), 14.7; tarsus, 15.9.

Average of four adult female topotypes of *Anthreptes collaris elachior*: Wing, 45; tail, 33.5; culmen (chord), 13.3; tarsus, 14.5. Average of four adult females of *Anthreptes collaris zambesianus* from Taveta, British East Africa: Wing, 48.3; tail, 37.5; culmen (chord), 14.5; tarsus, 15.6.

*Remarks.*—An adult male (Cat. No. 148951, U. S. N. M.) from Zanzibar is so entirely similar to the Changamwe series that I have no hesitation in referring it to the present form.

**PSEUDONIGRITA ARNAUDI KAPITENSIS, new subspecies**

Kapiti Social-Weaver

*Philetarus emini* SHARPE, Ibis, 1891, p. 249 (Machakos).

*Type-specimen.*—Adult male. Cat. No. 213773, U. S. N. M. Collected at Juja Farm, Kapiti Plains, British East Africa, May 14, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 15770.

*Characters.*—Differs from *Pseudonigrita arnaudi arnaudi* (Bonaparte) in being decidedly larger, with the colors paler throughout,

excepting the shoulder-patch, which has more black mixed with the gray.

*Measurements of Pseudonigrita arnaudi kapitensis*.—Adult male (type specimen): Wing, 68 mm.; tail, 41; culmen (chord), 14; tarsus, 18. Adult female (average of two topotypes): Wing, 65; tail, 40; culmen (chord), 14; tarsus, 18.

*Measurements of Pseudonigrita arnaudi arnaudi* (from Nimule, Lokko Zegga, and Ledgus, on the Upper Nile).—Adult male (average of four): Wing, 62.5; tail, 37.2; culmen (chord), 13; tarsus, 17.1. Adult female (average of five): Wing, 60.9; tail, 35.4; culmen (chord), 12.3; tarsus, 16.6.

*Description of young* (female; Cat. No. 213774, U. S. N. M.; killed at the same shot with the type).—Differs from the adult in having the crown hair brown like the upper side of the neck and upper back, conspicuously darker than rump and upper tail-coverts; lower back and scapulars blackish drab; shoulder-patch nearly black; black markings of wings and tail as in adults, but with narrow drab-gray tips to the wing-quills; secondaries edged externally with pale russet; bill dark brown above, flesh color on basal two-thirds of mandible, instead of black throughout; feet fleshy brown instead of light yellowish brown.

*Material*.—Three adults and one young from Juja Farm and Kamiti, British East Africa.

#### LAGONOSTICTA INCERTA, new species

##### Vinous Fire-finch

*Type-specimen*.—Adult male. Cat. No. 217311, U. S. N. M. Collected at Gondokoro, on the Bahr el Jebel, Uganda, Africa, February 25, 1910, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 18805.

*Description of type*.—Crown, upper side of neck, back, and wings olive-brown perceptibly tinged with red; forehead in front of eyes, and entire side of head, including supraorbital stripe, and upper tail-coverts burnt carmine; tail black, bordered with carmine on outer webs of feathers at base; under wing-coverts pale buffy gray; under side of wing-quills dusky grayish; chin, throat, and breast vinaceous, fading to smoke gray on abdomen and grayish white on under tail-coverts; breast quite thickly spotted with white, tending to form bars; bill red, striped with black above, below, and along lower edge of maxilla; feet and claws brown.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing, 46 mm.; tail, 42; culmen (chord), 10.6; tarsus, 13.5.



**SPOROPIPES FRONTALIS ABYSSINICUS, new subspecies**

Abyssinian Speckled-fronted Weaver

*Type-specimen.*—Adult male. Cat. No. 100033, U. S. N. M. Collected by Blondeel in Abyssinia. Original number, 25845.

*Characters.*—Differs from *Sporopipes frontalis frontalis* in being larger and much paler in coloration; upper parts instead of ashy brown are pale ecru drab; wings and tail paler brown with broad whitish margins to the feathers; top and sides of neck paler cinnamon, with pale edging to the feathers; forehead and front of crown more brownish black, with broader white tips to the feathers; under parts almost white, with only the barest trace of a drab gray chest-band; under wing-coverts white.

*Measurements of type specimen of Sporopipes frontalis abyssinicus:* Wing, 65 mm.; tail, 52; culmen (chord), 12; tarsus, 19.

*Average measurements of two adult males of Sporopipes frontalis frontalis* (from Gondokoro, Uganda): Wing, 62; tail, 47.5; culmen (chord), 11.5; tarsus, 17.