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DESCRIPTIONS OF FIFTEEN
NEW AFRICAN BIRDS

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MAYNARD'S GUN BIRD

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DESCRIPTIONS OF FIFTEEN NEW AFRICAN BIRDS

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

Pternistes leucoscepus (G. R. Gray), a plastic species of the East African region, has been divided into several subspecies in the northern portion of its range. Hitherto, the form found over much of British and German East Africa has been known as *Pternistes leucoscepus infuscatus* (Cabanis), but in the series of thirty specimens from this region in the collection of the United States National Museum, there are two undescribed subspecies from Mount Kenia, and Mount Kilimanjaro, respectively. These are the darkest forms of the species, and have a preponderance of chestnut color on the under parts.

Cabanis's description and very satisfactory colored plate (v. d. Decken's Reise, 1869, pl. 14) show that the form *infuscatus*, described by him from Lake Jipe, German East Africa, is the widely ranging plains race, and neither of the mountain forms described below, from both of which it may be readily distinguished by having the tail and wings distinctly cross-banded, and the dark centers of the long feathers of the flanks undivided by a central white shaft-stripe.

PTERNISTES LEUCOSCEPUS KENIENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kenia Bare-throated Spurfowl

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 214721, U. S. N. M. Collected on the west slope of Mount Kenia, on the N'joro or Kasorongai River, 6500 feet, British East Africa, October 18, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17164.

Characters.—Differs from *Pternistes leucoscepus infuscatus* in its generally darker coloration; in the absence of transverse bars on the wings and tail, which instead of being barred are minutely speckled

and vermiculated; in the much narrower white borders of the feathers of breast and sides, those of the flanks having white shaft-stripes; and in having the thighs and crissum darker and without pure white edges. Adult males have the iris brown; bill olivaceous brown, orange at base below; feet and claws black; naked sides of face and chin light red; throat bright yellow. Females are similar, but with less orange at base of bill below.

Measurements of type-specimen (adult male).—Wing, 204 mm.; tail, 105; exposed culmen (chord), 33; tarsus, 67; longest spur, 22.

Material.—Twenty specimens are referred to this subspecies.

Remarks.—Thirteen specimens taken around the base of Mount Kenia, at an altitude of 6000 to 7000 feet are typical *keniensis*. Seven specimens from Fort Hall and Saba Saba, at altitudes of 3900 and 4000 feet, are intergrades between *infuscatus* and *keniensis*. Specimens from Wambugu, Kapiti Plains, Ulukenia Hills, and the Southern N'Guaso Nyiro River in the Sotik District are all typical *infuscatus*.

PTERNISTES LEUCOSCEPUS KILIMENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kilimanjaro Bare-throated Spurfowl

Type-specimen.—Adult female. Cat. No. 117817, U. S. N. M. Collected in the Mount Kilimanjaro Region, East Africa, 1888-'89, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—This is the extreme of the dark forms of *Pternistes leucoscepus*, and differs from *Pternistes leucoscepus infuscatus* in much the same way as does *keniensis*. Its closest affinity appears to be with *keniensis*, from which it differs in having a general castaneous tone of coloration; the light specklings of the wings and tail and the shaft-streaks of the mantle and wing-coverts are chestnut or rust color instead of grayish or buffy white; the concealed pale markings of the wing-quills are decidedly rusty instead of nearly white; the white edgings to the feathers of the breast and sides are obsolete except upon the posterior flanks, and these parts have the chestnut color extending to the subtriangular white spots at the tips of the feathers.

Measurements of type-specimen (adult female).—Wing, 181 mm.; tail, 82; exposed culmen (chord), 32; tarsus, 55.

Material.—Two specimens (one female and one unsexed) collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Remarks.—The size is quite uniform in the three forms under consideration.

FRANCOLINUS GRISESCENS, new species

Grayish Francolin

Type-specimen.—Adult female. Cat. No. 216223, U. S. N. M. Collected at Lokko Zegga, Uganda, Africa, February 13, 1910, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 18407.

Characters.—Allied to *Francolinus clappertoni* Children, but apparently much smaller than the subspecies *gedgii* and *heuglini*; females without chestnut markings; crown and ear-coverts prouts brown; feathers of upper side of neck and mantle black or brownish black, bordered with white except at the tips, and with narrow white shaft-stripes posteriorly; general color of remainder of upper parts grayish drab; feathers of back and rump with sagittate black markings and pale shaft-stripes; outer surface of wings spotted and irregularly cross-banded with grayish rusty white; wing-quills dark brown, cross-banded with rusty white and without longitudinal markings; tail brownish black, narrowly cross-banded with grayish white or rusty white; sides of head and neck buffy white, narrowly striped with black; chin and throat plain buffy white; remainder of under parts pale buff with brownish black markings, those of the chest V-shaped, with guttate extremities on the lower breast and sides, becoming oval or elliptical and sparse on the abdomen, and irregularly hastate on the posterior flanks and upper thighs; under tail-coverts buffy white, broadly banded with dark brown.

Measurements of type-specimen (adult female).—Wing, 155 mm.; tail, 73; exposed culmen (chord), 26; tarsus, 47.

Material.—Six females from the upper Bahr el Jebel, near Lake Albert.

FRANCOLINUS GRANTII DELUTESCENS, new subspecies

Kasorongai Francolin

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 214748, U. S. N. M. Collected on a high, wooded hill at the base of Mount Kenia, west of the camp on the N'joro or Kasorongai River, altitude 7000 feet, British East Africa, October 19, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17172.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Francolinus grantii grantii* Hartlaub and *Francolinus grantii ochrogaster* (Hartlaub). From the latter it may at once be distinguished by its considerably larger size and much less ochraceous coloration. It is more closely related to typical *grantii*; compared with that bird it is seen that the size is

slightly greater; the general color is much more grayish, especially on the back, rump, and chest; the belly and crissum are much less ochraceous; the neck-collar of subtriangular chestnut markings is narrower, with the spots smaller; the upper parts are less rufescent—more olivaceous than reddish brown; the white shaft-streaks of the upper parts are much narrower and more broadly bordered with black; the crown is darker, with the bases of the feathers black instead of brown. Females have the upper parts much more abundantly vermiculated, cross-banded, and dotted with black than in the females of typical *grantii* or *ochrogaster*.

Comparative measurements.—Average of two adult males of *Francolinus grantii delutescens*: Wing, 146 mm.; tail, 87; exposed culmen (chord), 20; tarsus, 41.

Average of two adult males of *Francolinus grantii grantii*: Wing, 143 mm.; tail, 90; exposed culmen (chord), 19.5; tarsus, 42.

Average of two adult males of *Francolinus grantii ochrogaster*: Wing, 135; tail, 86; exposed culmen (chord), 19; tarsus, 40.

FRANCOLINUS SCHUETTI ZAPPEYI, new subspecies

Zappey's Francolin

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 56122, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Collected on the east shore of Lake Victoria, in British East Africa, October 3, 1910, by Walter R. Zappey.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Francolinus schuetti kapitensis* Mearns, the palest and grayest of the four recognized subspecies of *Francolinus schuetti* Cabanis, from which it may be readily distinguished by the very broad pale edging to the feathers of the under parts and the absence of coarse markings on the upper parts; the crown is grayer and less brownish olive; the back and scapulars are much the same, but with clearer gray margins to the feathers; the general color of the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts is more olive brown, with the vermiculations obsolete; the outer webs of the outer primaries are plain dark brown; the rectrices are warm brown, with scarcely a trace of vermiculations; the feathers of the chest are grayish hair brown with apical shaft-stripes of broccoli brown, not flecked with black near the shafts; the feathers of the lower breast, upper abdomen, and flanks are soiled grayish white with shaft-stripes of hair brown; the under tail-coverts are hair brown broadly bordered with buffy white. "Bill and tarsi deep orange." (Zappey.)

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 177 mm.; tail, 90; exposed culmen, 25; tarsus, 52; middle toe (without claw), 42; longest spur, 14.

Remarks.—The right foot has two developed spurs, the left only one.

PTILOPACHUS FUSCUS KENIENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kenia Stone-Pheasant

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 56123, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Collected on hills west of Mount Kenia, British East Africa, July 28, 1909, by Dr. Glover M. Allen.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Ptilopachus fuscus florentiæ*, from Gessema, British East Africa, but differing in having the coloration darker; the breast is pale buff; the feathers of the flanks are very narrowly barred with chestnut; the nape and mantle are without any chestnut whatever. "Eye-ring red; legs pink." (Allen.)

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 120 mm.; tail, 78; culmen, 15; tarsus, 31.

Average measurements of two adult female topotypes.—Wing, 119 mm.; tail, 87; culmen (chord), 16; tarsus, 30.5.

TURNIX SYLVATICA ALLENI, new subspecies

Allen's Hemipode

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 56126, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Collected on plains of the N'Guaso Nyiro River, near Mount Kenia, British East Africa, July 20, 1909, by Dr. Glover M. Allen.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Turnix sylvatica lepurana* (Smith), from which it differs in its more intense coloration; the brown of the crown, mantle, rump, and tail is much darker, and the dark markings are much larger and blacker; the rust color of the chest is also much stronger; all of the dark markings are increased in area and intensity.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 70 mm.; tail, 34; culmen (chord), 12; tarsus, 21.

Measurements of adult male of Turnix sylvaticus lepurana (Cat. No. 117841, U. S. N. M., Kahé, south side of Mount Kilimanjaro).—Wing, 70 mm.; tail, 34; culmen (chord), 13; tarsus, 21.5.

XANTHOPHILUS BOJERI ALLENI, new subspecies

Allen's Golden Weaver

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 56117, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge Massachusetts. Collected on the Miru River, near Mount Kenia, British East Africa, August 13, 1909, by Dr. Glover M. Allen.

Characters.—Adult male similar to that of *Xanthophilus bojeri bojeri* (Finsch and Hartlaub), but larger and slightly darker, with the bill slightly stouter, and having the upper contour more convex; the upper parts are less yellow because more heavily washed with olive-green; the wings and tail are darker above and below; the head and under parts are distinguishable from those of *bojeri* only by a slight intensification of the orange and yellow colors.

Female with upper parts darker, more greenish gray, without warm brown tints.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 79 mm.; tail, 59; culmen (chord), 16; tarsus, 22.5.

Average measurements of three adult male topotypes.—Wing, 78.7 mm.; tail, 59; culmen (chord), 16.1; tarsus, 22.5.

Measurements of adult female topotype (Cat. No. 56118, Mus. Comp. Zoöl.).—Wing, 69 mm.; tail, 52; culmen (chord), 15.2; tarsus, 20.2.

Measurements of Xanthophilus bojeri bojeri.—Average of nine adult males from Changamwe and Mombasa, on the coast of British East Africa: Wing, 72.3 mm.; tail, 54; culmen (chord), 16; tarsus, 21.1. Average of three adult females (same localities): Wing, 65.9 mm.; tail, 51; culmen (chord), 15.2; tarsus, 20.2.

Material.—Five specimens from N'Guaso Nyiro and the Miru Rivers.

URÆGINTHUS BENGALUS BRUNNEIGULARIS, new subspecies

Brown-chinned Ruby-cheeked Cordon-bleu

Type-specimen.—Adult female. Cat. No. 215922, U. S. N. M. Collected at Wambugu, 5500 feet, British East Africa, October 23, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17309.

Characters.—Similar to *Uræginthus bengalus schoensis* Neumann, but averaging slightly smaller; the female has the side of head and chin brown instead of blue, though there may be a trace of blue next to the mandible.

Measurements of type (adult female).—Wing, 54 mm.; tail, 58; culmen (chord), 9.5; tarsus, 15.

Remarks.—All adult females of the races of *Uræginthus bengalus* found in the N'Guaso Nyiro region, northwest of Mount Kenia, British East Africa, and in the valley of the Upper White Nile, have the sides of the face and chin blue. One female (Cat. No. 213779, U. S. N. M.) from Juja Farm, Athi River, British East Africa, May 19, 1909, is intermediate with respect to the coloration of the chin and sides of head, both of which are brown, mixed with blue; but the bill agrees in size with that of *brunneigularis*, which is about one millimeter shorter than that of *schoensis*.

Average measurements of nine adult males.—Wing, 52.2 mm.; tail, 58; culmen (chord), 9.8; tarsus, 14.3.

Average measurements of twelve adult females.—Wing, 51.5 mm.; tail, 53.5; culmen (chord), 9.5; tarsus, 14.3.

PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI Gurney

Layard's Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus layardi GURNEY, Ibis, 1879, p. 390 (Rustenburg, Transvaal).

The typical form, *Pycnonotus layardi layardi*, inhabits the eastern districts of the Cape region of South Africa. In the coast region of German and British East Africa it merges into the subspecies *micrus*, and, farther north, and west to the Nile Valley, into several recognizable subspecies, three of which are here described as new.

PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI FAYI, new subspecies

Fay's Bulbul

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 214391, U. S. N. M. Collected at Fay's Farm, at N'jabini, British East Africa, altitude 8000 feet, August 11, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 16537.

Characters.—Similar to *Pycnonotus layardi micrus* Oberholser in pattern and coloration, but nearly as large as *Pycnonotus layardi layardi*, from which it differs in being more darkly colored, with dark centers to the feathers of the mantle, and a tendency to striping of the lower breast instead of the softly-blended coloration of *layardi*. *Micrus* is much paler as well as smaller than *fayi*.

Nestlings, ready for flight, have the head blackish brown; the wings and tail dark brown; the remaining upper parts bistre; the

lower breast and abdomen buffy white; the crissum and upper tail-coverts sulphur yellow; and the sides pale brown.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 98 mm.; tail, 88; exposed culmen, 16; tarsus, 21.6.

Material.—Twenty-one specimens from western British East Africa.

Remarks.—This form extends from the Kapiti Plains west to Lake Victoria, in British East Africa. *Pycnonotus layardi micrus* ranges from the coasts of German and British East Africa west to the Kapiti Plains region; where it intergrades with *fayi* and also with the form described below.

PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI PEASEI, new subspecies

Kitunga Bulbul

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 213532, U. S. N. M. Collected at Sir Alfred Pease's Farm, Kitunga, British East Africa, altitude 6500 feet, May 2, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 15656.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Pycnonotus layardi dodsoni* Sharpe, from Somaliland, but larger (see subjoined table of comparative measurements under the following subspecies), with the general coloration darker, in fresh plumage with a slight yellowish wash, absent in *dodsoni*, to the edges of the feathers of the mantle, this becoming more pronounced upon the rump and upper tail-coverts; edge of wing yellower than in *dodsoni*; feathers of lower breast more heavily striped centrally with dark brown; head blacker; nape appearing less distinctly striped because of the grayish white edging to the feathers.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 84 mm.; tail, 76; exposed culmen, 14.3; tarsus, 20.

Material.—Ten specimens from the Kapiti Plains region of British East Africa.

Remarks.—This form intergrades, both in size and coloration, with *Pycnonotus layardi micrus* in the Kapiti Plains region.

PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI PHÆOCEPHALUS, new subspecies

Brown-headed Bulbul

Type-specimen.—Adult female. Cat. No. 217202, U. S. N. M. Collected at Kikandwa (altitude about 3000 feet), Uganda, Africa, December 24, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17755.

Characters.—Intermediate between *Pycnonotus layardi fayi* and *P. l. minor* Heuglin. In extreme *minor*, from Gondokoro on the Bahr-el-Jebel, the head is scarcely darker than the mantle; in *fayi* the head is brownish black; in *phæocephalus* it is dark brown (between sepia and clove brown). The mantle, rump, upper tail-coverts, and flanks are decidedly more olivaceous than in *fayi* or *minor*; the abdomen is more buffy white; the crissum and under tail-coverts are a considerably deeper yellow (lemon yellow instead of canary yellow).

Measurements of type (adult female).—Wing, 92 mm.; tail, 82; exposed culmen, 15; tarsus, 21.5.

Remarks.—This peculiar form inhabits Uganda from Lake Victoria to Lake Albert. On the Upper Nile (Bahr-el-Jebel) this form rapidly passes into the subspecies *minor*.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS (IN MILLIMETERS) OF THE
SUBSPECIES OF *PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI*.

Name.	Sex.	Number of Specimens.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed Culmen.	Tarsus.
<i>Pycnonotus layardi layardi</i>	Male ...	5	99.0	89.8	17.3	22.9
<i>Pycnonotus layardi micrus</i>	Male ...	5	88.7	78.6	14.5	21.1
<i>Pycnonotus layardi micrus</i>	Female.	2	84.0	78.0	14.5	20.0
<i>Pycnonotus layardi peasei</i>	Male ...	4	84.3	75.8	14.5	20.1
<i>Pycnonotus layardi peasei</i>	Female.	4	77.8	72.5	13.7	19.5
<i>Pycnonotus layardi dodsoni</i>	Female.	1	81.0	78.0	14.0	19.0
<i>Pycnonotus layardi fayi</i>	Male ...	9	94.3	86.3	16.1	22.0
<i>Pycnonotus layardi fayi</i>	Female.	9	88.2	82.1	15.7	21.8
<i>Pycnonotus layardi phæocephalus</i> ..	Female.	1	92.0	82.0	15.0	21.5
<i>Pycnonotus layardi minor</i>	Male ...	9	91.7	83.0	15.2	20.9
<i>Pycnonotus layardi minor</i>	Female.	3	88.3	81.3	15.2	20.3

POGONOCICHLA CUCULLATA KENIENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kenia Bush-Robin

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 215577, U. S. N. M. Collected at the altitude of 10,700 feet, on the west slope of Mount Kenia, British East Africa, September 29, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 16942.

Characters.—Most closely related to the form from the Kilimanjaro region, German East Africa, to which Oberholser, in 1905, restricted Blyth's name *cucullata* (Ibis, 1867, p. 16), and which has also been known by the names *orientalis* (adult birds) and *guttifer* (young). The Mount Kenia bird is similar in size to *cucullata*, but

differs from it in its lighter coloration. The head and wings are a paler blue; the lores are dark blue; the mantle is a more golden olive-green; the rump-patch is a clearer yellow; the tail-feathers have more yellow on the bases of the feathers and correspondingly narrower black tips; the under parts are a clearer, less ochery yellow; the white brow-patch is larger.

A young male topotype, in first plumage (Cat. No. 215580, U. S. N. M.), is much paler than the young of *cucullata* from Mount Kilimanjaro, and has the pale centers of the feathers of the chest enlarged and grayish white, slightly tinged with yellow; the greater wing-coverts are not tipped with yellow; the chin, throat, and abdomen are grayish white, slightly mixed with blackish, and washed with pale buff; the yellow upon the inner webs of the rectrices extends nearly to their tips.

Measurements of type.—Wing, 83 mm.; tail, 68; culmen (chord), 13.5; tarsus, 25.

Remarks.—*Tarsiger elgonensis* Ogilvie-Grant, recently described from Mount Elgon, British East Africa, differs from *P. c. keniensis* in having the outer tail-feathers black except at the extreme base, which is yellow, and in being a trifle larger.

EMINIA LEPIDUS HYPOCHLORUS, new subspecies

Green-sided Bush-Warbler

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 215355, U. S. N. M. Collected at Wambugu, 5500 feet, British East Africa, October 24, 1909, by Edgar A. Mearns. Original number, 17301.

Characters.—Differs from *Eminia lepidus lepidus* Hartlaub, in being slightly larger and in the following details of coloration: the forehead is gray, almost as dark as the crown, instead of whitish; the olive-green of the upper parts is paler and yellower; the shoulder and bend of the wing have much less chestnut color; the under parts are gray instead of grayish white; the sides olive-green instead of gray faintly washed with green.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 66 mm.; tail, 69; culmen (chord), 18; tarsus, 26.

Comparative measurements.—Measurements of *Eminia lepidus lepidus* adult male: Wing, 67 mm.; tail, 65; culmen (chord), 16; tarsus, 26.

Average measurements of six adult males of Eminia lepidus hypochlorus: Wing, 69 mm.; tail, 70.5; culmen (chord), 17.9; tarsus, 26.1.

Average measurements of three adult females of Eminia lepidus hypochlorus: Wing, 66.7 mm.; tail, 62.3; culmen (chord), 17.2; tarsus, 24.7.

Remarks.—All of the specimens from west of Lake Victoria are typical *lepidus*, while those from British East Africa, east of Victoria Nyanza, are *hypochlorus*, although several specimens from the Southern N'Guaso Nyiro, in the Sotik District, and from Lake Naivasha verge toward the western form.

SYLVIETTA WHYTII LORINGI, new subspecies

Loring's Bush-Warbler

Type-specimen.—Adult male. Cat. No. 215360, U. S. N. M. Collected at Fort Hall, 3900 feet, British East Africa, October 28, 1909, by J. Alden Loring. Original number, 531.

Characters.—Most closely related to *Sylvietta whytii jacksoni*, but slightly smaller and considerably paler in color; the upper parts are more buffy, and paler, gray; the wing-quills are much paler brown; the under parts are pinkish buff instead of ochraceous-buff; the bill and feet lighter, with the mandible pale throughout.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 61 mm.; tail, 25; culmen (chord), 11.7; tarsus, 19.6.

Measurements of adult female topotype.—Wing, 56 mm.; tail, 25; culmen (chord), 11.5; tarsus, 18.

Average measurements of two adult males of Sylvietta whytii jacksoni.—Wing, 62.5 mm.; tail, 30; culmen (chord), 12; tarsus, 19.

Measurements of one adult female of Sylvietta whytii jacksoni.—Wing, 59 mm.; tail, 26; culmen (chord), 12; tarsus, 19.

Remarks.—I also refer to this form an adult female specimen (Cat. No. 118154, U. S. N. M.), collected at Taveta, British East Africa, July 6, 1888, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. It measures: Wing, 57 mm.; tail, 26; culmen (chord), 11; tarsus, 17. This specimen has been recorded as *Sylvietta whytii jacksoni* (Sharpe), by Oberholser, in the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, vol. xxviii, 1905, p. 906.