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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SUN-
BIRD, *HELIONYMPHA RAINEYI*, FROM
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

BY

EDGAR A. MEARNS



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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SUNBIRD,
HELIONYMPHA RAINEYI, FROM BRITISH
EAST AFRICA

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Upon examining the first lot of birds sent to the United States National Museum by the Rainey African Expedition, I find the following apparently new species.

HELIONYMPHA RAINEYI, new species¹

Rainey's Wedge-tailed Sunbird

Type-specimen.—Adult male, molting. Cat. No. 217483, U. S. N. M. Collected at the Telek River, Sotik District, British East Africa, May 16, 1911, by Edmund Heller. Original number, 136.

Characters.—In coloration almost exactly like *Cinnyris mariquensis suahelica* Reichenow, but with a much longer bill, shorter wing, and elongated pointed central pair of rectrices.

Description.—Pileum, cervix, mantle, and rump metallic golden green; wings brownish blue-black; upper tail-coverts bluish green; tail brownish black, the central feathers narrowly edged with green; chin and throat metallic golden green; upper chest with a transverse band of metallic blue, succeeded, posteriorly, by a broader band of brownish red; abdomen and crissum brownish black; bend of wing metallic green; axillars and under wing-coverts black. In dry skins the bill, feet, and claws are black.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Length (of skin), 138 mm.; wing, 66; tail (molting), 57; exposed culmen (chord), 22; tarsus, 17.

Measurements of adult male topotype (Cat. No. 217484, U. S. N. M.).—Length (of skin), 130; wing, 66; tail (molting), 49; exposed culmen (chord), 22; tarsus, 18.

Remarks.—This bird is most closely related to *Helionympha erythrocerca* (Heuglin), but in coloration bears a closer resemblance to *Cinnyris mariquensis suahelica* Reichenow.

¹Named in honor of Mr. Paul J. Rainey, in recognition of his services to biological science in connection with the Rainey African Expedition.