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THRUSHES OF THE GENERA PLAN-
ESTICUS AND GEOCICHLA

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DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW AFRICAN THRUSHES OF
THE GENERA *PLANESTICUS* AND *GEOCICHLA*

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Three of the forms herein described are from the collection made by the Paul J. Rainey African Expedition, and one from the Smithsonian African Expedition, under the direction of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

The names of special tints and shades of colors used in this paper conform to Robert Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," issued March 10, 1913. All measurements are in millimeters.

PLANESTICUS HELLERI, new species

Heller's Thrush

Type-specimen.—Adult female, Cat. No. 217722, U. S. National Museum; collected at Mount Mbololo, altitude 4000 feet, east of Mount Kilimanjaro, British East Africa, November 9, 1911, by Edmund Heller, on the Paul J. Rainey African Expedition. (Original number, 417.)

Description of the adult female (type and only specimen).—Top and sides of head black; remainder of upper parts brownish olive, slightly darker on the wings and tail, which show traces of dusky cross-bars; chin, throat, and chest mouse gray, with a trace of white spotting on the chin, black shaft-stripes on the throat, and a wash of ferruginous on the lower chest; abdomen and crissum white, the under tail-coverts white, bordered laterally with gray; sides, axillars, under wing-coverts, and inner webs of quills orange-brown; flanks olive-gray mixed with white; thighs brownish-gray mixed with rusty. Bill, feet, and claws apparently yellow or orange. Four primaries are emarginated on outer webs.

Measurements of type (adult female).—Wing, 108; spurious primary, 16; tail, 79; culmen (chord), 22; tarsus, 30.5.

Remarks.—This species is not closely related to any other African thrush, but slightly resembles the Asiatic *Turdus chrysolaus* Temminck in coloration, except that the head is black.

PLANESTICUS OLIVACEUS POLIUS, new subspecies

Samboru Thrush

Type-specimen.—Adult male, Cat. No. 217725, U. S. National Museum; collected at 6,000 feet altitude on Mount Lololokui, in the Samboru country, north of the Guaso Nyiro River, in British East Africa, September 8, 1911, by Edmund Heller. (Original number, 317.)

Characters.—Most closely related to *Planesticus olivaceus abyssinicus* (Gmelin), but smaller (see tabulated measurements below), grayer on the upper surface, as well as on the chest, throat, and sides of head and neck; lores blacker; the blackish shaft-streaks on chin and throat sparser and narrower; abdomen and sides paler and more olivaceous orange; the orange of the under surface of the wing is confined to the axillars and under wing-coverts, not extending upon the inner webs of the under surface of the quills.

Description of adult male and female.—Upper surface mouse gray; wings and tail darker, the quills and rectrices crossed by indistinct, rather broad, blackish bars; lores black; chin, throat, sides of head, and neck light mouse gray; chin and upper throat with a few central shaft-stripes of blackish; abdomen, sides, axillars, and under wing-coverts ochraceous-buff; flanks olive-gray; anal region white; under tail-coverts neutral gray with broad central white stripes occupying the entire end of the feathers; bill apparently orange; feet and claws brownish yellow.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Wing, 110; spurious primary, 28; tail, 86; culmen (chord), 20; tarsus, 31.5.

Material.—Eight skins, in the Paul J. Rainey collection: three are from Mount Lololokui, and five from Mount Gargues, in northern British East Africa, all collected by Edmund Heller.

Remarks.—From Jackson's Thrush (*Planesticus olivaceus elgonensis*), this subspecies may readily be distinguished by its inferior size and paler, more grayish, coloration.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS (IN MILLIMETERS) OF THREE SUBSPECIES OF *PLANESTICUS OLIVACEUS* (LINNÆUS).

Name	Sex	No. of specimens	Wing	Spurious primary	Tail	Culmen (chord)	Tarsus
<i>Planesticus olivaceus olivaceus</i> ...	♂	1	120.5	24.0	92.0	22.5	30.0
<i>Planesticus olivaceus olivaceus</i> ...	♂	1	120.0	30.5	93.0	23.0	31.0
<i>Planesticus olivaceus polius</i>	♂	5	112.2	26.6	90.7	20.5	31.0
<i>Planesticus olivaceus polius</i>	♂	3	110.3	26.0	89.8	21.5	31.2
<i>Planesticus olivaceus abyssinicus</i> ..	♂	7	116.4	25.2	91.9	22.1	32.4
<i>Planesticus olivaceus abyssinicus</i> ..	♂	7	113.7	26.1	87.1	20.9	32.4

GEOCICHLA PIAGGIÆ KENIENSIS, new subspecies

Mount Kenia Ground-Thrush

Type-specimen.—Adult male, Cat. No. 215455, U. S. National Museum; caught in rat trap set in bamboo forest on the west slope of Mount Kenia, at the altitude of 10,000 feet, British East Africa, September 27, 1909, by J. Alden Loring. (Original number, 411.)

Characters.—Closely related to *Geocichla piaggiæ piaggiæ* (A. Bouvier), but general coloration darker; no white on tail-feathers; eye-ring composed of specialized feathers, resembling those of the genus *Zosterops*, forming a broad circle of white around the eye.

Description of adult male and female.—General color of upper parts olive-citrine, shading into saccardo's olive on rump and upper tail-coverts; head with forehead and supra-loral region argus brown shading to the color of the back on cervix and auriculars; lores black, fading to chestnut in the anterior malar region; orbital ring pure white; wing with lesser coverts grayish olive, with wide yellowish olive tips; median wing-coverts olivaceous black, broadly tipped with fan-shaped white spots; exposed portion of greater wing-coverts olive, with the white terminal spots chiefly confined to the outer webs; primary coverts dark sepia, their outer webs broadly banded with yellowish citrine; wing-quills grayish brown, washed with olive-citrine on outer webs of secondaries, and with tawny-olive on the unemarginated portion of the outer webs of primaries; tail saccardo's umber, the shafts white below; no white tips to rectrices; chin, throat, and jugulum amber brown, becoming ochraceous-tawny on chest and flanks, rapidly fading to white on abdomen and thighs; under tail-coverts entirely white; axillars with basal half white, residue pale brownish gray; under wing-coverts olive-brown at base, white terminally; wing-quills with inner webs white at base, excepting the two outermost primaries, which have no white; iris hazel; bill black; feet pale brown, darker than in *Geocichla gurneyi raineyi*.

Description of young.—Four immature male topotypes, taken by the author October 8 to 11, 1909, are assuming the adult plumage, but are more or less spotted with brownish black, from the throat to the chest, on a general background of sudan brown, composed of mixed first and second plumages; the dark markings, being terminal, conform to the shapes of the feather-tips, varying from V-shape (anteriorly) to crescentic; wing-spots and abdomen, which in adults are pure white, are faintly washed with orange-brown; under tail-coverts broadly margined with reddish brown instead of being

all white; upper parts brownish olive instead of olive-citrine, with much less argus brown on the forehead and supra-loral region; feet darker brown than those of adults; with narrow reddish shaft-streaks on the feathers of the crown, occiput, back, and scapulars, which are absent in adults; these central stripes are obsolete on the back, and plainest on the scapulars; tail bistre. Both young and adults lack white tips to the rectrices.

Measurements of type (adult male).—Length of skin, 202; wing, 100; spurious primary, 32.5; tail, 92; culmen (chord), 20; tarsus, 36.

Average measurements of four adult male topotypes.—Wing, 100.8; spurious primary, 32.5; tail, 91; culmen (chord), 19.3; tarsus, 35.

Average measurements of four adult female topotypes.—Wing, 99; spurious primary, 29.5; tail, 89.8; culmen (chord), 19.1; tarsus, 35.2.

Remarks.—This ground-thrush inhabits the bamboo zone on the west side of Mount Kenia from 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Mr. Heller obtained an adult female at the summit of the neighboring Aberdare Mountains, altitude 11,000 feet. Of the thirteen specimens obtained, five were taken in traps set for small mammals, the remainder having been shot. The form is known only from the Kenia and Aberdare mountains.

GEOCICHLA GURNEYI RAINEYI, new subspecies

Rainey's Ground-Thrush

Type-specimen.—Adult male, Cat. No. 217721, U. S. National Museum; caught in rat trap set in the forest at the summit of Mount Mbololo, altitude 4,400 feet, British East Africa, November 9, 1911, by Edmund Heller. (Original number, 419.)

Description of type (adult male).—Mantle olive-brown, this color shading into dresden brown on rump, innermost secondaries, and exposed portion of outer webs of remaining quills; head with crown and occiput deep olive-gray, this color faintly tinged with tawny on forehead; supra-loral spots of ochraceous-tawny; lores ochraceous-buff, slightly mixed with brownish black; a short-feathered eye-ring of light buff anteriorly, white posteriorly, with a central spot of dusky olive, above and below, corresponding to the dark anterior band of the auriculars; ear-coverts dark grayish brown, crossed by a broad oblique central band of light ochraceous-buff; cervix, supra-auricular region, and sides of neck olive-gray, tinged with tawny like the forehead; rectrices uniform prout's brown, with

shafts of quills white below; feathers of lesser wing-coverts dusky olive, broadly tipped with olive-brown, the outer row with terminal fan-shaped spots of ochraceous-tawny; median and greater wing-coverts dark olive with large terminal fan-shaped white spots; primary-coverts dark olive-buff, black terminally; chin, throat, breast, and flanks ochraceous-tawny, rapidly shading to white on abdomen and thighs; under tail-coverts white throughout; bend of wing, and axillars, white; under wing-coverts dark brown; basal portion of inner webs of quills white, except the two outermost primaries; bill dark; feet light.

Measurements of type.—Length of skin, 208; wing, 105; spurious primary, 28; tail, 87; culmen (chord), 21; tarsus, 35 (about); middle toe, with claw, 27.

Remarks.—This subspecies is more closely related to *Geocichla gurneyi otomitra* Reichenow, inhabiting Kondeland, than to *G. g. kilimensis* Neumann, the form occurring on Mount Kilimanjaro.