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Notes on Birds of East Africa, Including Additions to the Avifauna

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INTRODUCTION

The Keith African Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, sponsored and led by the author and his wife, collected birds and amphibians in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania) from July, 1961, to July, 1962, and from September, 1962, to December, 1963. In addition, numerous tape recordings were made of avian and amphibian voices. A number of new amphibians were discovered, and their voices, with few exceptions, were recorded for the first time by Mrs. Keith. She is preparing a report on the amphibians.

A new subspecies of *Spreo albicapillus* discovered in northern Kenya has already been described (Keith, 1964). A detailed report on the rest of the bird collection is in preparation, including descriptions of songs and calls and other field notes. Meanwhile, it seemed advisable to publish separately in advance the major range extensions and other information of particular significance discovered on the expedition.

Incorporated in this paper are a number of sight records of birds, many of them of species not known previously from East Africa, by Robert W. Smart. Smart taught for two years, 1962-1964, at a school in Gulu, northern Uganda, where he spent all his spare time in studying the birds of the area. As a result, he acquired a detailed knowledge

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of the avifauna of northern Uganda, and made a number of important observations, which he has allowed me to incorporate here. He is an experienced and able observer with whom I have been in the field many times, and his records can be relied upon.

THE IMPENETRABLE FOREST—A BRIEF DISCUSSION

Nearly a month was spent in May and June, 1962, collecting in the Impenetrable Forest, Kigezi, southwest Uganda. Only within the last 10 years has the avifauna of this forest become known, because a road was not built through the forest until 1958. Its inaccessibility prior to that time prohibited collecting. The first major collection in the forest was made by Arthur Twomey for the Carnegie Museum in 1960, and certain outstanding records obtained by him will soon be published (Twomey and Keith, in press).

Very recently, extensive collecting in the forest has been done on behalf of the Los Angeles County Museum, and a comprehensive report embracing all that is known of the avifauna of the forest to date is now being compiled (Keith, Twomey, and Friedmann, in preparation).

My purpose here is to indicate briefly the character of the forest as evidenced by records made by Smart and myself. The altitudinal range covered by the forest is from 3500 to 8000 feet, which means that both lowland and montane forest are included within its bounds. The critical level is at about 5000 feet, the altitude that divides lowland from montane forest throughout the greater part of Africa (Moreau, 1966).

The following 10 species found there may be considered birds of lowland forest:

Cercococcyx mechowii
Melittophagus gularis
Lybius hirsutus
Pogoniulus scolopaceus
Mesopicos elliotii
Malacocincla fulvescens
Malacocincla albipectus
Muscicapa griseigularis
Neocossyphus poensis
Malimbus rubricollis

Another 10 species are birds of montane forest, several of which, it will be noticed, have generic counterparts in the lowland forest:

Francolinus nobilis
Tauraco johnstoni
Cercococcyx montanus
Pogoniulus coryphaeus
Mesopicos griseocephalus

Malacocincla pyrrhoptera
Phyllastrephus flavostriatus
Cossypha archeri
Laniarius poensis
Nectarinia regia

In addition to the above montane species, Smart and I recorded 10 montane species previously known in Uganda only from the Ruwenzori Mountains on the Congo border. These are:

Caprimulgus ruwenzorii
Batis diops
Alethe poliophrys
Phylloscopus laetus
Apalis ruwenzorii
Malaconotus lagdeni
Parus fasciiventer
Ploceus alienus
Cryptospiza jacksoni
Cryptospiza shelleyi

From the above it seems clear that the avifauna of the upper levels of the Impenetrable Forest should be included in the East Congo montane forest bird faunas, as defined by Moreau (1966, chap. 11). A much more detailed discussion of the affinities of the Impenetrable Forest avifauna, including a complete listing of species and the altitudes at which they occur, will be given in the paper being prepared by Friedmann, Twomey, and myself.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL SPECIES

Platalea leucorodia Linnaeus

A single bird was seen by Smart at Pakwatch, Uganda, on the Nile north of Lake Albert, on March 15, 1964. This is a Palearctic species which winters as far south as the Sudan and sometimes Kenya, but which has not previously been recorded from Uganda.

Buteo auguralis Salvadori

First seen by Smart at Karuma Falls on the Victoria Nile on November 23, 1962; thereafter several individuals were seen in this area during the winters of 1962-1963 and 1963-1964. As many as four birds could be seen on any one visit, and Smart believes they probably winter regularly in small numbers along this part of the river. No birds were seen by him in this area during the summer months.

The species has not been recorded before from East Africa, although it occurs in the Uelle district of the Congo to the west, and in the Sudan to the north. It was stated by Chapin (1932, p. 613) to be the com-

mon species of *Buteo* in the northeastern part of the upper Uelle district, i.e., not far from the Congo-Uganda border, so its appearance in Uganda is not at all surprising.

Smart's records give further evidence of intratropical migration in this species. It apparently avoids the rainy season, because, according to Chapin (*loc. cit.*), it is absent from the Uelle each year during most of the rainy season, from the latter part of April to the second half of November. Perhaps it moves north at this time, because in the Sudan the bird was stated by Cave and MacDonald (1955, p. 94) to appear in the northern, i.e., drier, part of the country during the rains, indicating that it moves north away from its woodland-savanna habitat at this season. In the Uelle it nests during the dry winter months, and it might have been expected that the Uganda birds would also be breeding, as they represent the dry season there also. Closer observation may yet reveal such is the case.

Balearica pavonina (Linnaeus)

I follow Walkinshaw (1964) in treating this crane as a full species distinct from *Balearica regulorum* (Bennett).

The first specimen of this bird from East Africa was obtained by Oscar Owre at Lake Rudolf, Kenya, in 1959, confirming reports by earlier visitors to the region of the presence of the bird at the lake (Owre, 1966).

Smart observed two birds on the Victoria Nile in Murchison Park in October, 1963, and either one or two birds on subsequent visits to the park from then until the spring of 1964. Apparently they spent the winter there. Two birds, possibly the same ones, were also seen by Smart at Pakwatch on the Albert Nile, in the northwest corner of the park, in March, 1964. Prior to Smart's observations, the only record of the species for Uganda was a sight record by Jackson (1938) from Difule near Nimule, on the Uganda-Sudan border just inside the border of Uganda. Neither Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1957) nor White (1965) noticed this record, or they chose to disregard it, because neither gave Uganda as part of the range of the bird.

Totanus flavipes (Gmelin)

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

An individual of this North American shorebird was seen by Allan R. Keith (*in litt.*) in Queen Elizabeth Park, Uganda, on January 17, 1964. It was in a small pool by the road leading from the Kazinga Channel north toward the park entrance, and was accompanied by a

group of other shorebirds, including *Philomachus pugnax*, *Calidris ferruginea*, and *Totanus stagnatilis*. It was identified by its size, bright yellow legs, and distinctive flight pattern which shows contrasting dark wings and whitish rump and tail. It was observed in good light for several minutes through both 10-power binoculars and a 30-power telescope.

This is the first time the species has been recorded on the African continent. Naturally a specimen of the bird would be very desirable, and this sight record is quoted only because Keith is personally known to me as an extremely skilled and reliable field observer. The Lesser Yellowlegs is one of the commonest shorebirds in the United States, where Keith lives; consequently he is very familiar with it. I see no reason to doubt his record.

North American shorebirds are purely accidental in Africa. White's (1965) checklist gave only three others that have reached the continent: *Tringa solitaria*, *Erolia melanotos*, and *Erolia bairdii*.

Columba iriditorques Cassin

This pigeon forms a superspecies with *Columba delegorguei*, which replaces it in eastern and southern Africa. Judged from the description of the song given by Chapin (1939, p. 167) for *iriditorques*, the songs of the two are quite similar. I am familiar with the song of *delegorguei*, having tape-recorded it in East Africa, and in the Bwamba Forest, Uganda, I made an entry in my field notebook under *delegorguei* that "their resonant cooing with its distinctive rhythm is an integral part of the bird song of the ironwood stands." Because *iriditorques* is not recorded for East Africa, and because Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1957), the only reference book I had with me, gave the range of *delegorguei* as "Southern Sudan to northern Tanganyika Territory . . . ," from which I assumed that Uganda could be included in its range, I was not aware that I was listening to anything unusual. I therefore made no attempt to see the bird or to collect it. Only later did I discover that *delegorguei* does not in fact occur in Uganda, whereas *iriditorques* lives in lowland forest in the Congo just across the Semliki River from Bwamba. I am therefore convinced that I was listening to the voice of *iriditorques* in Bwamba, though this is, I must admit, a somewhat unusual way to add a species to the faunal list of a country. I hope that future collectors will bear me out with specimens, even though the occurrence of *iriditorques* is highly likely. Nearly every collector who visits Bwamba finds some Congo forest bird not previously recorded on the Uganda side of the Semliki River.

Cercococcyx olivinus Sassi

A specimen was taken by me in a net in Bwamba Forest on July 14, 1963. I did not hear the species calling in that forest, but during that same month I several times heard the very distinctive song of this cuckoo at dusk in an outlying strip of the Kibale (Mpanga) Forest near the New Ruwenzori Hotel about 5 miles east of Fort Portal, Uganda. The song, which I tape-recorded near Mwinilunga, northwestern Zambia, consists of a long series of what I call wind-up notes, meaning a succession of phrases which might be rendered "hwee-hweew." These start low and then gradually ascend, accelerating as they go and acquiring a more feverish tone. Just when one is expecting some sort of explosive ending, the song stops abruptly. A comparison between this song and the not dissimilar one of *Cercococcyx montanus*, the montane representative of *Cercococcyx olivinus*, which I recorded in the Impenetrable Forest, will be given in my comprehensive account of the expedition.

The only author to mention the occurrence of this species in Uganda is White (1965), who listed it for Bugoma. I am unaware of the evidence for this record, as I do not know of any published record for the occurrence of *Cercococcyx olivinus* in Uganda. It should be stated, however, that Bugoma Forest is a likely place to look for it, in view of its presence in Bwamba and Kibale.

Cercococcyx montanus Chapin

A female in breeding condition, with an egg in the oviduct, was collected in the Irangi Forest, on the southern slopes of Mt. Kenya, at 6450 feet, on March 6, 1962. This is the first record for Kenya and constitutes a considerable extension of range. The nearest known locality for the species is the Usambara Mountains, 300 miles to the south.

I heard the distinctive call of this bird quite often during my visit to Irangi Forest, March 3-7, 1962, but on subsequent visits to the forest, May 5-7, 1962, and September 17-18, 1963, I did not hear it. It is apparently a seasonal caller, which would help to explain why "this noisy cuckoo," as Moreau called it (1966, p. 214), has remained undetected on Mt. Kenya for so long. Outside the calling season these birds are shy and secretive, and their presence would be hard to detect.

This species belongs to the Tanganyika-Nyasa and East Congo montane bird faunas, as defined by Moreau (1966, chap. 11), and is here added for the first time to the Kenya montane forest bird fauna. Another Tanganyika-Nyasa species, *Zoothera gurneyi*, also just enters the Kenya montane forest area on this same slope of Mt. Kenya, in the Irangi, Meru, and Chuka forests. These forests are on the wettest side of the mountain and are therefore more luxuriant than those on the

drier north slopes. They are more like the forests at Amani, in the Usambaras, where *Cercococcyx montanus* and *Zoothera gurneyi* occur. These forests are not so well explored as others on Mt. Kenya, and it is possible that other birds of southern affinities remain to be discovered there.

My specimen shows two characters given by Chapin (1939) for the race *Cercococcyx montanus patulus* Friedmann, viz., the spacing of the dark bars on the breast more widely spaced than in the nominate race, and the longer tail. A series of five specimens of nominate *montanus* in the American Museum of Natural History collection have the tail 135 mm. to 143 mm.; a specimen of *patulus* from the Usambaras has the tail 148 mm. The tail of my bird from Irangi measures 154 mm., and its wing is also longer than that of the Usambara bird (187 mm. versus 181 mm.). It is whiter below, less buffy, than the Usambara bird, particularly on the throat, which is almost white, instead of being suffused with orange-buff.

Apus myoptilus (Salvadori)

This species is known as the "Scarce Swift" in African bird books, and it is well named, for there are relatively few records of its occurrence. Therefore, two sight records are worth publishing. The first was by me in the Impenetrable Forest, Uganda, at 5000 feet, on June 4, 1962. A mixed flock of *Apus myoptilus* and *Chaetura ussheri* was circling over the forest in the late afternoon. *Myoptilus* is fortunately one of the easiest of swifts to identify in the air, having a distinctive broad and deeply forked tail.

The second sight record was by Smart at a point about 10 miles north of Kisoro, southwest Uganda, on August 26, 1963. Several individuals of *Apus myoptilus* were seen in a mixed flock of swifts. The area is in open country, not in forest.

Chaetura sabini Gray

Apart from the recently discovered population in Kakamega Forest, Kenya, there are no records for East Africa, although Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1957) mentioned this bird as occurring on the Semliki River, on the Congo-Uganda border.

I have seen the bird in two localities in Uganda. The first is Bwamba Forest, where I saw individuals quite frequently while collecting there in July, 1963. They circled over the tops of the trees in small numbers, often in company with other swifts and swallows. Their occurrence here was to be expected, since there is no reason that they should stop at the Semliki River.

Slightly farther from their recorded range is the Budongo Forest,

where I saw them often during October, 1963, while collecting in the forest. Smart tells me he could count on seeing them regularly during his visits to Budongo, which were frequent. It appears to be a common resident of the forest. John Williams (personal communication) has also seen the bird in Budongo on several occasions.

Chaetura cassini Sclater

This is a lowland forest species which is here recorded from East Africa for the first time. I spent many rounds of ammunition trying to collect one, without success, so a sight record must suffice for the present.

I observed *Chaetura cassini* several times in October, 1963, in the Budongo Forest, often in mixed flocks with *Chaetura sabini* (see above). Once I was accompanied by Smart. We found the two species quite easy to distinguish in the air; in fact, after a little practice, we could distinguish them even without binoculars. *Chaetura cassini* is a good deal larger, and quite different in shape. The difference is hard to describe without a drawing, but *cassini* has a sort of swept-wing appearance, i.e., the wing appears to curve backward more than it does in most swifts. The secondaries are quite long, giving a broad-winged appearance, which makes the tail seem shorter and stubbier than that of *sabini*. The color pattern below is similar, both birds having the chin to chest dark brown and the rest of the under parts white. The upper parts are quite different, *sabini* having a great deal of white on the rump and tail, whereas *cassini* has just a narrow band of white across the rump, which is hard to see; unless one gets a really good view, the birds appear to be black above.

Alcedo leucogaster (Fraser)

This bird was not known from East Africa until 1957, when it was collected in Bwamba (Williams, 1957). Another was taken there in 1963 (Friedmann, 1966). It is apparently a rare bird throughout its range, and I was therefore lucky to secure three specimens in Bwamba, on July 11, July 15, and July 19, 1963. One of these is a juvenal, which differs from the adults as follows: Bill black with a white tip, not red. Below, paler, more orange-red on flanks and breast; feathers of breast with dark tips, giving a scaly effect. Red of sides of face paler and much suffused with black. Feathers of back and rump pale blue, almost white in center, with dark bases, giving a pale blue and black patterned effect. The back and rump of adult birds are a uniform deep, rich blue.

All three birds were collected in a net in a patch of swampy forest, not near a stream of any size, though not far from a tiny stream about 2 feet wide and a couple of inches deep. Chapin (1939, p. 288) recorded

seeing his only specimen along a small forest brook, but according to Bannerman (1933, p. 257) the habitat of the bird in West Africa is more connected with water, for he wrote that it frequents "large and small waterways" and even "tidal streams near the coast." In the Congo and Bwamba, the bird is apparently less dependent on open water.

Merops gularis Shaw

This species has previously been reported in East Africa only from Bwamba, but there are a number of recent records which show that it occurs in other parts of Uganda as well.

Twomey collected two specimens in the Kibale (Mpanga) Forest on July 16, 1960, and another at 4000 feet in the Impenetrable Forest on August 4, 1960. I saw a bird several times in July and August, 1963, in the Kibale Forest, and another in a strip of gallery forest in the open savanna northeast of the Ruwenzori and southwest of Lake Albert, between the Semliki River and the escarpment, several times in the first week of August, 1963. In this latter locality it had a regular perch very high up (70–80 feet) in a dead tree, which gave it a commanding view of the forest strip. From this perch it flew out after passing insects.

Bycanistes sharpii (Elliot)

Smart reports having seen this hornbill on a number of occasions in Budongo Forest. This is a new locality for it. It is a lowland forest species, common in Bwamba but not yet recorded elsewhere in East Africa.

Pogoniulus erythronotus (Cuvier)

A single bird was observed by Smart in Bwamba on August 19, 1963. This is the first and only record for East Africa. Identification is easy, because it is the only tinkerbird with a red rump, and this individual was seen quite clearly at close range by Smart. Its appearance in Bwamba is not at all unexpected, as it occurs in the Ituri Forest and also on the slopes of the Ruwenzori, on the Congo side.

Verreauxia africana (Verreaux)

The first bird for East Africa was seen by Smart in Bwamba on April 11, 1963. Almost immediately thereafter two were collected in this same locality by the Knudsen-Machris Expedition on April 20 and 21 (Friedmann, 1966). Smart saw another bird in Bwamba in April, 1964.

Anthus melindae Shelley

I was fortunate in securing a specimen of this rare pipit at Garsen

on the Tana River, Kenya, near the coast on December 15, 1962. Although recorded in coastal areas from Mombasa north to southern Somalia, it is seldom seen or collected, and actual records are few. The bird I shot was one of a pair and was on some bare ground close to the main road near the river crossing.

Turdoides tenebrosus (Hartlaub)

A party of four of these babblers was seen by Smart at Kitgum, northern Uganda, on February 9, 1964. The species has not heretofore been recorded in East Africa, although it occurs in southern Sudan and southern Ethiopia, just across the borders of Kenya and Uganda.

Phyllastrephus orostruthus Vincent

Until 1962 this species was known from only two specimens, the type of *Phyllastrephus orostruthus orostruthus* from Namuli Mountain, Portuguese East Africa, and the type of *Phyllastrephus orostruthus amani* in the east Usambaras. In April, 1962, the bird was rediscovered at Amani by Gerd Heinrich, who collected an adult male and a juvenal male (Ripley and Heinrich, 1966). When I collected at Amani in October, 1962, Dr. Gerry Pringle, Director of the East African Malarial Research Station at Amani, showed me the precise spot in the forest where Heinrich caught his birds in a net. I placed my nets in the same spot and immediately caught two specimens. On a later visit to Amani, in May, 1963, I caught two more in a quite different section of the forest, bringing the total of extant specimens to eight.

It seems incredible that this species should have escaped the notice of Moreau, who spent many years at Amani and knew the forest intimately. I can hardly suppose that there has been a population increase since his time there in the 1930's, especially if Hall and Moreau (1962, p. 331) were correct in suggesting that *Phyllastrephus orostruthus* is losing a competitive battle with the abundant *Phyllastrephus fischeri*. It may simply be that this is an excessively shy species, and that the netting of six specimens within a half mile of Amani is a dramatic illustration of the usefulness of mist nets in capturing species that otherwise elude even the keenest eye.

Zoothera oberlaenderi (Sassi)

The first East African specimen was taken in Bwamba by Twomey in 1960 (Twomey and Keith, in press). I secured four more in that same forest in July, 1963.

These ground thrushes live on the floor of the forest in the big iron-wood stands, where the ground is fairly open. They appear to avoid the denser areas and the tangled secondary growth at the edge of the

taller trees. They sing from the mid-stratum, 20–30 feet up. The song, which I recorded, is very similar to the songs of its congeners, *Zoothera piaggiae* and *Zoothera gurneyi*, the songs of which I also have on tape, except that it is rather weaker and less melodious.

Cossypha roberti (Alexander)

First taken in East Africa by Twomey in the Impenetrable Forest in 1960 (Twomey and Keith, in press). I netted two more birds in the same forest at 5200 feet on June 5, 1962.

This species lives side by side with another diminutive thrush, *Sheppardia aequitorialis*, several of which were caught in the same net as *Cossypha roberti*. They are the same size and very similarly colored, and it would be interesting to know what their ecological relationship is. *Cossypha roberti* has a somewhat broader and stouter bill, suggesting the possibility of a somewhat different food preference.

Sheppardia gunningi Haagner

I collected a specimen of this bird at Makeri on the lower Tana River, Kenya, altitude 200 feet, on December 13, 1962. Makeri is about 20 miles north of Garsen. *Sheppardia gunningi* has not previously been found north of the Sokoke Forest, and its range is thus extended north by about 100 miles. It is almost identical with specimens of *Sheppardia gunningi sokokensis* from the Sokoke Forest.

The narrow strip of relict forest along the lower Tana River, cut off by 80 miles of coastal bush from the Sokoke Forest to the south, yet manages to retain a number of forest bird species. There are two really remarkable examples of relict bird populations in this strip of forest. *Apalis chariessa* skips the Kenya coastal forests and the Usambaras to reappear in the Ulugurus and Nyasaland. The distributional gap between the Tana River and the Ulugurus is 400 miles. *Anthreptes neglectus* (see below) likewise skips the Kenya forests, but does occur in the Usambaras. Other forest birds occurring along the Tana and also in the Kenya coastal forests include *Sheppardia gunningi*, *Neocossyphus rufus*, *Phyllastrephus fischeri*, and *Cossypha natalensis*. Also at Makeri I heard the call of what I am sure was *Circaetus fasciolatus*, a specimen of which has recently been taken in the Sokoke Forest (Zimmerman, 1965). I have heard and seen this bird both in the Sokoke Forest and at Amani, so I know the call, but the Tana bird was circling too high to be identified with certainty. This eagle would be another species for the Tana River forest bird list.

The situation on the Tana is the more remarkable because the forest along the lower reaches receives only about 20 inches of rain a year,

which increases to 30 inches near the coast and decreases to less than 10 inches at Garissa. At Makeri, the surrounding country is dry acacia steppe. A lowland evergreen forest needs about 60 inches of rain a year to maintain itself; yet the presence of *Neocossyphus rufus*, a species inhabiting the lowland forests of the Congo, shows beyond much doubt that the forest along the Tana must at one time have been joined to the Congolese forests. The more extensive forest that was originally kept alive by rainfall is now supported by ground water from the Tana River.

Oenanthe bottae (Bonaparte)

First seen by Smart on December 3, 1962, about 20 miles southwest of Moroto, Karamoja District, Uganda, and thereafter observed several times by him during that and the following winter. He reports that the birds frequented recently burned-over areas, where he encountered them in small numbers, one or two at a time, along the roads to the southwest and west of Moroto. Other migrant wheatears are also present at this season, but the combination of rusty breast and dark gray upper parts should make *bottae* fairly easy to identify.

Oenanthe bottae occurs in Ethiopia and the Sudan, but has only once before been recorded from East Africa, in Kavirondo, western Kenya. White (1962) considered it a straggler. It may well be a straggler in Kavirondo, but Smart's records indicate that it may occur regularly in northern Uganda.

Oriolus chlorocephalus Shelley

A bird was seen by Smart in a strip of forest on the Shimba Hills, about 30 miles southwest of Mombasa, Kenya, on January 1, 1964. This is the first occurrence of the species in Kenya. It inhabits the forests of eastern Tanzania, but it has not been recorded north of the Usambaras. The Usambaras are about 100 miles southwest of the Shimba Hills and separated from them by dry acacia country. Here we have evidence of another relict population, clinging to its northern outpost in the tiny patches of evergreen forest on the Shimba Hills.

Speculipastor bicolor Reichenow

I collected one bird from a flock by the Moshi-Tanga road, northeast Tanzania, about 9 miles north of Mkomazi. This is the first specimen for Tanzania. The species typically inhabits rather drier country in northern Kenya and Somalia, but it is well known to be a wanderer, and has been taken as far south as Mombasa (Jackson, 1938). My bird was shot from a restless flock of 20 to 30 birds which were constantly

moving through the thick acacia bushes by the road. It was difficult to assess their numbers, as they kept disappearing and reappearing in one's and two's. I did not see them feeding on anything. The red eye is conspicuous in the field.

Anthreptes neglectus Neumann

A female of this species was collected by me in thick riverine bush, about 10 feet off the ground, by the Tana River at Makeri, Kenya, on December 12, 1962. This is the first specimen for Kenya, the nearest known locality for the species being the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania, 250 miles to the south. Such a distributional gap is quite remarkable. See my comments under *Sheppardia gunningi* for a discussion of the Tana River forest birds.

A number of characters of my specimen make me suspect that it represents a new race; however, I would prefer to see more specimens before making a formal description. The bird was compared with a female collected by me at Amani, and a female collected by Twomey in the Nguru Mountains, Tanzania; then all three were sent to the British Museum, where Mrs. B. P. Hall was kind enough to compare them with their material.

Our bird is considerably smaller than specimens compared with it. Its wing measures 61.5 mm., as opposed to a range of 64–68 for the wings of six other females. Its tail measures 43.5, as against 49 each for two females from Amani and Nguru. The yellow on the belly of my bird is paler and much more reduced in area than in other specimens. There is also a rather reduced amount of green edging to the wing coverts of my bird, but this might be related to wear.

Nigrita luteifrons Verreaux

I collected an adult female in Bwamba Forest, July 11, 1963. It was the female of a pair that were in a mixed bird party working through the trees at the edge of a clearing, about 40 feet up. The species was taken for the first time in East Africa by John Williams, who collected three in Bwamba in 1957 (Williams, 1957). It cannot be very common there, because it was never seen by Smart, who made frequent visits to the forest, and it was apparently not taken by the Knudsen-Machris Expedition, or Friedmann (1966) would surely have mentioned it.

Parmoptila jamesoni (Shelley)

The first specimens for East Africa were taken by Twomey in the Impenetrable Forest in August, 1960 (Twomey and Keith, in press). Since then it has been met with several times. I collected the male of a pair in the same forest on June 3, 1962. A male was collected in the

Kibale Forest in April, 1963 (Friedmann, 1966). Smart saw one in Bwamba on August 17, 1963.

The pair I encountered in the Impenetrable Forest were in a mixed bird party about 15 or 20 feet up. They worked their way along branches and poked their heads into flowers much in the manner of a white-eye (*Zosterops*). They spent some time working over some peeled-off bark on a branch and were obviously eating something, possibly the small black tree ants, as were reported by Williams (*in* Twomey and Keith, *in press*) from the stomachs of Twomey's specimens. Their activities excited the interest of a Black-billed Weaver (*Ploceus melanogaster*), a member of the same party, which chased them away, but could not apparently find what they were eating, as it soon flew off.

CONCLUSION

This paper shows that the ranges of many birds in eastern Africa are still imperfectly known, in spite of fairly intensive collecting and observation during the last 50 years. Much probably remains to be discovered. Far greater gaps exist in our knowledge of the general biology of African birds, and it is to be hoped that future collectors will make field notes on food, habitats, nests, behavior, and other ecological aspects, besides simply taking specimens, especially in the fast-vanishing patches of montane forest.

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I wish to thank Messrs. Robert Smart and Allan Keith for allowing me to incorporate their records in this paper. Dr. Dean Amadon was kind enough to read the manuscript.

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