

POSTILLA

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Yale PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Postilla

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TWO NEW BIRDS FROM ANGOLA

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During the course of his first collecting trip for the Peabody Museum in Angola, Mr. Gerd Heinrich secured two interesting new birds in Malange District in the northeast of that fascinating Country. The Museum is most grateful to the Department of Overseas of the Government of Portugal, the Government officials in Luanda and the officials of the Diamond Company who aided Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich unstintingly during their expedition.

Psalidoprocne albiceps suffusa, new subspecies.

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 46454), collected January 6, 1958, by Gerd Heinrich 15 kilometres southwest of Cacolo, Malange Dist. Angola.

Diagnosis: Two males taken at this locality differ from *albiceps* by having the under wing coverts and axillaries pale creamy grayish-brown rather than brown. The ear coverts also are grayish rather than deep brown, or mixed brown and white. The two specimens have dark grayish rather than white throats, although this may represent a plumage succession stage. In addition the white crown is much reduced, confined to a small white cap. Comparison of these birds with the series in the American Museum of Natural History fails to reveal any correlation with various stages of immature plumage in the species. I am indebted to the authorities of the Museum

in New York, as well as to Mrs. B. P. Hall of the British Museum (Natural History) for cooperation in comparing these birds with specimens in their care.

Measurements: 2 ♂♂, wing 101, 102; tail 68, 70.5; culmen (from skull) 7, 7mm.

Remarks: These two males are coming into breeding condition with slightly enlarged testes. They were taken in a clearing in savannah and gallery forest at 1400 metres altitude asl., and represent an apparently new record for Angola as well as a range extension westward for the species of several hundred miles from the southeastern Belgian Congo.

Nectarinia sororia, new species.

Type: ♀ ad. (Y.P.M. no. 46455), collected November 7, 1957, by Gerd Heinrich 42 kilometres northeast of Duque de Bragança, Malange Dist., Angola.

Diagnosis: From *Nectarinia verticalis* this species differs in the only specimens known, both adult females, by lacking the brilliant green metallic cap, which is replaced with soft, dark brownish-gray, the edges of the feathers having a faint light greenish metallic iridescence. In addition the underparts are darker, dark grayish olive, rather than grayish olive with a faint vinaceous tinge as in *verticalis*. On the upper parts the specimens are otherwise similar to *verticalis*, although perhaps a trifle brighter, more yellowish olive. Finally in proportions these specimens vary distinctly from females of *verticalis cyanocephala* taken in the same area;

| | wing | tail | bill (from skull) | wing/bill index |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>sororia</i> | 64.5, 65.5 | 45, 46 | 21.5, 23mm. | 33, 35% |
| <i>verticalis cyanocephala</i> ... | 60, 60.5 | 40, 42 | 25, 26 | 41, 43% |

Thus in body size these specimens are larger but the bill is noticeably shorter. In a series of females of *verticalis*, both

cyanocephala and *viridisplendens*, in the American Museum collection, individual wing measurements reach 65, but such specimens possess correspondingly long bill measurements up to 28mm. The wing/bill index brings this difference out rather forcibly.

Remarks: Both females of this new species are adult with completely ossified skulls according to Mr. Heinrich who noted the difference in the head plumage pattern in the field and first drew my attention to the specimens. These two birds were taken at Duque de Bragança and Cacolo nearly seven hundred miles apart, both at an altitude of 1400 metres and in gallery forest. I should hesitate to describe a new species of sunbird on females alone were it not for the interest biologically of the different bill ratio. Evidently this sibling form can co-occur ecologically, in a competitive situation with a virtually identical sister species. It will be interesting to discover the plumage of the males, which may perhaps be similarly reduced in brightness.

Range: Known only from 42 kilometres northeast of Duque de Bragança and from 15 kilometres southwest of Cacolo, Malange District, Northeast Angola.