

SOME RECENT UGANDA BIRD RECORDS.

By G. H. E. Hopkins.

The records given below were based on obtained specimens unless otherwise stated. Most of the skins are now in Makerere College or in the Coryndon Museum. Where the note is followed by "v.S." in square brackets, the identification was made by Dr. V. G. L. van Someren, others are my own unless otherwise specified. Previous records are taken as given in Jackson (Birds of Kenya and Uganda, 1938) and Chapin (Birds of the Belgian Congo, 1932, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. History*. 65. 1-756 and 1939 *idem*. 75. 1-632).

Plegadis f. falcinellus (Linn.). Glossy Ibis.

Not previously recorded. I shot one on a mud-bank in Lake Kyoga (at a point just north of Kaswama) in December, 1932; Mr. G. L. R. Hancock and I obtained two more at the same place in March, 1934.

Platalea alba Scopoli. African Spoonbill.

Dr. W. J. Eggeling obtained a specimen at Butiaba, January 20th, 1941. On two occasions I have seen an unmistakable Spoonbill flying over Kampala.

Torgos tracheliotus nubicus (H. Smith). Northern Lappet-faced Vulture.

Jackson (p. 137) gives as sole Uganda locality Lyantonde ("Leyantondo") in the extreme west of Masaka district. In March, 1942, Mr. T. W. Chorley and I saw half a dozen specimens (one of which Mr. Chorley obtained) in Jie county, Karamoja. Mr. Chorley obtained a second in the same county in February, 1942.

Falco n. naumanni Fleischer. Western Lesser Kestrel.

One was obtained by myself in Jie county, Karamoja, May 20th, 1941. Not previously recorded from Uganda, though known to winter in Kenya and the Belgian Congo. [v.S.]

Falco biarmicus abyssinicus Neumann. Abyssinian Lanner.

One specimen obtained by me just outside Kabale, Kigesi district, August 1940, was in moult from immature to adult. The Lanner, much the largest of our Falcons, has a reputation for boldness; but the bird in this case was being harried by two kites (*Milvus migrans parasitus*). It returned within a few minutes after having been twice shot at and missed.

Falco ardosiacus Bonnetterre and Vieillot. Grey Kestrel.

Four specimens obtained, one at Busingiro, between Butiaba and Masindi, September 13th, 1932, Dr. W. J. Eggeling; two near Kampala, May 6th, 1934, Dr. A. W. Williams; one at Gulu, June 29th, 1936, myself. [v.S.]

Machaeramphus alcinus anderssoni (Gurney). Bat-eating Buzzard.

No certain previous Uganda record. Mr. T. W. Chorley shot two specimens at Katera in Masaka district in January, 1934, and I am certain that a hawk that I saw at Port Bell (near Kampala) but failed to obtain was of this species. It feeds on bats and only comes out at dusk, so is very easily overlooked. [v.S.]

Hieraaëtus ayresi (Gurney). Ayres' Hawk-eagle.

Mr. G. C. Ishmael obtained a specimen just outside Kampala, December 1st, 1936, and Mr. T. W. Chorley shot another at the same place, May 4th, 1937. [v.S.]

Circaëtus cinereus Vieillot. Brown Harrier-eagle.

Father F. J. Straeter kindly brought me a freshly-killed specimen obtained at Namiryango, about 12 miles east of Kampala, January 15th, 1939. [v.S.]

Circaëtus pectoralis A. Smith. Black-breasted Harrier-eagle.

I obtained one 15 miles east of Mbarara on January 14th, 1939. [v.S.]

Circaëtus cinerascens Müller. Smaller Banded Harrier-eagle.
Masaka district, February 11th, 1938, G. H. E. Hopkins. [v.S.]

Gypohierax angolensis (Gmelin). Palm-nut Vulture.
There is only one previous Uganda record of this species. Dr. A. J. Haddow finds it not uncommon in Bwamba (eastern extension of the Ituri Forest, in Western Toro, N.W. of Ruwenzori) at times when the nuts of the oil-palm are ripe. He has obtained two specimens, May and October 1943, and I have also shot two (July 31st, 1945 and June 6th, 1946).

"Vulturine Fish-eagle" is so inapt a name for a bird which is not an eagle, but is closely associated with the oil-palm (the fruit of which is its main food) that I have adopted the name proposed for it by Chapin (1932, p. 522).

Accipiter minullus intermedius Erlanger. Abyssinian Little Sparrow-hawk.
Mr. G. C. Ishmael obtained a specimen just outside Kampala on August 18th, 1933, and I shot another near Amar, Gulu district on May 20th, 1936. [v.S.]

Accipiter ovampensis Gurney. Ovampo Sparrow-hawk.
I obtained two specimens at Kampala, December 5th and December 9th, 1939. [v.S.]

Accipiter r. rufiventris A. Smith. Rufous-breasted Sparrow-hawk.
Not previously recorded from Uganda. A juvenile specimen obtained by me near Kampala, February 8th, 1940. [v.S.]

Francolinus clappertoni gedgei O. Grant. Gedge's Striped Francolin.
Mr. T. W. Chorley obtained three birds of this very local form in Jie county, Karamoja district, September 5th and October 9th, 1941. [C. R. S. Pitman.]

Ptilopachus petrosus emini, Neumann. Lado Stone-partridge.
One at Juli Hill, Patiko, Gulu district, March 23rd, 1941. [T. W. Chorley.]

Numida meleagris toruensis Neumann. Toro Guinea-fowl.
This form, though described from Uganda, is not mentioned by Jackson even as a synonym of one of the sub-species that he recognises. Chapin (1932, p. 680) gives records from the northern shore of Lake Edward and the southern base of Ruwenzori. I have also obtained it in this area and can confirm the characters of the subspecies.

Crecopsis egregia (Peters). African Crake.
Three specimens, one slightly immature, were obtained by Mr. T. W. Chorley at Mukuna on the coast of Busoga district, August 15th, 1937. [v.S.]

Microparra capensis (A. Smith). Lesser Lily-trotter.
Two obtained by Dr. W. J. Eggeling on Lake Chahafi in Kigezi district and a third by myself on a large pond near Masaka. [v.S.]

Neotis caffra jacksoni Bannerman. Rufous-necked Bustard.
Mr. T. W. Chorley obtained a pair near the river Unyama, December 14th, 1937, and one near the river Kibaa, in the Anaka area, January 3rd, 1938, all in Gulu district.

Charadrius (Afyroxechus) forbesi (Shelley). Forbes' Three-banded Plover.
An adult obtained at Butiaba, July 13th, 1936, by Dr. W. J. Eggeling. This specimen has already been recorded (Chapin, 1932, p. 71); but represents such a considerable extension of the known range of the species that it seems worth mentioning again. [v.S.]

Tringa totanus totanus (Linn.).

Redshank.

Mr. Hancock saw a Redshank, either this species or the Spotted, at Kayanja, on the north shore of Lake Edward near Katwe, in February, 1933. I saw two more at the same place on April 28th, 1944.

Numenius p. phaeopus (Linn.).

Whimbrel.

I shot a specimen on the shore of Lake Nabugabo, Masaka District, September 16th, 1934. [v.S.]

Chlidonias leucopterus (Temminck).

White-winged Black Tern.

Many seen at Katwe (north shore of Lake Edward) at the end of April, 1944, were in breeding plumage and one such was collected.

Cercococcyx m. montanus Chapin.

Mountain Long-tailed Cuckoo.

One obtained by my African collector, E. Nsubuga, at Bufundi, on the shore of Lake Bunyonyi, Kigezi District, November 12th, 1940. [v.S.] There are only two previous Uganda records, one from the Mubuku Valley, Ruwenzori and the other from Kigezi.

Clamator glandarius (Linn.).

Great Spotted Cuckoo.

At Moyo, West Madi District, March 3rd, 1937, a small party settled for the night in a tree near the rest-camp and I obtained two of them. The following day I shot another at Laropi, about 12 miles east of Moyo, on the Nile. [v.S.]

Ruwenzorornis johnstoni kivuensis Neumann.

Kivu Red-naped Touraco.

Not previously recorded from Uganda, the type occurs on Ruwenzori and the present form was described from the Kivu volcanoes in Congo Belge. A pair was obtained by E. Nsubuga in Maizimeru Forest, Kigezi district, October 29th, 1940.

Poicephalus robustus suahelicus Reichenow.

Grey-necked Green Parrot.

New to the Uganda list, though previously recorded from the Kivu area. Mr. T. W. Chorley collected one from a party of three in Kinkizi county, Kigezi district, July 5th, 1940.

Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca (Vieillot).

Southern Grey-breasted Kingfisher.

I am able to add a third to Jackson's two occurrences: one was obtained in Kigezi district, November, 1940, by A. Ntensibe. It was caught in a rat-trap baited with sweet-potato.

Melittophagus gularis australis Reichenow.

Congo Black Bee-eater.

New to the Uganda list and now only brought forward on the strength of sight-records. It is, however, a quite unmistakable species. Dr. Haddow has seen it in Bwamba, where it is to be expected to occur as it was already known from the Semliki Valley.

Ceratogymna atrata (Temminck).

Great Black Hornbill.

A male obtained by Dr. Haddow in the forest along the Semliki, Bwamba, Toro, Uganda, April 6th, 1944, constitutes a new record for Uganda. Dr. Haddow states that the species turns up in Bwamba only occasionally when some big fig-tree is in fruit and that they are very cautious birds and frequent only the tallest trees. The male obtained was in the company of a female.

Lophoceros c. camurus (Cassin).

Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill.

Not previously recorded from Uganda although known from the Ituri Forest. A specimen was obtained by my Collector in Bwamba, April, 1940. [v.S.]

Cosmetornis vexillarius (Gould).

Pennant-winged Nightjar.

This bird was extremely common in Gulu district in late July and early August, 1936, when all males had long and unbroken pennants. On one occasion, just after

sundown, I saw a party of about a dozen flitting low over a small area of open ground among bushes. They persisted in doing this even after several of their number had been shot. Food was hardly the attraction since all the specimens were males. I think that there must have been a female on the ground.

Micropus melba melba (Linn.). European Alpine Swift.

Jackson only gives two Uganda records so it seems worth adding a third. From a flock of several hundreds at Moyo, West Madi District (extreme north-west corner of Uganda) on March 10th, 1937, I shot several of the type form. [W. L. Sclater.]

Indicator minor teitensis Neumann. East African Lesser Honey-Guide.

On my return to the laboratory in Kampala after lunch on October 5th, 1934, I found a living specimen tethered to the leg of my chair. I never learned its origin, but presumably it came from near Kampala. There are no other records for Buganda Province; but it occurs in Karamoja, Lango and on Ruwenzori (Jackson, 1938, p. 735). [v.S.]

Yungipicus obsoletus nigricans Neumann. Omo River Brown-backed Woodpecker.

Three records: Oraba, West Nile District, February 19th, 1934, W. J. Eggeling; Paminjaa, Paranga, Gulu district, March 14th, 1936, G. H. E. H.; Aiyinyokiwia, Alero, Gulu district, April 5th, 1936, G. H. E. H. My two specimens were in rather open bush-country. [v.S.]

Pitta reichenowi Madarasz. Reichenow's Pitta.

A single specimen was obtained by Dr. Haddow near the Semliki River in Bwamba, May, 1943.

Sigmodus rufiventris mentalis Sharpe. Bohndorffs' Red-billed Helmet-Shrike.

Only two previous Uganda records. I obtained a specimen in the Budongo Forest, Bunyoro District, April 9th, 1939.

Malaconotus p. poliocephalus (Lichtenstein). Grey-headed Bush-Shrike.

Not uncommon near Kampala, where E. Nsubuga collected five specimens December, 1939 and January, 1940.

Stilbopsar stuhlmanni Reichenow. Stuhlmann's Glossy Starling.

The only previous Uganda records are from Ruwenzori and Mount Elgon. E. Nsubuga obtained two specimens in the Kayonza Forest, West Kigezi, October, 31st, 1940.

Sitagra nigriceps graueri Hartert. Grauer's Spot-backed Weaver.

Jackson (1938, p. 1420) states that this form "probably extends into Kigezi and Ankole." I can confirm this statement so far as Kigezi is concerned, for I shot a specimen at Kabale, August 8th, 1940.

Euplectes franciscana (Isert). Orange Bishop-bird.

Although Jackson (1938, p. 1451) states "Senegal and Cameroon east to the Nile Valley and south to northern Uganda and western Kenya" the Uganda localities he mentions are all east of the Nile. I obtained five specimens in West Nile District in June, 1937, and E. Nsubuga collected two in Bwamba, western Toro, in April 1940.