



J. Wolf del. et lith.

M. & H. Harhart imp.

HIRUNDO MONTEIRI.

months' residence in the country, I was engaged on some work at that time of more importance, although not so interesting to me as ornithology. As we sailed steadily out of the bay before a light breeze, on the 6th of November, and passed between the mountain-head and the whitened cliffs of the opposite shore, shoals of Bonitos played around our vessel, chasing the smaller inhabitants of the clear sea-water; the peak of the volcano of Comanataki, visible in the distance, grew dimmer and dimmer; the shore-lines became gradually indistinct; the opening to the broad Pacific seemed to our eyes to become narrower and narrower; and we said good-bye to Hakodadi.

XXXV.—*Notes on Birds collected in Angola in 1861.*

By JOACHIM J. MONTEIRO*.

(Plate XI.)

1. CERYLE MAXIMA.

This Kingfisher is abundant on the river Quanza, particularly towards the interior; it utters a shrill cry, similar to that of most water-birds; it is said to build its nest in holes in the banks of the river; it feeds on fishes and insects. When sitting on a branch, its attitude is not that generally represented as of the Kingfishers, but it holds its beak and large-crested head at right angles to its body.

2. COLIUS CASTANONOTUS. Native name, "*Sumbo*."

Feeds on wild fruits, principally on that of a wild fig-tree very abundant all over the country, and called "*Mucuzo*;" flies slowly, generally in threes and fours together, uttering a disagreeable note; found generally distributed; its skin very thick and tough; stomach small and delicate; legs of a beautiful light-red colour.

3. SCOPUS UMBRETTA.

The example is said to be a young one, but nearly full-grown. This bird occurs near water. The natives affirm that it never

* [These specimens, collected by Mr. Monteiro, have been submitted to Dr. Hartlaub, who has kindly supplied the names and prepared the characters of the new species.—ED.]

builds its own nest, but that other and different species do so for it; and that a person bathing in a pool of water where these birds are in the habit of washing and pluming themselves is quickly affected with a cutaneous disorder similar to the itch. I mention both these curious reports (which I had not an opportunity of personally investigating) because they are so positively asserted by the natives of Cambambe. This bird is said to be abundant on the river Quanza, towards the interior. Its stomach is long, and full of a muddy pulp, evidently the remains of worms, &c.

4. MOTACILLA CAPENSIS.

Jerks its tail and body exactly in the manner of a Water Wagtail; is common in the river Quanza and in the marshy places of the interior at Cambambe.

5. MEROPS ERYTHROPTERUS. Native name, "*Canguema-a-fele*."

Seen generally in the high grass and about flowers, which it searches for insects or honey; has a very agreeable chirping song. Stomach contained remains of a small beetle. Locality, Massangano.

6. MEROPS SAVIGNII. Native name, "*Canguema-a-nene*."

Generally seen on the tops of trees, from which it darts out and sweeps slowly in the air in the manner of a Swallow, returning to rest on the tree, where it utters a very peculiar and mournful cry; stomach contained remains of insects; said to build its nest on trees, lining it with wild cotton or the beautiful silky cotton or fibre enveloping the seeds of the N'borotuto (*Cochlospermum angolense*, Welw.). Locality, Massangano.

7. IRRISOR ERYTHORHYNCHUS. Native name, "*Quiquengo*."

Fly generally in threes and fours, and slow, in the thick bush, chattering discordantly. Stomach contained remains of caterpillars and small beetles; legs and whole bill of a splendid light-red colour. Locality, Massangano.

8. MACRONYX CROCEUS. Native name, "*Dibaquela*."

Common in Cambambe; stomach contained insects.

9. *HYPHANTORNIS XANTHOPS*, Hartlaub, sp. nov. Native name, "*Dicole*."

Weaves nest on tall grass, &c., particularly near and over water. Common everywhere.

10. *ORIOLOUS LARVATUS*, Licht. Native name, "*Muenho*."

Builds its nest also on grass. Locality, Massangano.

11. *CURSORIUS SENEGALENSIS*. Native name, "*Cangola*."

This bird has a rapid, irregular flight high in the air, backwards and forwards, and when alighting on the ground runs along it very fast; stomach full of seeds; legs pure milk-white, with red joints or lines; black spot on the abdomen. Locality, Cambambe.

12. *SPERMESTES CUCULLATA*. Native name, "*Canguijambala*."

Builds a large nest on trees; flies about in small flocks in the low grass; under mandible of bill of a very light-blue colour, nearly white at the base. Locality, Cambambe and river Quanza.

13. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS*.

Rapid flight, uttering at the same time a sharp "tweet;" generally fly in pairs; legs of a very light-grey colour. Found in marshy places. Locality, Cambambe.

14. *ORTYGOMETRA ANGOLENSIS*, Hartlaub, sp. nov. Native name, "*Munjamba*."

Never rises on the wing, but runs very fast through the marshy grass, and is consequently very difficult to obtain except by trapping. Several small and beautiful Quail-like birds, with nearly the same habits, are found in Cambambe; but I was unable to capture any in the rainy season during my stay. This bird feeds entirely on worms and water-insects.

15. *TINNUNCULUS RUPICOLA*. Native name, "*Cahahula*."

This is the species of Hawk most abundant in Cambambe. Stomach of one contained eight snake's eggs and a small lizard.

16. *TELEPHONUS ERYTHROPTERUS*. Native name, "*Quioco*."

Abundant in Cambambe; sings beautifully. The natives

believe that when it sings near their huts, it is an omen of good fortune. The stomachs contain beetles and grasshoppers.

17. *PLUVIANUS ÆGYPTIUS.*

Elegantly beautiful as it runs along the sandy banks of the river Quanza, where alone I have as yet seen it in Angola. Stomach contained gravel and remains of a large beetle.

18. *EUPLECTES CAPENSIS.* Native name, "*Saca.*"

Male in half moulting, and two females in perfect plumage. Common all over Cambambe.

19. *CAPRIMULGUS* —? *. Native name, "*Lumbamba,*" Night-jar.

Very common; sings loudly all night long, but its notes are not very varied. Stomach very large, and contained twelve cockroaches and moderately sized beetles, entire, with a mass equaling them in amount of remains of same. Several worms were found in the cavity of the left eye. Locality, Cambambe.

20. *HIRUNDO MONTEIRI*, Hartlaub, sp. nov. Native name, "*Prapia.*"

Same habits as other Swallows, and uttering, when on the wing, a similar note; builds its nest on rocks and walls, &c. Stomach full of winged ants. Locality, Massangano and Cambambe.

21. *STRIX FLAMMEA.*

Shot on the river Quanza.

22. *PHASMOPTYNX CAPENSIS.*

Shot at the river Mucozo (tributary to the Quanza), in Cambambe, where it is very abundant.

23. *DICRURUS* —? *

Chatters much; is found on the Quanza and near the rivers towards the interior; feeds on insects.

24. *DRYMÆCA*, sp. Native name, "*Catete.*"

Abundant everywhere in Cambambe; builds a pretty nest, sewn to the leaves of herbaceous plants, through holes which it bores through them.

* Perhaps *C. rufigena*, Smith.

25. *CHALCITES AURATUS.*

Cuckoo. Locality, Massangano.

26. *PRIONOPS TALACOMA*, Smith.

Has a very discordant note, and is exceedingly wary and shy; beautiful yellow eyelids; legs of a light-yellowish red; food, beetles, caterpillars, and other insects.

27. *HALCYON STRIOLATA.*

All the birds belonging to this family that I have observed in Angola utter a very agreeable loud note or song, which produces a singular effect when, in going down a river in a canoe in the breathless mid-day sun, it is heard cool and clear, whilst all else is hushed and still in the glare and heat.

They are found in the thick woods and bush in the vicinity of the rivers as much or more than on the very banks. Locality, Massangano.

28. *UROBRACHYA ALBONOTATA*, Cassin.

Not uncommon in the high grass at Cambambe.

29. *COLLURIO SMITHII.*

Feeds on insects and small lizards, which it secures under its feet, and, allowing the weight of its body to rest on its food, tears it up with its bill in the manner of a Hawk. It has, however, no strength of clutch in its claws, and has a very feeble flight.

30. *PHOLIDAUGES LEUCOGASTER.*

Was trapped alive, but died after a few days' confinement, during which it fed on several wild berries, said by the natives to constitute its food; it refused to eat insects; its habit of head and neck was very full and flat, like that of a Martin or Swallow. It exhibited a most beautiful appearance when alive, which is wanting in the dead skin.

31. *NECTARINIA CHALCEA*, Hartlaub, sp. nov.

The only species of Sun-bird that I observed in Cambambe. I noticed several other species on the river Quanza, however.

Is very active and pugnacious; constantly utters a loud chirp for such a small creature, and, whilst flying from bush to bush or flower to flower, now and then flying up to the branch of a tree, it shakes and jerks itself, and breaks out into a song which

reminded me strongly of that of the common Robin on a winter evening.

32. *PARUS LEUCOPTERUS.*

Never observed another specimen of this bird anywhere in Angola. Shot near the river Mucozo, in Cambambe. Stomach contained four caterpillars.

33. *VIDUA DECORA*, Hartlaub, sp. nov.

Very abundant in Cambambe.

34. *EUPLECTES FLAMMICEPS.*

Abundant in Cambambe and about the river Quanza.

35. *IXOS TRICOLOR*, Hartlaub, sp. nov.

Common at Massangano and in Cambambe; seen generally in the negro towns. The stomach of this specimen was found to be full of small grass-seeds.

36. *CORYTHAIX PAULINA.*

This species of Plantain-eater is very common towards Pungo Andongo. I also observed it at Massangano, where it is also said to abound. I purchased four, alive, in the short time I was at Cambambe. They are difficult to keep in confinement, as they will not readily become used to any other food but bananas. I had one fine male, however, that would eat anything almost, and which I was bringing down to Loanda; but the black, whose only duty was to take care and carry it in a cage, allowed it to escape.

37. *BUCORAX ABYSSINICUS.* Native name, "*Engungoashito.*"

If not a new species, these birds are certainly the first that have ever been collected in Angola, where great efforts have been made by many persons to induce the natives to capture them, but unsuccessfully, on account of the superstitious dread the natives have of them.

They are found sparingly nearly everywhere in Angola, becoming abundant, however, only towards the interior. In the mountain-range in which Pungo Andongo is situated, and running nearly N. and S., they are common, and it was near the base of these mountains that I shot these two specimens. They are seen in flocks of six or eight (the natives say, always in equal

number of males and females). Further in the interior, I was credibly informed that they are found in flocks of from one to two hundred individuals.

The males raise up and open and close their tails exactly in the manner of a Turkey, and filling out their bright cockscomb-red, bladder-like wattle on their necks, and with wings dropping on the ground, make quite a grand appearance.

They do not present a less extraordinary appearance as they walk slowly with an awkward gait, and peer from side to side with their great eyes in quest of food in the short grass, poking their large bills at any frog, snake, &c., that may come in their way.

Their flight is feeble, and not long-sustained. When alarmed, they generally fly up to the nearest large tree, preferring such as have thick branches with but little foliage, as the *Adansonia*, "Mucuzo" (a wild fig). Here they squat close on the branches, and, if further alarmed, raise themselves quite upright on their legs in an attitude of listening, with wide-open bills. The first to notice a person at once utters their customary cry, and all fly off to the next tree.

They are very wary, and, the grass near the mountains being comparatively short, with but little scrub or bush, it is very difficult to approach without being observed by them from the high trees. I followed a flock of six for upwards of two hours, crawling flat on my stomach, negro fashion, before I obtained a chance of a shot, when I was so fortunate as to break the wing of a male without otherwise injuring it. It was quickly captured by the blacks.

They are omnivorous in their food: reptiles, birds, eggs, beetles, and all other insects, mandioca-roots, ginguba or ground-nuts, constitute their food in the wild state. In confinement I have fed this bird upon the same food, also upon fresh fish, which it showed itself very fond of, as well as on entrails of fowls, &c. On letting it loose in Loanda, in a yard where there were several fowls with chickens, it immediately gulped down its throat six of the latter, and finished its breakfast with several eggs!

The note or cry of the male is like the hoarse blast of a horn,

repeated short three times, and answered by the female in a lower note. It is very loud, and can be heard at a considerable distance, particularly at night.

They are said to build their nest on the very highest *Adansonia*s, in the hollow or cavity formed at the base or junction of the branches with the trunk.

[Dr. Hartlaub describes the new and doubtful species of Mr. Monteiro's interesting collection as follows.—**ED.**]

(1.) *VIDUA DECORA*, sp. nov.

Similis *V. erythrorhynchæ*, sed minor et macula mentali nigra nulla.

The *black chin-spot*, so conspicuous in western and northern specimens of *Vidua erythrorhyncha*, seems to be constantly wanting in the southern race, which for this reason we prefer to separate specifically. Swainson, as also Cabanis, did not overlook this curious difference. The Angolan specimen in Mr. Monteiro's collection is very small, and has the whole under-parts of the body of a pure and uniform white.

(2.) *HIRUNDO MONTEIRI*, n. sp. (Plate XI.)

Supra nigro-chalybea, interscapulii et dorsi plumis ad basin niveis; tergo et uropygio late vulpino-rufis; subtus læte et dilute rufa; gula et subalaribus albo-isabellinis; cauda profunde furcata; rectricum 3 utrinque lateralium pogonio interno macula magna oblique alba notato; rostro et pedibus robustis nigris. Long. tot. 8"; rostr. a fr. 5"; al. 5" 4"; caud. a bas. 4" 4".

Of this fine new Swallow there are two specimens in the collection. The other one has the under wing-coverts of a nearly pure white, with only a very faint yellow tinge. Some of the *subcaudales* show a large black ante-apical spot. It comes near to *Hirundo semirufa* of Sundevall, but is much larger and differently coloured. It is fully as large as *H. senegalensis*, from which it may be distinguished at first sight by the want of the red nuchal collar.

We propose to name this interesting bird after its able and zealous discoverer, Mr. J. J. Monteiro.

(3.) *ORTYGOMETRA ANGOLENSIS*, n. sp.

Corporis superioris plumis medialiter nigris, late olivaceo-mar-

ginatis; remigibus nigris; subalaribus albo nigroque variis; mento et gula albidis; jugulo pectoreque superiore pure cinereis; gastræo reliquo albo nigroque fasciato, fasciis albis latioribus; capitis lateribus cinereis; lineola superciliari antice alba, postice cinerascens; maxilla plumbeo-nigricante, mandibula ad basin flavo-rubente, tomis pallidis; pedibus brunneis. Long. 7-8"; rostr. a fr. 11"; al. 4" 4"; tars. 19"; dig. med. c. ung. 17".

This species has a certain well-known aspect, but seems nevertheless to be undescribed.

(4.) *NECTARINIA CHALCEA*, n. sp.

Valde affinis *N. cupreæ*, sed certe diversa. In fundo aureo-virescente chalceo resplendens, et sub certa luce nonnihil cupreo-rubescens; scapularibus, tergo, uropygio et supracaudalibus magis conspicue cupreo-purpurascens; abdomine, alis, subalaribus et cauda, rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. 4½"; rostr. a fr. 9"; al. 2" 3"; caud. 1½"; tars. 7".

After comparing this elegant *Nectarinia* with the nearly allied and well-known *N. cuprea* of Senegambia and Upper Guinea, the difference at once becomes striking. The fiery-red and violet tints of the latter are almost entirely wanting in the more southern form, the head and back of which appear, under a certain light, to be green. The beak of *N. chalcea* is longer and stronger.

(5.) *IXOS TRICOLOR*, n. sp.

Fuscus; capite intensius tincto; abdomine albo; subcaudalibus dilute flavis; subalaribus albis; rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. 7"; rostr. a fr. 7"; al. 3" 4"; caud. 3" 2"; tars. 9".

In the British Museum there are two specimens of an *Ixos* from Congo, which I have introduced into the additions and corrections to my 'System der Ornithologie Westafrika's,' under the very erroneous name of *Ixos aurigaster*, Vieill. (Lev. Afr. pl. 107. fig. 2). This bird is somewhat larger than Mr. Monteiro's, but resembles it in all other respects. They seem to be probably of one and the same undescribed species, which belongs to the same group as *I. ashanteus*, *inornatus*, *arsinoë*, *xanthopygius*, &c.

(6.) *ORIOLOUS LARVATUS*, Licht.

Considerably smaller than the true South-African *O. larvatus*,

and with broad whitish outer margins on four or five of the tertiaries; on those nearest to the back the marginal colour is yellowish. Long. tot. 3" 3''' ; rostr. a fr. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ''' ; al. 4" 9''' ; caud. 3" ; tars. 9'''.

From the *O. brachyrhynchus* of Swainson this Angolan bird is easily distinguished by the different colouring of the tail, the two medial rectrices being olive-green with black tips.

(7.) *HYPHANTORNIS XANTHOPS*, n. sp.

Supra flavescenti-viridis, alarum plumis dorsi colore marginatis; uropygio flavescentiore; cauda viridi; capite corporeque inferiore toto læte vitellinis; gutture rufescente lavato; subalaribus et flexura alæ flavissimis; pedibus carneis; rostro nigerrimo. Long. vix 7" ; rostr. a fr. 9''' ; al. 3" 5''' ; caud. 2" 8''' ; tars. 11'''.

Allied to *H. aurifrons* and *H. capensis*, but different from both.

XXXVI.—*Description d'une nouvelle espèce de Pigeon du genre Leucotreron.* Par MM. JULES VERREAUX et O. DESMURS.

(Plate XII.)

LEUCOTRERON GIRONIERI, J. Verr. et O. DesMurs.

L. supra læte viridis, subtus viridi-cinereus; macula gulari stricta, pectorali latiore, purpureis; abdomine medio, ventreque infero rufo-albidis; tectricibus subcaudalibus pallide cinnamomeis; pedibus rubris.

Couleur générale d'un vert-clair, tirant au cendré sur les parties inférieures; front et face d'un cendré légèrement teint de vert; une tache longitudinale au menton, une beaucoup plus large et transversale sur le bas de la poitrine, d'un pourpre foncé; milieu du ventre et du bas-ventre d'un blanc-roussâtre; couvertures inférieures de la queue d'un roux-cannelle pâle; ailes du même vert que la partie supérieure, à rémiges primaires noires sur leur page interne, et bordées, ainsi que les secondaires, de jaune pâle tirant sur le blanc, dans les premières surtout; couvertures alaires inférieures du même vert que le dessous du corps; queue du même vert-clair que les ailes, terminée, à son extrémité, de vert-olive bordé de blanchâtre. Bec jaune-rougeâtre à la base de la mandibule inférieure; tarses vêtus