

The Diaries of James Chapin: Book 3

Book 3: (November 1, 1909 to February 5, 1910)

DATE: 11/1/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

During the past three or four days several flycatchers have been noticed, that look in life exactly like *Muscicapa grisola*, one of the birds I happened to see in Belgium. Even the flirting of the tail is the same, and resembles the same action of the phoebe (*Sayornis*). Today an officer shot one and presented it to us (no. 425). It was an immature male, with the skull almost completely ossified, and may have just migrated from the North. Two more of the large green bee-eaters were collected today, one being a male, probably immature, and the other a female. The iris of the male was brownish red, unlike those of yesterday, which were bright red; and its two middle tail-feathers were neither narrowed or noticeably elongated. In addition to this the whole plumage was rather dull, and the testes very small. The female, on the contrary had bright red eyes, and the median pair of rectrices, which were just growing out, were narrowed like those off the others, tho of course not so worn. The stomachs of both today's specimens contained dragonflies. Dr. Rosati left for Makala today.

DATE: 11/2/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Only the very ordinary birds about our camp were noticed today, bee-eaters being as common as usual, a small green cuckoo being seen, as well as heard, and a coucal also showing himself plainly on a leafless bush, contrary to their usual secretive custom. A large heron, about the size of a great blue heron, flew down the river, and alighted for a while on a bush some distance below us. The long-tailed *Terpsiphone* continue to sing about our camp, as well as on all sides of Avakubi in the rubber plantations.

DATE: 11/3/1909 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

No collecting done. Only most ordinary birds observed.

DATE: 11/4/1909 (Thursday)

When we came to Avakubi, we found the small red-rumped weaver that was so common in Stanleyville (see nos. 180-1) to be quite an abundant bird here. However, the first specimen collected (no. 306) (male) proved to have the abdomen and under tail-coverts blackish, instead of white, as in all those previously secured. The maxilla was also entirely black, lacking the red marks of the other specimens. Wishing to see if all these birds in Avakubi agreed in these peculiarities, we soon collected two more (no. 339, female, and no. 362, male) which had the belly white, and a red patch on the side of the maxilla. All the others examined thru field glasses, with the exception of one black bellied individual seen on Oct. 15th, agreed with the two latter specimens. Today, however, a special search was made, with the unexpected result that black-bellied and white-bellied

examples were seen in about equal numbers. Two males (no. 430-1) were collected, the former having the abdomen quite black, and the maxilla entirely of the same color, while the latter had the abdomen a trifle lighter in color, but the maxilla with the same red

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marking found in all the white-bellied found in all the white-bellied specimens. that the color is not dependant upon sex is shown by the fact that an immature female was also shot, that had the maxilla pure black, and the abdomen and under tail coverts fully as dark as no. 431. Unfortunately it was too badly mutilated to skin. These weavers were breeding at Stanleyville in August, but do not appear to be nesting here now. Can it be that these birds represent two geographical races that mix during the winter? Right near our camp today six or seven small warblers (*Phylloscopus*?) were noticed for the first time. One (no. 425, male) was collected. Perhaps this is another bird from the North. A black and white vulture was also seen, about noon. Late in the afternoon I walked down to the brook a little distance below our camp. Black and white wagtails were very numerous there, and two of the other sort, with yellowish breasts, -in the males at least- were secured (nos. 432-3). A small *Pisobia*, the same as the two killed there on Oct. 26, was feeding in the mud, while several *Actitis* (*hypoleucus*?) occupied the logs and stones. Another horned viper was brought to us alive.

DATE: 11/5/1909 (Friday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Several interesting birds were shot today near the brook behind our camp. There were three gray flycatchers feeding close to the water, alighting on the dead branches sticking up out of the stream; and two, an adult male and an immature male, were taken (nos. 434, 436). The species was new to our collection. A red and black weaver (no. 439), one of two that were feeding in some high grass on the bank, was also slaughtered. Two pretty bee-eaters (*Melittophagus gularis*?) with red throats and blue rumps, were occupying the dead top of a tree overlooking some newly cleared land. From this perch they sallied forth at frequent intervals in pursuit of insects. One, a male (no. 428) was collected, its stomach containing a dragonfly and some other unrecognizable insects. Late in the afternoon I shot a squirrel (no. 229) of the medium-sized, faintly striped species. This morning one of the small striped squirrels was seen near the same spot. Two of the small red-rumped weavers (nos. 435 and 437) were secured today, the former a white-bellied male, and the latter a black-bellied female.

DATE: 11/6/1909 (Saturday)

Three new species of birds were added to our collection today, a black and white shrike (no. 440), a small cuckoo (no. 441) and a rather small chestnut-bellied weaver (no. 442). The first mentioned bird was shot on the edge of the forest, where the bushes, vines and smaller trees had recently been cleared out. Two of them were chasing each other around among the trees. The cuckoo and the weaver-bird were found along a brook a little to the South West of the post. Late in the afternoon, near the Mission, we saw and heard a pigeon of the same species as no. 401, which was collected in the same vicinity on October 24th. These are the only two seen here so far. In the stomach of a small green woodpecker (no. 444) were found the larvae, pupae, and adults of the little black ant

that builds all the brown nests on the branches of trees. To judge from this evidence the woodpecker must have been pecking holes in one of these ant nests.

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DATE: 11/7/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

This morning, near the Mission, I saw a flock of six or seven gray parrots, some fruit pigeons, two large black and white hornbills (same as no. 238, etc), and three small kingfishers, two adult and one young (see Nov. 8). Gray parrots are often seen flying over, but usually only one or two at a time. Fruit pigeons are common enough, especially out in this direction, and are easily distinguished in flight from the ordinary pigeons by their short tails. The small brown breasted kingfishers are not very often seen, but the larger blue and gray Halcyon is as common as usual. The brown-headed Halcyon, of which one specimen was collected in Batama (no. 246), has not been seen since. Neither has the black and white Ceryle, so common along the Congo. There is, however, another larger kingfisher, which as I have already mentioned (Oct. 6, 1909) is occasionally heard or seen, but as yet has not given us an opportunity to observe its color. The priests at the Mission presented us with a large hawk (no. 445), which some of their natives had found wounded I saw it yesterday, when it was still alive. It was the same as one we saw sitting in a rubber tree near our camp several days ago. Later in the day they also sent over a small white heron, with yellowish bill and blackish feet (no. 446). Its stomach was crammed with small grasshoppers.

DATE: 11/8/1909 (Monday)

This morning, near our camp, I at last collected one of the small blue-backed kingfishers with the breast brownish, and a bluish wash on the otherwise brown cheeks. In the afternoon two small green barbets (nos. 448-9) were secured, in a large leafless tree, where four or five of them were seen together. In the same tree there were four brown flycatcher-like birds of which we already had one specimen (no. 371) brought in by our black hunters. The bill is very swallow-like, but there are rectal bristles, and the wings are not long. The habits are those of a flycatcher, insects being pursued and caught in the air, while the bird, when perching, raises its tail at regular intervals like a phoebe. One specimen (no. 450) collected. An oriole (like no. 227) and a small barbet with white lines on the head (like no. 377) were seen and a gray flycatcher (*Muscicapa*) (no. 451) shot. The latter is the only one of its species noticed for some time, and to judge from its plumage, is an immature bird, tho the skull was fully ossified.

DATE: 11/9/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

For a couple of hours this morning a white heron, like the one sent to us the day before yesterday, was to be seen sitting on a bush on the island opposite us, in the Ituri. Two black hawks (*Lophoaetus occipitalis*), with white patches on the primaries, like those seen on Oct. 28th, were circling about over Avakubi again today. One of our hunters told me that they have crests of feathers, but this is certainly not visible in flight. In the afternoon I went out shooting for a little

while, one of the birds secured being a cuckoo new to our collection, and another one of the same grayish green sun-birds, with yellow feathers under the wings, that was collected near Risimu on Sept. 8. Today's example was making the same scolding noise, and had the skull fully ossified, and the testes enlarged. This green plumage seems, therefore, the full adult dress of the species. A large sun-bird (male), of the same species as nos. 345-6, was also observed, this being only the third specimen noticed in Avakubi.

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DATE: 11/10/1909 (Wednesday)

Late in the morning an elephant was heard trumpeting loudly, near the bank of the river close to the post. Everybody ran to see it, but it had gone off quickly, and some of the officers even set off after it with their rifles. Later it was said that a black woman had seen five elephants there during the morning but had not thought to tell the white men about them.

DATE: 11/11/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Spent most of the morning over near the Mission, where another pigeon of the same sort as no. 401 was heard singing its "coo-coo-cu-cu-coo-coo". There were also several pigeons of another species of about the same size, but dark slaty gray nearly all over except on the neck, where there are some brownish, and also some bronzy feathers. The doctor calls this bird (see no. 658) the "pigeon noir", and our boys know it by a name having the same reference to its dark color. Its song begins with two or three "coos" that are only audible when one is close to the bird. Next follow about five loud "coos", and then the voice is suddenly lowered, the performance ending with three or four cooing notes somewhat louder than those at the beginning. It may be represented as follows: "coo-coo-coo-coo-coo-coo-cu-cu-cu-coo". Along the bank of the Ituri, in the forest, another sun-bird (no. 466) which I had not previously encountered, was shot while feeding at some flowers in a bush close to the ground. In the same bush there was also a sun-bird of the ordinary small red-breasted sort. The small gray flycatcher (no. 468) collected today appears to be the same as that we collected at Batama. This bird was first met with just after we left Rissaci, and for some days was common along the road in the forest; but the last ones seen before today were near Batama. In a clearing on the edge of the forest, near the Mission, a small black-headed weaver (no. 467) male, was found building a nest. This bird is apparently related to the common small black-headed weaver (no. 403), that ranges all the way from Leopoldville, at least; but it differs from it in having the back black instead of brown, in having the whole bill gray, the maxilla of the commoner form being black, and in several minor particulars, such as the pure white under tail-coverts. I am not positive that I have seen this bird before, at Avakubi, but no. 427, a young bird brought in by one of our boys, may be of the same species. A second specimen was killed on the Mission grounds today, but fell into a fire built to destroy a large stump, and had most of its feathers singed off.

DATE: 11/12/1909 (Friday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

DATE: 11/13/1909 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

A small black-headed weaver, like that collected the day before yesterday (no. 467), was seen today, feeding with a flock of three of the commoner species of small weavers in the high grass.

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DATE: 11/14/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

A small shrike (*Lamus*) (see Nov. 24, 1909), with the back reddish brown, and two gray parrots were noticed near the Mission this morning. The "Pere" presented us with one of the common gray hawks (no. 469 male, and on my way back to the post, I saw one of the same sort in the rubber plantation. On a dead branch of a high tree near the river bank an osprey was seen sitting. After watching it a little while thru my glasses, I attempted to get closer, to see, if possible, the extent of the spotting on the breast, but it took alarm at once, and departed. The only other osprey I have seen in the Congo was sitting on a sand bar in Stanley Pool, July 12, 1909. Late in the afternoon a flock of about 30 pratincoles (*Glareola*) was flying about over the river, evidently catching insects in the air. They were of the same species that we collected in Stanleyville (*G. emini*), slaty gray, except for the white rump and belly, and a white mark on the side of the head. Pratincoles have frequently been noticed flying over Avakubi, but this was the first time that the color of any of them could be observed. Another Manis, a male, and our 3rd specimen from Avakubi was brought to us alive today.

DATE: 11/15/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Seven small white herons were sitting in the top of a small tree, this morning, on the island where one was observed on Nov. 9. After some delay in securing a canoe, I went after them, but secured only one (no. 470, female). On the way back, a large heron (*Ardea purpurea*?), that was standing in the grass on the river bank, was also shot (no. 471, male). Its stomach was full of a soft, fibrous, greenish mass, apparently of vegetable origin, in which were found also two wings of a dragonfly, some small fish scales -but no bones-, a couple of mouse (?) claws, and some small bits of wood. A thrush (*Turdus* or *Merula*) (no. 472, male) was also taken this morning, this being our second example from Avakubi. While we were in Stanleyville these yellow-billed thrushes were not infrequently heard singing behind our house. (see Aug. 24, 1909). Two bats (nos. 432-3) were caught in the house this evening. [See drawing]. No. 432 is like the two bats shot in a mango tree in Stanleyville, and no. 433 is like one that we caught in Mr. Morgan's house in Leopoldville.

DATE: 11/16/1909 (Tuesday)

A small black-headed weaver of the same sort as no. 467 was seen among a flock of other small weaver-birds feeding in the high grass just behind the house of the Chef de Zone. This flock consisted mainly of the common small rosy-breasted kind with brown back and red bill, but it contained also some of the common small black-headed form (see 403) and a few of the small red-rumped species, of which two or three had the belly white, while one at least was very black on this

part of the body. The large green bee-eaters, like those collected here on Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, are still to be seen and heard, but not in any such abundance as during the first week in November, when they were more numerous than at any other time during our stay at Avakubi. Early this evening a bat was caught in the house, which resembles no. 432, caught in the same room last night, but has the ears about 8mm longer. The tip of these bat's tail is curiously bifurcated and both the wing and tail membranes are traversed by fine lines, in which are also numerous small spots. [See drawing]. On the inner portion of the wings there are two sets of these lines, which cross each other almost at right angles, the spots here being placed at the

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crossings. The ears likewise contain numbers of these little dots, but their arrangement is not so regular.

DATE: 11/17/1909 (Wednesday)

Near our camp this morning I shot a small brownish dove (no. 473) which appears to be the same bird that was so common at Leopoldville. Tho seen also on the way up the river, it was not noticed in Stanleyville, nor on the way from there to Avakubi. Moreover, this is the first example seen here. A small white heron (no 474) was shot on the river, and in the evening two more bats were caught in the house.

DATE: 11/18/1909 (Thursday)

There were three more small white herons on the island this morning but they were too shy to shoot. Further up the same island there were two black and white vultures, one of them, which was sitting in a small palm in the brush, allowing us to walk up to within a few feet (without seeing him, of course). Our boys say that these vultures eat palm-nuts as well as fish, and this corresponds with our own observations. Another species of bee-eater, new to our collection, was secured near the camp (no. 476). It has a broad black line thru the eye, and a transverse bar of the same color on the upper breast. The middle tail-feathers are slightly elongated. Just as it was getting dark this evening I shot a pratincole (no. 478, female) and a large bat (no. 237, female) [see drawing] on the open square in Avakubi. The latter is the same that we saw in a village near Batama, and have frequently seen here in the early evening. The tail projects from the dorsal side of the interfemoral membrane, and the wings can be curiously folded up at the tip. Under the throat is a small gular pouch. An osprey was seen today in the same tree as the one Nov. 14.

DATE: 11/19/1909 (Friday)

Two ring plovers (nos. 479-80) were taken on the open square in Avakubi, where there were four of them, and where 4 or 5 were seen late yesterday afternoon. Three bee-eaters of the same species as no. 476 were sitting in a tree near our camp this morning. Four white herons were here today, and Mr. Lang killed two of them. A leopard's tracks were seen in some sand close to our tents this morning. The small blue kingfisher with conspicuous light bars on the crown, and without blue on the cheeks, was seen here today, showing that both of the small species occurs here, as in Stanleyville, and along much of the Congo.

DATE: 11/20/1909 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Early this afternoon one of our boys took me to a tree where there were a lot of fruit bats. It was one of the larger trees that stick up above the plantation of young rubber trees between the Mission and the Post. About 50 feet from the ground, on a more or less horizontal branch, there was a large mass of epiphytic plants, to the under side of this was clinging a mass of bats. Every once in a while one seemed to lose his hold in the crowd, and had to take wing, only to return and

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hook himself up anew. All the time they kept up a chorus of snarling and scolding noises that could be heard for some distance, 75 or 100 yards at least, and it was by means of this that they had been discovered. The black boy told me of a large bird that was catching the bats, and as we approached a black and white vulture flew out of the top of the tree, but whether he was guilty of the deed is not at all certain. I did not attempt to count the number of bats (estimated at 90-100), but after watching them a little while, fired both barrels of my gun into the flock. We were standing directly underneath them, and for a few seconds it simply rained bats, some dead, others dying, and many only slightly wounded. The latter immediately began to make off thru the grass, trying their best to scratch and bite when picked up, and often uttering a cry that reminded me somewhat of the "peent" of the American woodcock and nighthawk, but louder. The uninjured, with the exception of ten or twelve that returned to the same roost, made off for a safer resting place. We secured 37 specimens, but I have no doubt that a number of the wounded made good their escape. The number of bats that had been in the tree could only be roughly estimated at 90 or 100, or perhaps a few more. Thirty-three of those secured were skinned, two, a male and a female, put in alcohol, and two, which had their skulls badly broken were discarded. These bats, unlike the two species of fruit bats we had previously secured, in Leopoldville and Stanleyville, had short tails, of very variable length. Many of them, evidently the older ones, had patches of yellowish hair on the under side of the neck. The skin beneath these places, was of a lighter color on the inside than on the rest of the skin immediately surrounding it. The males had rather conspicuous vestigial troths at the sides of the thorax. A number of very active (*Nycteribiidae*) were collected on these bats.

DATE: 11/21/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Most of the day was occupied in preparing the bats shot yesterday. Two of the ordinary dark gray ibises, with iridescent wing-coverts, were seen, and a pigeon of the same sort as no. 401 was heard this morning near the Mission, while three or four bee-eaters like no. 476 were observed near our camp. One bat was captured in the evening in the house (no. 275).

DATE: 11/22/1909 Monday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

One bat caught this evening in the house (no. 276).

DATE: 11/23/1909 (Tuesday)

Another dove, of the same species as no. 473 was shot today. Two of the common dark ibises went flying down the river, advertising their coming by their mournful cries. It is probably the same pair that we see all the time.

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DATE: 11/24/1909 (Wednesday)

A small brownish shrike (*Lamus*) (no. 485) of the same kind as the one seen on Nov. 14 was secured. Two sandpipers, one of them a *Totanus* (or *Helodromus*) which had not been seen here previously, and a squirrel (no. 277, female) were also shot.

DATE: 11/25/1909 (Thursday)

Four bee-eaters (nos. 488-91) were shot from a flock of twenty or more near our camp. They were of the same kind as no. 476 and a few others that have been seen lately. Their call is like that of the larger green bee-eater (no. 420, etc) but is softer and not nearly so loud. Several of the smaller bee-eaters were seen dipping in the water of the river, as the larger species has also been observed to do here. The larger kind, by the way, has become much scarcer now, tho a few are still present.

DATE: 11/26/1909 (Friday)

Today there was a flock, or perhaps a couple of flocks of lapwings (*Sarciophorus superciliosus*), which flew about uttering a hoarse reiterated cry, and alighting occasionally on the few open spots they could find near the river bank. Six specimens (nos. 492-7), four of them females, and two males, were shot. The largest number seen together at once was 18 or 20.

DATE: 11/27/1909 (Saturday)

One white heron seen on an island this morning. Two bats caught in the house this evening (nos. 280-1).

DATE: 11/28/1909 (Sunday)

A flock of bee-eaters like no. 476 was seen today, as well as a few of the larger species (see no. 420, etc). In the afternoon one of our boys shot a snake-bird (no. 499) that was sitting on a small branch on the bank of the river. It was a male, apparently young, and its stomach contained some green vegetable matter, a piece of a small fish, and some nematode worms. Another dove like no. 473 seen today. Two more bats were caught in the house this evening with the butterfly net. The black weaver-birds which were to be seen in October (see however Dec. 2, 1909) about a row of palms near the post, seem to have disappeared, in as much as none have been seen for weeks.

DATE: 11/29/1909 (Monday)

Mr. Lang had an attack of fever today. A flock of fruit pigeons, some 7 or 8 in all, was seen near the "Bosigwana" (Arabise) village. A small gray rodent (no. 284) with much the appearance of a dormouse was sent to us from the "succursale".

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DATE: 11/30/1909 (Tuesday)

Dr. Rosati returned from Makala today, bringing a number of skins of small birds collected on the trip. Late in the afternoon he shot a snipe that flew up from the grass near our camp; and kindly presented it to us. Some lapwings of the kind we shot Nov. 26, were heard today. A young owl that was brought to us alive yesterday was photographed, killed and skinned today.

DATE: 12/1/1909 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

A male sun-bird of the same species as no. 249 was seen feeding at the flowers of a rubber tree this morning, and later in the day a female of the same sort (birds of this sex can be identified by their streaked breasts) was seen fluttering about the trunks of another kind of rubber tree, evidently looking for insects in the bark. These are the first of these sun-birds I have seen at Avakubi. The doctor brought back several skins from Makala, and reports that they are numerous there.

DATE: 12/2/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

This morning there were two terns (*Hydrochelidon*) flying about over the banana plantation and neglected grassy field by the house of the Chef de Zone. One of them was shot and its stomach was found to contain insects, which I should say were caught on the wing, judging from the aimless way the birds were flying back and forth. About noon three more were noticed. The doctor brought the skins of two of these same terns from Makala. Two white herons were sitting on a tree over on the island this morning and in the afternoon the doctor shot two, very likely the same ones, on the bank of the river near the post, and brought them to us. Both were females, but I should be inclined to believe, after examining the ovaries, that no. [?], which has the crown yellowish brown, was adult, and no. [?] with the crown wholly white was immature. I had not seen the black weaver-birds near the post for some time back until late this afternoon, when I happened to pass by, and saw six or seven of them about their nests again.

DATE: 12/3/1909 (Friday)

One tern like that collected yesterday was watched today as he flew back and forth up and down a stream near the village of the workmen at Avakubi, apparently catching insects in the air, like those of yesterday.

DATE: 12/4/1909 (Saturday)

DATE: 12/5/1909 (Sunday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

About a dozen gray parrots were feeding in the trees near the Mission, and two pipits (*Anthus sp.*) were also observed, they being the first seen, with the exception of one noticed near our house a few days ago. One small gray flycatcher (s. no. 468), and a warbler were among the other birds seen. This morning the doctor shot two sun-birds, one like no. 249, the other a large one.

DATE: 12/6/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi.

Packing for the trip to Nepoko.

DATE: 12/7/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: We left Avakubi about 4pm and stopped overnight at the Succursale, where an immense clearing has been made and planted with rubber trees, which are mostly a little younger than those in Avakubi.

Here two black hawks (see no. 695, Dec. 28) were seen sitting on old dead trees, the crest on the head showing very plainly. Some pipits were noticed, and an immature specimen of the small rusty breasted kingfisher (no. 508) secured. Near the village of the Bangwana or Arabises a sun-bird, the first and only one seen in this vicinity (no. 507) was shot while feeding at some flowers. A little way before the Succursal we passed the camp of the Controleur forestier who is clearing a long lane thru the forest. There one of the long-tailed hornbills (s. no. 279) was sitting on a fallen log.

DATE: 12/8/1909 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: Avakubi Succursale - The house where we stopped last night is near the bank of the Ituri, but at a considerable elevation above the level of the stream.

Five or six dark shiny blue swallows, with white throat patches were flying about, sometimes alighting on the ground, and sometimes on the top of the flag pole. Several of the large brown breasted swallows were also present. Starting off about 9am, we reached Bosabangi, where the Ituri is crossed by canoe, about 2pm. Only one village (Mongalulu) was passed on the way, the rest of the road running thru forest which is often interrupted by areas of cultivated land and of brush. Just after we left the Succursale some fruit pigeons, and two green parrots (s. no. 273) were noticed. The latter resemble gray parrots very much in flight and other actions, even their harsh cries recalling the voice of the gray species, but with the more pleasing whistles left out. Two of the brown swallow-like flycatchers (nos. 513-14) were collected, as well as an oriole (no. 516). A couple of these orioles were noticed at Avakubi, and three were observed today. Near Mongalulu four or five small resplendent starlings were feeding in some low trees. (See no. 721, Bafwaboka, Dec. 31, 1909). Dr. Rosati brought one of these birds back from Makala. At Bosobangi, in the late afternoon, the call of some lapwings (s. nos. 792-7) was heard across the river.

DATE: 12/9/1909 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Bosobangi to Boquandia.

The road traversed today is one of the worst we have yet encountered, passing three forest all the way, and intercepted by a large number of streams and mud-puddles, which were not made less unpleasant by a light rain this morning. We met a large ivory caravan, some 200 tusks, which were being brought by some Arabs from the Uele, to be shipped out thru East Africa. But few birds were seen on the road today, the loud mournful cries of two of the large black hornbills being heard not far from Bosobangi. This bird was first seen between Stanleyville and Bafwaboli; a male (no. 255) was shot at Batama; and a female (no. 288) at Avakubi. From the few times we have seen it, it is probably not very common in this region. At Boquandia, in the afternoon, three pipits, probably the same as those noticed recently at Avakubi and the Succursale, were walking about on the ground in a banana plantation, and one of them (no. 519) was collected. A fruit pigeon was seen sitting on its nest of sticks in the top of a thickly leafed tree some forty feet high, in the same place. [See sketch of a map: Avakubi-Bosobangi 26km.; Bosobangi-N'Gayu 30km {Copy of map in "Gite d'Etap" at N'Gayu}]. At Bosobangi yesterday evening and this morning, and late this afternoon at Boquandia we were greatly annoyed by some small flies, so very tiny as to be almost overlooked as they attack one, hovering about one's head as he works, and alighting not only on his hands and face, but even getting down thru the hair on the back of his head. Each point where one bites becomes the center of a little swelling, which itches out of all proportion to the size of the insect. At Avakubi we saw a few of these pests, but were indeed very disagreeably surprised at their extreme abundance here.

DATE: 12/10/1909 (Friday)

LOCALITY: Boquandia to N'Gayu.

Another stretch of muddy road thru the forest was completed about noon today when we arrived at the N'gayu River, on the further bank of which is situated the post of the same name. We installed ourselves in the gite d'etape and started collecting at once. Mr. Planche was in the forest visiting the natives, but returned the following day, and during the rest of our stay did his utmost to assist us. The rest-house, of the usual two-roomed type, is situated in the village of Bangwana or "Arabises". A little distance downstream Mr. Planche has made a clearing and built houses for himself and his soldiers, and some three or four minutes walk in the opposite direction brings one to the Washenzi village, whence a tortuous path, sometimes thru deep mud, and sometimes along the trunks of fallen trees, leads off to the village of the Mambuti (pygmies), in the forest. There were about twenty of these diminutive savages, and their wooden-belled dogs. Their assistance was later found to be not so valuable as we had expected, tho they did bring a few very interesting beasts. In this interesting village (N'Gayu) we stayed until Dec. 26th, and as this was our first real stop in the forest, the additions made to our collections were both numerous and extremely interesting.

DATE: 12/10 to 26

LOCALITY: N'Gayu.

One of the interesting mammals captured by the Mambuti was a large light-colored hyrax, which is said to be the animal so often heard at night, with each successive cry, it seems, to judge from the sound, to become more and more excited. This characteristic nocturnal noise was heard not only at

N'Gayu, but also very frequently along the road from Stanleyville to Avakubi. Mr. Planche's native hunters were of much greater service than the pigmies, and thru them we

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secured two red buffaloes, male and female, some red-river-hogs and a black forest-hog, our first specimen of which was a gift of the controleur forestier at Avakubi. they also brought in an antelope or two, and one of these men was a most expert hunter of guinea fowls. But the finest of their mammals was an old male chimpanzee, killed two days before our departure. Three nights in succession a leopard was seen near Mr. Planche's little two-story abode, but in spite of its eating a piece of strychnine poisoned meat on the third occasion, its carcass was not recovered. Two new squirrels were added to the three species we already had, one being very large with the tail ringed with gray, and the other the smallest of the lot, with a striped back. Here too, our first flying-squirrels (*Anomalurus*) were obtained, the first being shot by Mr. Planche after the dead tree which harbored it had been cut down, and the second being taken alive by the pygmies. This animal's habits are apparently somewhat similar to those of our flying squirrels at home, and tho it also resembles them in its large eyes and soft fur, it differs in the face, in the form and attachment of the "flying" membranes, and in the shape of the tail, on the under side of which is a patch of scales. On this organ it rests, while climbing, much as a woodpecker does on its tail. Many rats were caught at N'Gayu, but none of them were of very great novelty. A few large bats of the same kind we saw in Avakubi (no. 237) were brought to us by natives who had caught them in a hole in a tree, during the day. Some smaller bats, and of these a few new to the collection, were likewise obtained from the blacks. Our bird-collection was very greatly improved here, 173 specimens being added, of which there were approximately 37 new species, or to be more correct, species new to the collection. As usual there were some interesting ones observed that could not be killed, one of them the black crested hawk seen at Avakubi. On Dec. 11, two gray pratincoles (*Glareola emini*) were noticed sitting on a rock in the river, the water of which, by the way, was very high at the time. The large kingfisher we saw and heard at Avakubi was seen once at dusk, but its loud notes were heard a number of times. On Dec. 22, Mr. Lang shot our first adult specimen (no. 675) of the black and white vulture, probably the most common large bird to be seen in ascending the Congo. From the afternoon we arrived at Banana until we were near Stanleyville, hardly a day was passed on the river without seeing some, either flying over the water, sitting on some tree along the shore, or standing on a sand bar. From Stanleyville to Avakubi only one was noticed, but at the latter place there were two or three which were seen at frequent intervals. At N'Gayu a single individual was observed a couple of times before this specimen was secured. The voice of this vulture I have never heard. It is known among the white population as the "aigle pecheur", and one morning at Matadi one which was flying overhead dropped a fish of medium size, that fell to the ground not far from where we stood. An immature brownish specimen shot on July 27, 1909 had the pulp of palm nuts in its stomach, and at Avakubi they were seen to fly out of oil palms on an island in the river. Some of our black boys also asserted that the bird was fond of palm nuts, but the contents of the stomach of this specimen, a mass of unidentifiable green vegetable matter, would indicate that these are not the only vegetable food taken. Two species of guinea fowls were collected at N'Gayu. The commoner one was black, with small white spots edged with blue. A tuft of long black feathers adorned the head, which was otherwise naked, and grayish black, with orange patches in front of the ear and on the back of the neck. At the sides of the mouth were small wattles, still smaller in the female, this being the only noticeable external difference between the sexes, there being no spurs,

as in the following species. The other guinea fowl was black, with a longitudinal line of short feathers on the top of the head. The rest of the head was naked and red. The large gray pigeon, of which we had as yet no specimen was not uncommon, and here our first examples of the dark "pigeon noir" were taken. The great plantain-eaters (*Corythaeola*) loud call was occasionally heard, and one individual shot. Three of the small green plantain-eaters were also noticed, but none taken. Both green and gray parrots were present, the latter of course far more numerous, and the harsh cries of rollers (*Eurystomus*) were heard morning and evening from some trees where perhaps they were nesting in a hollow. The common blue-gray and black *Halcyon* was naturally common. Hornbills were not particularly abundant, the large black and white one proclaiming its presence occasionally by its noisy flight, and a few specimens of the common smaller blackish species (with white belly) being noticed. One long-tailed hornbill, shot

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for us, had a shrew's skull in its stomach to prove its carnivorous propensities. At N'Gayu I shot six of the small swifts (*Chaetura*) with white belly and rump. This swift was seen on several occasions at Avakubi, and was common at N'Gayu, flying over the village in the early morning, and down over the river late in the afternoon. One specimen of the larger chaetura, a bird much less common there, and usually seen only in twos or threes, was also shot. The small fork-tailed swift was only seen on one occasion. Our first trogons (*Hapaloderma*) were shot here, as well as a brown-cheeked woodpecker. The small black and yellow barbet (*Barbatula*?) was very common, the larger brown one less so. One pipit, like those seen in Avakubi and Boquandia, was shot in a rice field; and the two wagtails were present, the ordinary black and white one being of course the commoner. The flycatcher with the long white tail-feathers (*Terpsiphone*) was heard only a couple of times at N'Gayu, but back in the forest the somewhat similar species, with orange breast, and without a pronounced crest or elongated rectrices was rather common; and the still more similar gray-breasted form, which also lacks the long tail, was seen a few times in the same place. Of other flycatchers, the small black and white wattled one was numerous, a new one with a blue wattle over the eye was also secured, and three gray species, one with a small black crest, were collected. A greenish woodpecker, with brown cheeks, was one of the new birds added to our collection here. About the village the small brownish-breasted *Hirundo* was very abundant, and from its aimless way of flying back and forth close down over the houses, is called by the Bangwana "kawaia-waia". The small black swallow was not often seen in the village, but was numerous down in the lower land on the way to Mr. Planche's house. The large brown-rumped swallow was often to be seen, usually two to four, but occasionally more, together; but the blue swallow with white throat patch was decidedly scarce. The ordinary Drongo Shrike was met with in the forest here, and several collected. The vicinity of N'Gayu was rather rich in sun-birds, the small red-breasted sort being very commonly noticed about the papayas and the white pea-bush said to be used to poison fish. The small yellow-bellied form is likewise common, but appears to feed mainly on tiny fruits. The large purple-throated sun-bird was frequently observed sometimes in the tops of high trees, and at other times descending to feed in the papayas. At these trees the medium-sized black sun-bird, with iridescent throat and forehead might also be seen feeding, but only in small numbers. One specimen of a gray sun-bird, with shiny blue forehead and throat, and pale yellow patches beneath the wings, which was new to our collection, was shot while feeding at some reddish flowers close to the ground. The common green sun-bird (*Arachnothera*?) appeared to be pretty abundant; and three specimens of a new greenish species, with shorter, straighter bill, gray head, and orange

patches beneath the wings, were collected in the forest, where they were found hopping about on small branches, evidently in search of insects, some 25 feet from the ground. One greenish female example of a sun-bird much smaller than any of the above was also shot at N'Gayu, but the male has not been seen. With a few exceptions, the weaverbirds at N'Gayu were not remarkable. There was, as usual, a noisy colony of the large yellowish kind, and the larger brown-backed one, with black head and bluish mandible was also present, tho the smaller species of somewhat the same color was never seen, its place being occupied by the black-backed form with the beak wholly blue-gray. In what little grass there was, a few small red-rumped weavers, some in juvenile plumage, used to feed, but none were seen with black bellies. The red-billed weaver, of about the same size, of which we saw so much at Avakubi, was not seen at all at N'Gayu. the most striking weaver here was one with a black body and bright red crest, and another one new to our collection was black below, with gray back, whitish spots on the wings, and a yellow iris. Only a pair or two of sparrows (Passer) were to be found in N'Gayu, and they were decidedly wary. A large part of the new birds we met with at N'Gayu were greenish and brownish affairs, with shrike-like bills, which are found not only in the forest, but some of which also haunt the brush closer to the village. A few warbler-like forms, one, which was also seen at Avakubi, having an extremely short tail, another with bare bluish skin on the sides of the neck, and a third with a very long bill and yellow eye. The peculiar green and white bird, with thick rump feathers, first met with near Bafwaboli (no. 240) was encountered again at N'Gayu. In the brush near the native village, Mr. Planche shot a peculiar dark gray cuckoo, with yellow bill, of which I saw a single example in Avakubi, and of

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which Dr. Rosati brought back one specimen from his trip to Makala. N'Gayu was not very productive of reptiles, probably because there was little clearing or planting going on; but for amphibians it was somewhat better. Two new toads, one very large and extremely smooth, the other of medium size, but very rough-skinned, and with curious round parotids were brought by the Mambuti, who also secured for us a peculiar frog-like creature, with nails (or claws?) on the hind feet, and an almost salamandrine head. Two specimens of Polypterus were the only fish collected. Mr. Planche fired two tonite cartridges in the river, but they failed to bring up a single fish. The natives brought us many insects, among which were large numbers of stag-beetles and some Goliath-beetles. The latter, they said, ate their "indisi", and one of them, which we tried, did eat from a banana. This huge beetles does not stand up high on its legs at all, but rests with its limbs sprawled out in a most ungraceful fashion. While some of these were drying out in front of the house, some others, flying by, were apparently attracted by the odor, and came flying about close to the boxes, one or two of them even alighting. On the wing a Goliath is a truly formidable Coleopter, and the buzz of its wings sounds from afar.

DATE: 12/27/1909 (Monday)

LOCALITY: We left N'Gayu about 11am and reached Manamama at dusk, the whole of the road thru forest, with only one small newly established village of Bangwana about half way. The latter part of the route was decidedly muddy and dirty, and one pretty large stream was crossed on a single large tree-trunk.

Three great plantain-eaters were seen, and one of them shot, not far from Manamama; this is a rather common bird, but much more often heard than seen, its loud notes giving it the name of

"Culuculu" among the Wabali, one of the tribes of the region. Their rest-house at Manamama was a large ramshackle structure, with badly cracked walls, while the odor of many baskets of rubber stacked up outside it did not add to its comfort.

DATE: 12/28/1909 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Early in the morning we left Manamama. On its northern side, are many banana fields, and some corn, where the elephants had wrought considerable havoc.

Here we saw one of the black-crested hawk-eagles, which were first noticed at Avakubi, and later at A. Succursale and N'Gayu. This time it could be collected (no. 695). Its stomach contained no more noble game than a rat. A little further on, some of the common red-tailed monkeys were noticed. The country soon became rougher, and we found ourselves toiling over one hill after another. Here the forest was unbroken, and was said to hold many chimpanzees. In just one place we could look out thru the trees, over a valley, and see, near the top of another elevation, a square patch of what seemed to be grass. Shortly after noon the country again became more level, we passed some native villages, and reached, about 2 o'clock, one which could boast of a "gite d'etap". This we left about an hour later, and arrived at Bafwaboka, on the further bank of the Nepoko, about 5pm. During these two hours we passed many villages and plantations and one patch of high grass. It was in a tree in this field of grass that a large resplendent starling ("Merle metallique") was secured, the first I remember seeing since we left Stanleyville, tho someone in Avakubi showed me some feathers of one killed there. Today we also got a new black starling, with graduated tail and orange-red eyes. A pair of gray-breasted flycatchers, which I have already mentioned as resembling the long-tailed Terpsiphone, but with gray head, a different shade of brown on the back, and no very long tail-feathers, were shot along the road this

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afternoon. Their harsh call notes were very like those of the long-tailed flycatcher, but I did not hear the song. Two of the pigeons with the black crescent on the back of the neck were heard giving their "coo-coo-cu-cu-coo-coo".

DATE: 12/28/1909 to 1/10/1910

LOCALITY: Bafwaboka.

The Nepoko, near Bafwaboka has well wooded banks, which are low on its southern side, but rise rather sharply on the northern. On this elevation the post is situated, the house for travelers being placed close to the incline, so that from there one gets a pretty view up the river. The water was now low, and a short distance upstream, where the river makes a little turn, a strip of rocks ran out from the further bank, and there was a slight roughening of the water's surface as it passed their end. The officer in charge at this post was Mr. Rouiller, a Swiss, but he was not there when we arrived, and came up from Manamama about a week later, bringing with him a large three-horned chameleon, which his men had unsuccessfully attempted to preserve by smoking it over a fire. The natives here are not at all ashamed to eat rats and mice, which they are very expert at catching. A couple of the chiefs were therefore persuaded to bring in several batches of their small game, which were found to contain a brown mouse, a rather long-haired gray rat, and a large shrew, new to our collection. Dormice they also brought, and said they caught them in the banana fields.

Numbers of small brown bats were also secured in the same manner. Only the day before we left, our first *Potomogale* was brought to us by one of the chiefs. It was interesting to notice that DuChaillu and Dr. Dobson were both right (see *Camb. Nat. Hist.*), for its stomach contained fish, and its intestines the remains of shrimps, with a very few water insects. The general form of this animal, with its compressed tail, small limbs, and flattened head, somehow reminds me of a salamander, *Spelerpes ruber*, for example, which lives under somewhat the same conditions. Red-tailed monkeys were seen several times not far from the house at Bafwaboka. At Bafwaboka kites (*Milvus*) were of rather common occurrence circling over the houses, two even being seen at once. On Jan. 4 one was killed (male) and its stomach found to contain remains of a shrew and large grasshopper. The only other birds of prey were two black and white vultures that frequented the river. Down on the rocks in the river there were about eight pratincoles, keeping not in a flock, as those seen along the Congo, and at Avakubi but more or less in pairs, as tho mating, on June 2, four of them were collected. The gonads were somewhat enlarged, and the stomachs of all contained insect remains. It was at Bafwaboka that we secured our first specimens of the large gray pigeon. Two days after leaving Stanleyville we saw this bird, and along the rest of the way to Avakubi it was occasionally noticed, the long, rather low, and slowly repeated "coo" being uttered as the bird sat in the top of some high tree. From Avakubi to N'Gayu and Bafwaboka, a number of them were also observed. Other members of the Columbidae noted in Bafwaboka were the "pigeon noir", and the small brownish dove, which was occasionally seen walking on the ground in the road. Fruit pigeons were very common. Two examples of the brown-headed *Halcyon*, our only other specimen of which was taken in Batama, were shot here, as well as several specimens of a new brownish hornbill with red beak, and one of the small gray hornbill. The common black hornbill, with white belly, and yellow and brown bill, was common, as was also the greenish bee-eater with blue tail and blackish crown. One long-tailed hornbill seen. I was rather surprised to encounter colies here, for the first time since leaving Leopoldville. On Dec. 31, two males were secured from a flock of five or six, and during the remainder of our stay a number of others were seen. Another bird collected for the first time since leaving Stanleyville was the black and white flycatcher with red wattles over the eyes. Three of these birds could sometimes be heard singing at once at Bafwaboka. None were noticed at N'Gayu, but twice in Avakubi I thought I heard it, but could not make sure. At Leopoldville the song of this flycatcher could be listened to all day long. As a rule it consists of three clear whistled notes, the intervals between the more musical parts being

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varied by lower scolding notes. But the same bird can whistle in two or three different ways. Our not hearing the song at Avakubi might be due to the molt taking place at that time. One more trogon collected at Bafwaboka. Our first wood-hoopoe, but apparently an immature example was taken near a native village at a short distance from the post. The long-tailed flycatcher was common, as many as three sometimes being heard at one time. Several large resplendent starlings were observed and collected, and a new small wedge-tailed starling, with yellow irises, that wandered about in flocks of as many as thirty. In the forest along the road to the northward of the post stood a high tree, bearing a small fruit that attracted numbers of small resplendent starlings like those seen on Dec. 8 near Mongalula. Dr. Rosati also brought back one skin of this bird from Makala, but I saw none at Avakubi. A gray-backed shrike with rather long tail, and stout bill, was collected, and two grayish ones with brown wings and black lines on the head were seen in the brush close to Mr. Rouiller's house. One new sun-bird, with gray breast, green back, iridescent head

and light yellow patches beneath its wings was shot in some papaya trees, and a small yellow-breasted finch, like one seen but not collected at Leopoldville, were also among the additions in Bafwaboka. Several of the pretty blue swallows, with white throat spot, were observed at this place, as they almost always are near a river. One was shot as it sat on the ground near the houses. The red-crested weaver was again secured here, as were the black weaver with red crown, the black weaver with red breast and blue-gray bill, and the black and red weaver with opalescent blue and red beak. The small black-headed weavers with brown back and blue-gray mandible, were seen feeding together with their black-backed relatives with the beak wholly blue-gray. Another specimen of the small blue-wattled flycatcher first taken at N'Gayu, was shot here on Jan. 2. there were two rival (?) males in some bushes along the road in the forest. their wings, as they chased each other about, made flapping noises sufficient for birds many times their size, and the din was increased by snapping noises produced perhaps with the beak. Several electric cat-fish were brought by a Negro at Bafwaboka. He held them at a safe distance, and all the natives seemed to appreciate their galvanic abilities. One gave Mr. Lang a shock. Every night the toads could be heard croaking down in the river; the noise, and I suppose, the toad were the same as in Avakubi and Stanleyville.

DATE: 1/10/1910 (Monday)

LOCALITY: We left Bafwaboka about 9:30 this morning.

But Before going I saw one of the beautiful cuckoos (*Chrysococcyx*) with green head and back, and yellow belly. This bird we heard on the way from Stanleyville to Avakubi, as well as in Avakubi, where our only specimen, a female, was secured. The small *Chrysococcyx* (s. no. 441), I forgot to mention, has also been heard two or three times at Bafwaboka. The day was clear and Mr. Rouiller accompanied us on his mule, as far as the Malika, where his territory ended; and Mr. DeBecker, who had come to Bafwaboka with porters for us, was also there with an escort of soldiers. A short way from Bafwaboka I saw three red-throated bee-eaters, but with brown backs, a species new to us, and shot one of them. A small resplendent starling, and a female red-wattled flycatcher were also secured on the road. We reached the rest house at Wanseane about 3pm. Hereabouts there are many tall oil palms, and lots of grass, from 7 to 10 feet high, but little forest. Late in the afternoon a kestrel was shot, that had eaten a lizard.

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DATE: 1/11/1910 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Left Wanseane, with Mr. DeBecker ("Mandefu") and his soldiers, about 8am.

Reached Ibambi between two and three p.m

Passed thru a little forest, lots of cultivated land and villages, and some high grass country, in which, by the way, Ibambi is situated. The short-grass plain, it is said, begins two days (about 12 hours at most) to the north. Ibambi possesses two fine new "gites", built largely of palm wood, and thatched with grass. Several interesting birds were taken today. One of these was a black weaver with red crown and nape, of which we had previously only a single specimen (no. 386) from Avakubi. Today's example was climbing around the bark of a high tree. Another was the black weaver with gray back, first collected at N'Gayu (no. 541). Three were seen today, all about oil palms. Two small gray warblers with brown crowns, a bird first seen at Avakubi on Sept. 30, 1909,

were shot in some low trees, four or five of them being seen together. A gray warbler with white throat, one specimen of which was shot in Leopoldville, and which was seen in Stanleyville, was collected in some low bushes close to the road. At Ibambi I got a small green bee-eater, very similar to, if not the same, as the one seen from Leopoldville to Kwamouth last July. One kite and a large gray hawk seen at Ibambi. Dongo shot a herpestes. Two Goliath beetles in the top of a small tree.

DATE: 1/12/1910 (Wednesday)

LOCALITY: Ibambi to Banda, 9am to 3pm.

Mr. DeBecker left us about noon. Country traversed much the same as yesterday. Early this morning Mr. Lang shot another of the gray-breasted sun-birds, with iridescent green head, which we first obtained at Bafwaboka. Two black-backed shrikes, and a large green bee-eater, were also collected today.

DATE: 1/13/1910 (Thursday)

LOCALITY: Banda to Medje, 9am to 2pm.

The whole way thru forest, with an enormous number of bridges. Dongo shot two wood-hoopoes, which exhibited the same peculiarity as the first one of keeping the mouth stiffly open after death. A gray backed warbler with white breast and white outer tail feathers, and a gray one with brown crown were collected in some low trees, of the latter there was as usual a little family flock. The post of Medje stands upon a large hill, with a wide straight road leading up to it from the west. Along this are gardens and rice-fields; and as one climbs the hill he sees only the large drying house for the rubber, and a few palms. As these are neared the whole post comes suddenly into view, spread out on the rather level summit of the hill. The houses and magazines are of brick, white-washed, and thatched with grass, and possess the interest of having been built, and extremely well built, by Ericson, the man who procured the first skins of the okapi. Here we were welcomed by Lieutenant Boyton, whom we had already met in Avakubi, and a house on the south-eastern side of the square was assigned to us. Mr. Lang had often said he would like to see how the forest looked from above, and here his wishes were fulfilled, for one can look off over the tree-tops, the monotony of which is only broken by the unevenness of the country and the intermingling of a few palms. In the evening all this is frequently covered with a blanket of fog, only the tops of the hills projecting above it, and with the aid of a little imagination one can picture himself on the bank of a wide river. Three kites were seen at Medje this afternoon.

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DATE: 1/14/1910 (Friday) to 1/24

LOCALITY: Medje.

The larger mammals collected at Medje offered no great interest. There was the common brown antelope with black-striped back, one chevrotain, one young red pig, which Mr. Boyton had been fattening, and one Herpestes. A few Pottos, Genets, Pangolins and a Hyrax almost completed the list. During the latter part of our stay, however, small mammals, of unusual interest, came thick and fast. Mr. Lang was already busy buying a collection of ethnological objects from the Mangbetu,

and his hands were now completely filled. Among the additional species of rats secured was the huge one of which we had heard from Mr. DeBecker. The natives in his vicinity, he said, caught them in great numbers and smoked them. Three specimens were brought to us, the largest 82cm. in length. Dormice came in goodly numbers, and squirrels too. Of the latter we secured two examples of a new yellow-bellied, unstriped species, of medium size, which were brought by a native woman the day before we left. But the great specialty of the natives here was flying squirrels, which, according to their own accounts, confirmed by many singed specimens were smoked out of hollow trees. In addition to the one obtained at N'Gayu, they brought a much larger kind, of about the same structure, and a tiny, brawnier form, whose tail is relatively much longer, and has the hair on it arranged in longitudinal lines, while the scales on its under side are small, and continue down most of its length. The first specimen of this fascinating little beast was delivered on Jan. 21st; but three days later a man appeared with seventeen of them stowed away in his pockets. He was no fool, nevertheless, and at first took out only a few of them, evidently to see how large a "matabish" he would receive. I would be inclined to judge from this that large numbers are sometimes contained in one tree. About this the native was questioned, but he answered only with the exasperating "mm-m" that the blacks here use so much. At least three different shrews were collected, the smaller ones being captured by soldiers at work on a plantation. During the last couple of days we were in Medje we got three Potamogales, one of them alive. This one was allowed to swim about in a tank of water, and ate a shrimp. In swimming it was propelled by its tail, tho the fore-legs were often used to push away from the side of the tank. It did not appear to love the water, for it was always trying to climb out, and its fur quickly became wet thru. On the ground it walked leisurely, but was unexpectedly quick at biting sticks placed near it. Large bats, like no. 237, etc., were very common here, coming out in numbers at dusk. Four specimens were shot. A new species, of medium size, with thick lips and toes, and the tail projecting out behind the interfemoral membrane (no. 509 and 620) was secured thru the natives. Three small brownish lemurs were warmly welcomed; but only a single monkey, one of the common red-tailed *Cercopithecus* was collected. Not quite 100 birds were collected at Medje, and only nine species new to the collection were secured. Among these were a palm swift, 2 barbets, a swallow (*Riparia*), a woodpecker and a white-eye (*Zosterops*). Kites were common at this place, and at times, as already stated, three might be seen at once. Five were shot; of these, three had palm nut pulp, and the fourth a palm nut stone, in their stomachs; the stomach of the other one was empty. One had also eaten fish, another a frog or toad, and a third a young weaver (?) bird. A kestrel and one of the common gray hawks were the only other birds of prey secured. Very often, late in the afternoon, a partridge could be heard giving its shrill calls something like "kek, k-r-r-r-r" repeated again and again. One female (no. 836) our second specimen, was brought us by natives. A coucal used to call from the brush opposite our house, the ordinary yellow-billed roller could frequently be heard giving its harsh cries, and the bee-eater with bluish tail and dusky crown came continually in flocks. Dongo shot four of the small green-backed bee-eaters, like that taken on Jan. 11th at Ibambi. Their plumage was soiled with red clay, and they were probably breeding somewhere. Two *Melittophagus gularis* shot. Colies very common. Down the hill to the southward a solitary owl could sometimes be heard late at night, giving a single loud "whoo". Fork-tailed swifts (Palm Swifts) were occasionally seen flying about over the post, and on the 16th a pair of them was secured, our first specimens. When we arrived at Banana, in the afternoon of June 22, 1909, large numbers of small, dark, fork-tailed swifts were circling about over the palm-covered point. At Leopoldville a similar bird was in evidence; and at

Stanleyville they were frequently to be seen in twos and threes close to the houses and palm-lined roads. During our stay in Avakubi they were several times noticed flying over (perhaps a different species), usually at a considerable height and with great speed, especially in the late afternoon. At N'Gayu, where the square-tailed swifts (*Chaetura*) were common, only two or three of the fork-tailed kind came to our notice. On the road from that village to Medje a few solitary specimens were observed over the forest and in native plantations. Three young ones, taken from nests in oil palms, were later brought us by the blacks. It appears that there are two to a nest. In these young ones, the curious feet could be seen to advantage, two of the toes going to each side, an arrangement that reminds one slightly of a chameleon. The large white-rumped swift was occasionally seen, and a pair shot on Jan. 19th. The ordinary blue-gray and black kingfisher was present, as usual, and Dongo brought in one example of the brown-headed Halcyon. He also got two trogons, but too badly mutilated to skin. The new woodpecker obtained here has the breast streaked, the crown black, and the nape red. The eye is dark red. One of the new barbets is black above, with white lines on the head and yellow spots on the back. Below it is greenish, spotted with black. The other is a black-backed affair with rather long tail and yellow bill. Nos. 850-7 are dirty brown barbets brought alive by blacks. Some of these birds can almost always be seen in the top of a high tree on the road leading up the hill to the post from the east. A peculiar thing about this bird is that the iris appears to be yellow in the females, and light brown in the males, quite the opposite from what one would expect. On Jan. 24th half a dozen wood-hoopoes were seen on a dead tree near Lieutenant Boyton's house. They made a chattering noise, and while perching, moved the tail up and down. But they also climbed up the branches like woodpeckers, using their tails in the same way. Nothing very striking was found in passerine birds. The black and white wagtail occurred in abundance, and had young. The long-tailed and red-wattled flycatchers were present, and Dongo got us a female brown-backed flycatcher, with crested head and yellow iris, perhaps the same as no. 34 from Leopoldville. One of our additions was an orange-throated warbler (?) trapped by the natives. Another was a white-eye (*Zosterops*), shot in a low bushy tree, where three of them were hopping around on the smaller branch in a rather leisurely manner, feeding on some small green fruit, but not making any noise. They reminded me a little of our yellow warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) but were less active, and in this respect more like Vireos. The small brown-breasted swallow was very abundant, coming in under the eaves of the houses at dusk to roost. Numbers of them were caught by the blacks. The large brown-rumped swallow was also common, and on Jan. 20th five or six *Riparias* were seen. One of them was shot and found to have the little tuft of feathers on the foot like *R. riparia*. At Boma, Noki, and Leopoldville swallows of this genus were seen in large flocks, but a specimen (preserved with formalin) presented to us by an officer at Irebu lacked the feathers on the feet. On the 22nd and 23rd two bank (?) swallows were again noticed. Besides the gray-backed shrikes collected, one of the brownish species with black streaks on the head, such as I saw in Bafwaboka, was observed in some brush on Jan. 24th. Among the sun-birds and weavers nothing of special interest was noted. (The day we left {Jan. 25} I saw a flock of 5 or 6 of the pink-billed weavers with brown backs and finely barred breasts, that were common in Avakubi, but up to this time, had not been seen since). Just across from our house the small yellow-breasted finch was rather common. In the way of reptiles and batrachians Medje furnished very little. Some of the common turtles with jointed carapace, as well as a water turtles, of dusky color, from the Nava, were brought by natives, as well as two large horn-less chameleons, of which they were terribly afraid, and several large lizards, the males of which were light yellowish green on the head, with some reddish on the throat, the body dark bluish, and the further part of the tail

yellow or reddish. They are not unlike the blue-headed lizard in Avakubi; perhaps the scales on the back of the head are more spiny. As to Ichthyology, we took only two small specimens. Besides these the native women brought earthen pots, very often, filled with live fish, all of the same kind, a smallish, mud-colored affair, with large depressed head, and sharp spines in its pectoral fins. Of these we already had enough, so we ate a few, and our boys devoured the rest. This is the main food-fish among the natives hereabouts, and is usually seen smoked and curled up, with a wooden skewer to hold the head and tail together.

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DATE: 1/25/1910 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Left Medje a little before noon for Banda to the southward, a village whose inhabitants, from what we learned from Lieutenant Boyton, are accustomed to take the okapi in traps alive.

Massikini, a Mangbetu chief from near Medje, reports that three have been taken thus since Boyton came to Medje (about a year). Mr. Boyton adds that Ericson told him he knew of no better locality for this beast than here. Most of the country along this road is undulating, with the usual sort of forest, and often mud or water, in the hollows. There are a few open spots with high grass, perhaps abandoned village sites. A few bits of old dry buffalo dung were noticed. Somewhere about three o'clock we reached a very small native village, with a few huts, a "barazas" to shelter a huge pot for banana wine, and another to mark the grave of a dead chief. After a short rest we pushed on to Banda's place, where we pitched our tents and arranged everything before sundown. This settlement is a large scattered affair, with small houses walled with leaves and bark, many trees and bushes, and numerous "barazas", one of which we decided to make our workshop. No birds were shot, and few seen. One large gray pigeon was heard, and a small black and white (wattled) flycatcher seen.

DATE: 1/26/1910 (Wednesday)

This morning I walked about the village a little, and shot some birds, among them three or four new to the collection. One of these was the brownish shrike, with black lines on the head, already noted at Bafwaboka and Medje. Another was a small greenish woodpecker, and a third a brownish warbler, with a peculiar excited song, that was heard in Bafwaboka, and many times since. Two small light blue birds were also seen, flitting from tree to tree, but too fast for me to catch up. [See Mar. 14, 1910]. This we certainly have not yet collected (*Elminia longicauda*). Banda, the chief, was not in evidence yesterday afternoon, but came this morning. He is a huge, strong fellow, with his berry basket hat covered with a bunch of chicken feathers, and a piece of dark blue cloth about his middle, where his people usually wear their bark-cloth (*malumba*). He informed us that the okapi hunting was done on the other side of the Nepoko, this stream itself being some two hours distant, so we decided to make our headquarters in a Bangwana village nearer the scene of action. Of okapis we heard considerable. It was said that one had been captured only about 10 days before, and some pieces of what purported to be its smoked flesh were even brought to us, while Banda promised to procure the skin of its four legs for us.

DATE: 1/27/1910

LOCALITY: This morning, then, we left Banda's place and reached the Nepoko some time before noon.

The road is wet, and almost entirely in the forest, with elephant tracks, fairly numerous and pretty fresh, along almost the whole way. The Nepoko, where we struck it, has an island in its middle, and the village of Gamangui (as it appears on our map) is situated on the far side, a little back from the river, and somewhat higher. On the island are some buildings, too, including a guest-house; but as the water, not so very long ago, rose completely over this island, it is not fit for permanent habitation, now, however, the water was so low that our porters could walk over to the island, tho their loads were taken in a canoe. Many rough gray rocks appeared above the surface, and on these were not a few gray pratincoles. As I sat on the shore of the island, waiting for the canoe, I watched these birds thru my glass, and was fortunate enough to discover one sitting on its eggs. Both sexes incubate, for one was seen to relieve the other at this task, and

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the bird, which was not on the eggs stood guard on some neighboring stones. The only note heard was a dry "kik-kik-kik...", not audible at more than about a hundred yard's distance, which was uttered by both sexes. Four or five other pairs were noticed in the same portion of the river. In the afternoon their two eggs, of a greenish white ground color, thickly blotched with greenish brown were collected. They had been deposited in a slight depression on the top of a large rock, with absolutely no attempt at a nest. The male was shot just after being frightened off the eggs. Both birds showed considerable anxiety about their eggs, returning to them several times while we were in the vicinity. A small gray heron (*Butorides*) was also shot on the rocks. It was our first specimen, tho a few were seen from the steamer in ascending the Congo. Gamangui proved to be a rather small village, built on a hillside, with a small annex on each side. All around were plantations of bananas, manioc, and rice, the latter in a ragged-looking state, tho they appeared to produce considerable. One of the curious features of the villages was the houses for storing the rice. [See drawing]. The grain was stored in the little loft above, while the open space below was used sometimes for work, or exceptionally, as a dwelling. One of these became our laboratory.

DATE: 1/28/1910 (Friday)

LOCALITY: Gamangui.

A large gray heron (no. 900) was shot in a tree on the upper end of the island this afternoon, and found to have eaten one of the common short-tailed brown rats, and two grasshoppers. A pair of *Glareolas* were collected on some nearby stones, but no eggs of this species were found. Dongo shot two more trogons.

DATE: 1/29/1910 to 1/31

LOCALITY: Gamangui.

The most interesting birds secured during this time were a black and white hornbill, with the outer tail-feathers wholly white (no. 908), a bittern (*Tigrornis leucolophus*) (no. 926) and a large red-breasted rail (no. 927). The first named resembles the common black and white hornbill, but is

smaller, and has more white in both wings and tail. I once thought I saw such a bird from the steamer in coming up the Congo. The rail was trapped by our porters.

DATE: 2/1/1910 (Tuesday)

LOCALITY: Gamangui.

Two black and white hornbills (s. no. 908) were seen flying over the village this morning. This afternoon the partridges were very noisy, so Dongo was put on their track and shot a male. The shrill cries of these birds are first heard a little before daybreak, and less often in the late afternoon. A new black and yellow barbet (no. 930) of medium size with red crown was secured today, and a pangolin, of the only species thus far collected.

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DATE: 2/2 to 4, 1910

LOCALITY: Gamangui.

On the 2nd a beautiful blue-headed sun-bird (no. 936) (*Anthreptes aurantius*) with orange patches beneath its wings, and its mate, a duller colored bird with a light superciliary line, were collected in some bushes on the island in the river. They had both eaten some orange-colored fruit. It seems as tho the shorter-billed sun-birds habitually eat small fruits, while the longer-billed forms live on insects. With the possible exception of no. 52, a female, these are our first specimens. One of the large black hornbills with blue wattle on the neck was brought in by our hunters; and the porters trapped a dove (*Calopelia brehmeri*) not yet represented in our collection, tho one was seen from the steamer last July, flying over the Congo. Every afternoon numbers of a swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) alight on the leafless trees near the house where we work. On the 4th I walked out a short distance on the Bomili road. In the rice-fields behind the village were flocks of small black-backed weavers with blue-gray beaks (s. nos. 951-2). One of the little brown swallow-billed flycatchers (no. 956) was shot there too. This is a common bird, usually seen perched on a dead branch anywhere from 20ft above the ground to the tops of the highest trees, whence it darts out to secure its insect prey, generally returning to the same perch, and sitting there a while motionless save for the occasional raising and lowering of the tail. A small black and white flycatcher (*Batis ituriensis*) (no. 957) was shot near the edge of the plantations. A large green and black barbet (no. 950) was shot in the forest where it was clinging to the under side of a slanting dead branch in a "parasolier" and hammering away at the wood just like a woodpecker. This is our second specimen; the iris is red, and the feathers of the breast have curious long hair-like tips. A peculiar bird (no. 954) like the two Mr. Lang shot on Sept. 27, 1909, with red bill and feet was also secured in the forest, as was a plantain-eater (*Corythaëola*). The latter is a common and characteristic bird about Medje and Gamangui, keeping usually to the higher trees, where it hops from branch to branch or runs along the larger limbs in true monkey-fashion. Five or six are usually seen together, and in flying from one tree to the next, if not alarmed, they proceed in a very leisurely manner, leaving one at a time, with a very stately flight, from two to six flaps of the wings being followed by a short sail on outspread pinions, the separate tips of all the primaries showing distinctly. The crest is lowered in flight, but usually erect at all other times. Two common calls are a very rapidly uttered "cow-cow-cow-cow.." and a rolling "coo-o-o-o-o". Tho I have never been able to see how a live individual holds its toes, freshly killed ones always have three of them pointing forwards, as is also the case

with the smaller plantain-eater here. Our porters trapped a partridge, a guinea fowl (*Guttera*) and some smaller birds today (Feb. 4). On the 4th Kiparanga got us another kind of pangolin, of a lighter brown on the back and blackish below. He saw it in a high tree, shot at it with a shotgun, and evidently scared it so that it lost its hold and fell to the ground. At any rate he brought it back triumphantly, without a shot-mark on its body. Gamangui is the worst place for flies we have struck yet. Up in the village one is continually being investigated by large, loud-buzzing tabanids, some black, and some brown and gray, whose bite is very painful, while down on the river both these and tsetse's swarm, and the canoe is adorned by the dead bodies of many that have been slapped by the blacks on their bare legs. Banda has brought us the skin of four legs of an okapi. Each one of these, he says, is sufficient to buy a wife.

DATE: 2/5/1910 (Saturday)

LOCALITY: Gamangui.

This morning I shot a gray parrot, one of a pair that lit in a high dead tree. Tho this is but our second specimen, the gray parrot has been common all the way from Leopoldville. Ordinarily it is simply seen flying over in pairs, or in noisy flocks of as many as 15 or 20, whose unpleasant screeches are constantly interrupted by clear whistles. Less often they may be seen feeding or

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perching in trees, but usually far from the ground, and often out of shotgun range. Nearly every post in this region has six or a dozen captive ones, mostly young and unable to speak at all, which are fed on palm nuts. The green parrot, of which we already have two from Gamangui, has similar habits, but even less pleasing cries, and is less common. Our porters brought in 4 francolins (nos. 965-8) and a number of smaller birds. Of the latter the species most commonly caught are the orange-throated warbler (*Stiphornis*), a thrush-like bird, with hooked bill, and a slight crest, brown above, and grayish white below, and two larger, yellow-breasts affairs *Bleda* with shrike-like bills, and olive backs, one with a reddish-brown tail, the other with the tail greenish. The boys are rewarded with a little salt or some brass nails, and are busy now making more traps. They also catch interesting rats in their traps.

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