

Article III.—FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO.

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This second preliminary paper on the ornithological results of the Congo Expedition of the American Museum, under the leadership of Mr. Herbert Lang, consists of descriptions of four new species of birds from the Ituri and Upper Uele Districts of the Belgian Congo.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. E. A. Mearns of the U. S. National Museum for his kindness in examining specimens of two of these forms.

***Stilbopsar leucothorax* sp. nov.**

Type.—Collector's No. 4891, Congo Expedition Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad., Pawa, in the Mabudu country of the northern Ituri District, Belgian Congo, July 15, 1913.

General characters.—Referred provisionally to the genus *Stilbopsar*, although not very closely allied to the two species already known, being much larger, without rufous on the primaries in either sex, and the adult male with a large white breast-band.

Adult Male (type).—Plumage entirely glossy black, excepting a pure white band, nearly an inch wide, crossing the breast and running well up on the sides of the neck. The reflections on the remiges and greater wing-coverts are deep delft-blue¹; but those on the head, back, and elsewhere dark bluish violet, even on the sides, abdomen, and under wing and tail-coverts, though the rectrices seem to have lost most of their luster through wear. This gloss, it should be stated, is not to be compared with that commonly displayed by members of the genus *Lamprocolius*, but is very much duller, and instead bears a strong resemblance to that of many Crows. Both remiges and rectrices viewed from beneath appear dull black.

Iris deep cadmium-yellow; bill black; feet black, a little yellowish on soles.

The nostril is rounded, and resembles that of *Poeoptera lugubris* (the nearest relative available for comparison), but the bill is far stouter, and the gonys straight. Indeed, in general outline it agrees well with that of the female of *Stilbopsar kenricki* figured by Mr. Grönvold in Captain Shelly's Birds of Africa, Vol. V, pl. xlix. Rictal bristles are present, but not conspicuous. Wing pointed, its tip extending 30.5 mm. beyond the longest secondary. Outermost primary exceeds primary coverts by 1.5 mm.; 8th primary longest, but very nearly equalled by 7th and 9th. Tail rounded, outer feathers 15.5 mm. shorter than the median. Feet like those of *Poeoptera* in form.

Length (skin) 218 mm.; wing, 128; tail, 94; bill (exposed culmen), 16; depth at nostril, 6; width at nostril 7; metatarsus, 25; middle toe and claw, 25.

¹ Colors named according to Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Nomenclature.'

Adult Female (No. 4892, Pawa, July 15, 1913).—Wings, rump, upper tail-coverts, and rectrices glossy black like those of male, but crown and back fuscous-black, with scattered violet feathers. General color below, from throat to abdomen, hair-brown; but freshly molted feathers slightly glossy, deep mouse-gray, with paler tips. Under tail-coverts darker, with blue sheen and gray edgings. Iris cadmium-yellow, bill and feet black.

Length (skin), 200 mm.; wing, 117; tail, 83; exposed culmen, 16; metatarsus, 22.5; middle toe and claw, 23.

Immature Female (No. 4893).—Resembles adult female, but wings and tail much less glossy. There are some violet feathers appearing, however, on the back and nape.

Wing, 113; tail, 69; bill (exposed culmen), 15.5 mm.

Remarks.—These three birds, shot from a flock frequenting tall trees, had been feeding on berries and other fruit. The species was never met with again.

***Paludipasser uelensis* sp. nov.**

Type.—Collector's No. 4482, Congo Expedition, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad. Faradje, Upper Uele District, Jan. 18, 1913.

General characters.—This species is apparently referable to the genus recently founded by Mr. S. A. Neave on two young birds from Lake Bangweolo (Bull. B. O. C., XXV, p. 25); the resemblance is especially striking in the thick bill, with compressed maxilla and the culmen continuing back on the forehead. In our examples the metatarsus is decidedly longer than in the Waxbills, to which it seems related, and the hind claw but slightly curved and unusually long, evidently in connection with terrestrial habits. In his description Mr. Neave does not mention the feet, but in the figure (Ibis, 1910, pl. iii) the metatarsus is of the same length as ours and there is an indication of a long hind claw. The muscular part of the legs—I noticed in skinning—is exceedingly well-developed, and stouter than in any other member of the subfamily *Estreldinæ* I have examined.

One of our specimens has been examined by Dr. E. A. Mearns, who agrees with me that it is probably closest to the genus *Paludipasser*.

Although the adult plumage of *P. locustella* is still unknown, I believe we are justified in describing the present adult specimens, so different in color, under a new specific name, especially in view of the enormous distance (14 degrees of latitude) separating the two localities.

Adult Male (type).—Forehead, lores, superciliary region, and ear-coverts nopal-red, shading to scarlet on throat and upper breast. Crown, nape, back, and rump fuscous, feathers of crown and nape with black centers; lateral tail-coverts broadly tipped with scarlet but the long median pair wholly fuscous. Tail rounded; rectrices fuscous-black, all but the median pair more or less bordered externally with scarlet. Lesser and middle wing-coverts scarlet; greater wing-coverts fuscous, broadly edged with scarlet; remiges fuscous, shading to dirty whitish on inner edge and all but the inner secondaries and the 9th and 10th primaries with a scarlet edge on the outer web, the 9th primary being margined with very pale brown; 10th primary very narrow and pointed, reaching slightly beyond the primary coverts; 7th and 8th primaries longest, but sometimes equalled by the 9th; longest secondary



Fig. 1. *Stilbopsar leucothorax*, Male and Female. One-half natural size.

reaching almost to tip of wing, under wing-coverts whitish. Lower breast and sides fuscous-black, belly slightly lighter, but under tail-coverts blackish, the longer ones narrowly tipped with whitish.

Iris yellow; maxilla mostly blackish, but its lower edge, as well as whole mandible bright red; feet brown.

Length (skin), 82 mm.; wing, 43; tail, 29 (outer feathers 5.5 shorter); bill

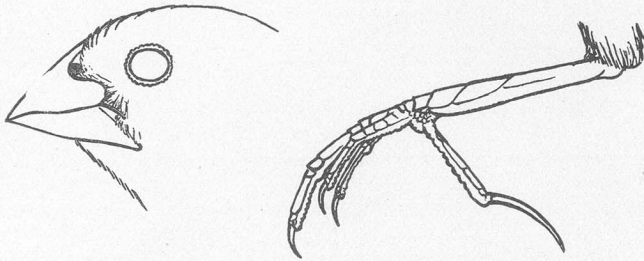


Fig. 2. *Paludipasser uelensis*. Twice natural size.

(culmen to base), 8.8; depth of bill (from base of culmen to posterior corner of mandible), 8.5; metatarsus, 14; hind toe with claw, 13; claw, 6.5.

Other specimens of this sex are sometimes bordered with whitish on the feathers of the abdomen and the innermost secondaries.

Adult Female (No. 4484, Faradje, Jan. 18, 1913).—No red on forehead, cheeks, or breast. Forehead fuscous; crown, back, wings, tail-coverts, and tail very similar to those of male, but outermost pair of rectrices with narrow white tips. Lores and a faint superciliary line whitish; cheeks and ear-coverts fuscous; throat, breast, and abdomen soiled white. Under tail-coverts blackish, longer ones narrowly tipped with whitish. Colors of eyes, bill, and feet of female same as those of male.

Length (skin), 82 mm.; wing, 44; tail, 30; bill, 9; metatarsus, 14.

Measurements of nine males.—Wing, 42–44; tail, 28–30; bill (culmen to base), 8.7–9.

Measurements of three females.—Wing, 42–44; tail, 27.5–30; bill (culmen to base), 9.

Remarks.—Low marshy spots, which have dried up and been burned over in the rainless season, seem to be the favored haunts of these silent little birds. They are by no means common, but associate in companies of three to fifteen, feeding on the ground amid the burned tussocks and long charred grass stalks, rising with a faint whir of wings only when approached very closely, and then flying off in a body, frequently to a distance of fifty or a hundred yards before alighting again. On two occasions they were also found on higher ground in old fields, but never perched on bushes or even on the grass. As they were always invisible when on the ground, specimens could only be secured on the wing. Though steady and direct, the flight is not rapid; and no notes were ever heard. Their food consists of tiny seeds; and during two successive years the species was observed in this region (Niangara, Faradje, Garamba) from January 18th to June 20th.

Malimbus flavipes sp. nov.

Type.—Collector's No. 5067, Congo Expedition Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♀ ad. (breeding), Avakubi, Ituri District, Belgian Congo, Sept. 20, 1913.

General characters.—Referred to the genus *Malimbus* mainly on account of its wholly black plumage and the general form of the bill, but the nostril much larger than that of any other species of *Malimbus*, *Melanopteryx*, or *Cinnamopteryx* known to the writer, measuring 3 mm. in length by 2 mm. in width, and exposing a conspicuous turbinal structure.

Description of Type (adult female).—Entirely black, with the exception of blackish brown under tail-coverts, and the inner edges of remiges shading to gray.

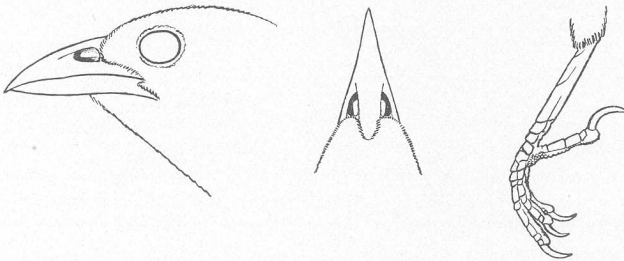


Fig. 3. *Malimbus flavipes*. Natural size.

Bases of body feathers gray; plumage decidedly glossy, especially on breast, crown, and back, feathers of nape with a rather ruffled aspect. Outermost (10th) primary exceeding primary coverts by 6 mm., 8th primary longest, 9th primary equal to the 5th. Tail square. Iris light yellow; bill black; feet rather dull light yellow.

Measurements.—Length of skin, 125 mm.; wing, 76; tail, 42; bill (culmen to base), 18; metatarsus, 18.5.

Remarks.—Only this single specimen secured, in the forest. Stomach contents, small caterpillars.

Avakubi is the type-locality of *Malimbus gracilirostris* Reichenow, which has proved to be the female of *M. coronatus*. We collected in all, in this region, four pure black Weaver Birds, the two others being *Melanopteryx maxwelli*, hitherto known only from Fernando Po and the Kamerun, and the widely distributed *Melanopteryx nigerrimus*.

Bradypterus carpalis sp. nov.

Type.—Collector's No. 4531, Congo Expedition, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂ ad., Faradje, Upper Uele District, Belgian Congo, Feb. 21, 1913.

General characters.—In color somewhat resembling *B. batæculus*, but larger, with lesser wing-coverts white, and tail with only 10 rectrices (*B. batæculus*, accord-

ing to Ogilvie-Grant, has 12). These are rather broad, without pointed tips or decomposed webs. Dr. E. A. Mearns has very kindly compared one of our specimens with *Bradypterus babæculus fraterculus* and three other species of the genus in the U. S. National Museum, and assures me of its specific, perhaps even generic, distinctness.

Adult Male (type).—General color of upperparts, including wings and tail, mummy-brown, crown and forehead slightly darker. Lesser wing-coverts white, with concealed fuscous-black bases; middle coverts fuscous tipped with whitish, greater coverts fuscous bordered on the outer web with lighter brown. Most of the remiges brownish white on the inner edge. A faint superciliary line starting from

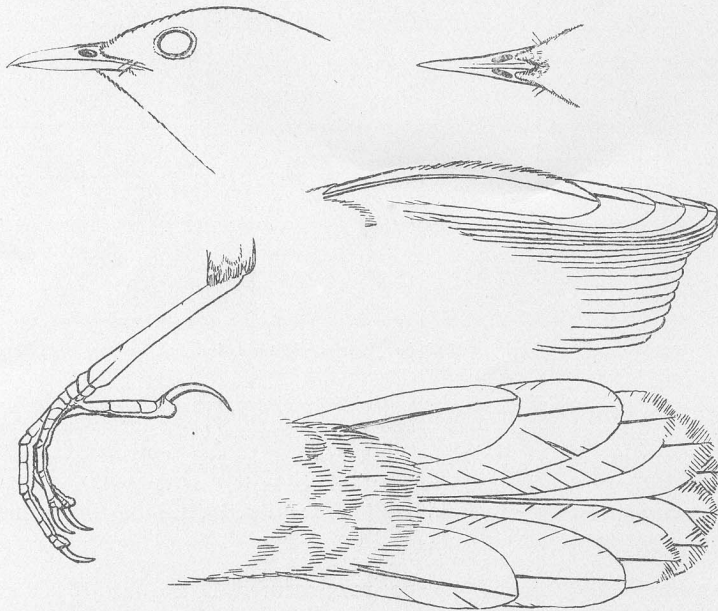


Fig. 4. *Bradypterus carpalis*. Natural size.

near the nostril is whitish; ear-coverts, cheeks and lores mostly fuscous, but with fine whitish shaft-streaks. Chin, throat, middle of breast and abdomen white, slightly soiled (no grayish breast-band), but throat and upper breast heavily marked with large, roughly triangular spots of blackish brown. Sides of breast and flanks hair-brown; under tail-coverts chestnut-drab with broad white tips. Under wing-coverts white.

Outermost (10th) primary about $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as 9th, 4th to 6th longest; tail very much rounded, outermost feathers 26 mm. shorter than median.

Length (skin) 165 mm.; wing, 71; tail, 75; bill (culmen to base), 17; exposed culmen, 15; metatarsus, 28; middle toe and claw, 26.5.

Iris dark brown; bill mostly black, but bluish gray beneath mandible; feet brownish.

Adult Female (No. 3204, Faradje, Sept. 11, 1911). Very similar in color to male, but tips of middle wing-coverts and under tail-coverts a little browner. Smaller; wing, 67; tail, 67; bill (culmen to base), 16.5; metatarsus, 26; middle toe and claw, 25.

Remarks.— During the rainy season, in the papyrus-swamps of the region about Faradje, the loud guttural notes of a brown reed-warbler of the genus *Calamocichla* are heard on all sides, particularly in the early morning, mingling with the calls of many other birds, Warblers, Weavers, and even Rails; but probably the most puzzling sound is a succession of chirping notes, of peculiar resonant quality, which start slowly, then quickening and dying gradually away, often to be followed by four or five loud explosive wing-beats. The authors are exceedingly difficult to observe, keeping always under cover of the papyrus, which may be fifteen feet high, and retiring in silence at the first alarm to the lower tangle of old dry papyrus, saw-grass and other vegetation which often fills such swamps waist-high.

It required many an hour of hot and tedious effort, wading, breaking pathways, and waiting motionless, before I could finally ascertain that these noises were made by two species of *Bradypterus*; the louder ones, audible often to a distance of several hundred yards, by the present species; and similar but lower ones by a smaller, lighter-colored form of the *B. brachypterus* group. Neither bird was ever observed away from the papyrus, and of the larger form, the subject of the present description, only five specimens in all could be secured; some of them being shot at a distance of only four yards as they stole about in the dense vegetation. Though less often heard in the dry season, they are nevertheless resident in these swamps throughout the year, and apparently breed toward the month of September.

Dasylabris verticalis Bischoff

Dasylabris verticalis BISCHOFF, 1921, Arch. f. Naturgesch., LXXXVI, Abt. A, 4, p. 645 (♀), Pl. I, fig. 36.

TYPE LOCALITY.—“Congo” (without more definite locality or collector).

BELGIAN CONGO.—Lualaba River, 2,500–4,000 ft. (Neave); Baraka (R. Mayné); Lusindoi (L. Burgeon).

STENOMUTILLA André

MALES

1. Second sternite with a depressed, posterior, median area, margined by carinae or ridges and extending to its basal third. 2.
Depression of second sternite short, not extending beyond the apical third and not or very weakly margined by ridges. First sternite with a weak, unarmed, longitudinal carina. Clypeus not longitudinally furrowed in its middle. 4.
2. First sternite with a strong, irregularly serrulate carina, its posterior portion lamellate. Depression of second sternite weak, margined by long, convergent, straight ridges which meet in an obtuse angle. Upper portion of clypeus not longitudinally furrowed. Thorax partly red; propodeum and legs black. First, second, and third tergites with an apical band of white tomentum. *clélia* (Péringuey).
Carina of first sternite much lower, evenly and broadly curved inwardly over its entire length, with weak anterior and posterior edges. Clypeus with a deep longitudinal furrow. Thorax entirely black. First and second tergites with an apical band of white tomentum. 3.
3. Ridges bordering the depression of the second sternite long and well-defined, converging toward the middle of the basal third of the segment, where they are sharply raised and curved anteriorly to meet at a sharp angle; the whole forming a short brace. Of more compact build; the second tergite broad, slightly broader than long. Coxae and femora of middle and hind legs mahogany red. *congoana* Bischoff.
Ridges bordering the depression of the second sternite moderately strong behind, rather suddenly raised on the basal third near the middle as sharp, triangular carinae, the whole not forming a brace-like figure. More slender; second tergite slightly longer than broad. Legs entirely black. *atra* Bischoff.
4. Sculpture of second tergite consisting of elongate, aciculate punctures; the surface almost longitudinally striate. First segment distinctly narrowed in its basal third into a petiole. Pronotum, mesonotum, and scutellum at least partly mahogany red. *carinulata* Bischoff.
Sculpture of second tergite not aciculate, consisting of reticulate punctures, which on the middle are much shallower and less dense. First segment shortly petiolate. Thorax entirely black. *bischoffi* Bradley and Bequaert.

FEMALES

1. Thorax red. 2.
Thorax black. 3.
2. Two last tergites with white pubescence. Clypeus with a superior, transverse, raised tubercle. *albicaudata* Bischoff.