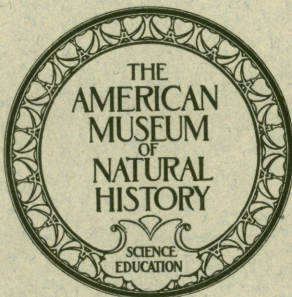


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DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO¹

BY JAMES P. CHAPIN

This is the fifth preliminary paper on the ornithological results of the Congo Expedition of the American Museum and consists of descriptions of four new forms from the Ituri and Upper Uele Districts of the Belgian Congo. The special color-names employed are taken from Ridgway's 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature' (1912).

I am obliged to the Carnegie Museum and the courtesy of Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd for the loan of specimens for comparison; and permission has been kindly granted me to examine other material in the U. S. National Museum and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

Astur toussenellii canescens, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Differs from *A. t. toussenellii* (Verreaux) in being slightly larger and much paler, especially below. Easily distinguished by its pale gray, instead of rufous, thighs.

TYPE.—No. 157743, A. M. N. H., ♀ ad., Medje, in northern Ituri District, Belgian Congo, June 28, 1910.

ADULT FEMALE (type).—Crown deep gull-gray, shading gradually to slate-gray on the back; slate-color on the wing-coverts, and dark neutral gray on the outer webs of primaries and secondaries. Primaries beneath light gray with narrow bars of brownish black, on the secondaries these bars disappear, and the color becomes gray fading to white on the basal half of inner webs. Under wing-coverts white, irregularly marked with gray. Rump like the back, upper tail-coverts slightly darker, and median rectrices slate-black, with three large spots of white on the inner web, and a white tip. The outermost tail-feather, about 30 mm. shorter than the middle; is blackish brown, almost uniform, but whitish at the very base on inner web, the remaining feathers have three broad bars of black, with three lighter bars, white on inner web; and a whitish tip. The gray of the crown becomes lighter and bluer on the cheeks, shading to pale gull-gray on the throat; whole of breast and flanks uniform orange-cinnamon, shading to grayish white on abdomen; under tail-coverts white. Thighs pale gull-gray, a few of the feathers with a very slight vinaceous wash. Iris bright orange; eyelids, lores, and cere, yellow; bill horn-blue, with tip black; feet yellow, claws black.

Length (skin), 428 mm.; wing, 234; tail, 203; bill (culmen from cere), 20, (including cere), 27; metatarsus, 65; middle toe with claw, 54.

¹Scientific Results of the American Museum Congo Expedition. Ornithology, No. 5.

ADULT MALE.—No. 157741, A. M. N. H., Avakubi, Ituri, January 20, 1914. Smaller, and more brightly colored on the breast, but thighs likewise pale gray. Iris bright reddish orange. Wing, 199 mm.; tail, 173; bill (from cere), 15, (from base), 22; metatarsus, 57.

IMMATURE BIRDS, from Ituri District, are blackish brown above, white below with dark spots and bars at sides, but unmarked on throat and middle of breast.

Specimens Examined—*Astur t. canescens*. Belgian Congo, Ituri: Avakubi, 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀ ad., 1 ♀ im.; Medje, 1 ♀ ad.; Uele: Niangara, 1 ♀ im.

Astur t. toussenellii. Gaboon: Fernand Vaz, 1 ♀ ad. Also Plate vi, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., I, 1874.

Astur sparsimfasciatus. Belgian Congo, Uele District: Aba, 1 ♀ ad.; Faradje, 1 ♀ im.

Astur castanilius. Belgian Congo, Ituri District: Gamangui, 1 ♂ ad.; Medje, 2 ♀ ♀ im.

Astur toussenellii canescens is widely distributed in the Ituri Forest, replacing *A. t. toussenellii* of the forested regions further west. It ranges northward at least to Niangara in the Uele District.

***Colius nigricollis leucophthalmus*, new subspecies**

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Similar to *Colius nigricollis nigricollis*, but the hind-neck and upper back barred with dark brown, and iris white instead of brown.

TYPE.—No. 158840, A. M. N. H., ♂ ad., Niangara, Uele District, Belgian Congo, November 16, 1910.

ADULT MALE (type).—Forehead, lores, and chin black; crown, crest and ear-coverts vinaceous-buff (Ridgway); hind-neck and upper back light drab, finely barred with dark brown; scapulars, wing-coverts and outer surface of remiges olive-brown; rump slightly lighter, with a few indistinct bars; upper tail-coverts still lighter brown, with distinct blackish bars. Rectrices olive-brown, the two small outer pairs with broad white exterior margins. Throat black in middle, each feather with a gray central spot; these spots growing larger laterally and posteriorly so that the sides of the throat become light gray barred with dusky, the chest drab-gray barred with dark brown. The color of the underparts shades gradually to a uniform cinnamon-buff on belly and thighs, the breast and sides of body being vinaceous-buff barred with brown. Bases of remiges from below cacao-brown, greater wing-coverts similar, but marginals duller and paler. Iris grayish white; rim of eyelids and skin at base of maxilla black, naked areas behind eye light blue; maxilla black with a spot of bluish gray on basal half of culmen; mandible pale buff, but black at sides of base; feet scarlet, claws black.

Length (skin), 310 mm.; wing, 92; tail, 209; exposed culmen, 14; metatarsus, 21.5; middle toe with claw, 26.

There is no appreciable difference between the sexes in color or size. Eighteen males of *C. n. leucophthalmus* measure as follows: Wing, 87–96 (93.1)¹; tail, 179–221 (202.8); exposed culmen, 12.5–14 (13.3); metatarsus, 21–24 (21.9).

¹Averages in parentheses.

Six females of *C. n. leucophthalmus* measure: Wing, 86–97 (93); tail, 184–226 (208.4); exposed culmen, 13–14 (13.1); metatarsus, 21–23 (22).

Five specimens of *C. n. nigricollis* from Leopoldville and Boma, Lower Congo, including both sexes, measure: Wing, 92–99 (95.2); tail, 190–206 (198.6); exposed culmen, 13–14 (13.2); metatarsus, 21–23 (22.2).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*Colius nigricollis nigricollis*. Lower Congo: Boma, 1 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ ad.; Leopoldville, 2 ♂ ad. Cameroon: Bitye, River Ja, 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀ ad.; Lolodorf, 7 ♂ ad., 6 ♀ ad., 1 juv. Also Pl. 259, Levallant, 'Oiseaux d'Afrique,' VI, 1808.

Colius nigricollis leucophthalmus.—Belgian Congo, Ituri: Bafwabaka, 4 ♂ ad.; Medje, 6 ♂ ad., 3 ♀ ad., 2 ♂ juv., 4 ♀ juv.; Uele: Niangara, 2 ♂ ad.; 4 ♀ ad.; Vankerckhovenille, 3 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ ad.; Faradje, 3 ♂ ad.; Garamba, 1 ♀ juv.

Colius striatus striatus.—South Africa: Natal, 5 ad.

The type locality of *Colius nigricollis* Vieillot is Malimbe, in the Portuguese Congo,¹ on the southern edge of the West African forest. Not only is this black-throated Coly known from the adjoining Lower Congo District, but there are many published records from the Cameroon, mostly north of the forest, from the Shari River, and even from the Uele District, the Upper Ituri, and Lake Kivu. Selater and Mackworth-Praed² have identified as *C. striatus nigricollis* specimens from Mt. Baginzi, Meridi, and Kojali in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province. The range of these Colies extends around rather than through the Congo forests, though they are found in clearings in the Gaboon and Southern Cameroon; and the form occurring to the northeast, in the Upper Uele District, differs markedly from *C. n. nigricollis* as found near the type locality.

Five adult specimens were collected by the American Museum Congo Expedition at Leopoldville and Boma, on the Lower Congo, in 1909 and 1915. In the four cases where the color of the eye was noted it was always dark brown. Reichenow³ and L. Petit⁴ likewise describe the eye as brown, but Levallant stated that he did not know its color.

In adult birds from the northern Ituri and the Uele District, of which we collected a much larger number, the iris is invariably white or grayish white, and this is well shown in the photograph from life (Fig. 1). Only in young birds is it grayish brown. The colors of the bill and naked skin of the face appear to be identical in the two forms.

¹Levallant, 1808, 'Oiseaux d'Afrique,' VI, Pl. cclix, and Vieillot, 1817, 'Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.,' VII, p. 378.

²Ibis, 1919, p. 650.

³1903, 'Vögel Afrikas,' II, p. 204.

⁴1899, Mém. Soc. Zool. France, XII, p. 68.



Fig. 1. *Colius nigracollis leucophthalmus*, ♂ ad., Niangara, Uele District, Belgian Congo, December 3, 1910.

Photograph by H. Lang, from life, showing white iris.

There is also a conspicuous difference in plumage between specimens from the Lower Congo and those from the Ituri and Uele. Typical *C. nigracollis* has the hind-neck and back of a uniform brown, as is clearly stated by both Levaillant and Vieillot, the original description¹ reading: "le dessus du cou et le manteau d'un brun uniforme, plus foncé sur les ailes; les côtés du cou, la poitrine, et les flancs du même brun, et rayés transversalement d'un noir lavé." There may, indeed, be faint indications of barring, but these are due to the structure of the feather rather than to pigmentation.

The birds from the Uele and Ituri are usually more heavily barred on the breast, and this fine barring always extends around on the hind neck and upper back. They are not *C. n. nigracollis* Reichenow, for they agree with *C. n. nigracollis* in the color of head and under wing-coverts.

¹1817, 'Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.,' VII, p. 378.

Of *Colius n. nigricollis* from the Cameroon I have examined two specimens in the Philadelphia Academy from the River Ja (G. L. Bates), and thirteen adult specimens from Lolodorf (J. A. Reis), loaned me by the Carnegie Museum. The color of the iris was noted by Bates as grayish brown (♂) and brown (♀), and by Reis in one case as chestnut-brown (♂). With regard to plumage, these birds from the Cameroon agree exactly with *C. n. nigricollis* from the Lower Congo.

For the present, the range of *Colius nigricollis leucophthalmus* may be stated as follows: Savannah region of the northeastern Congo Basin, from the Nepoko River northward to the southern border of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and probably extending to the westward along the northern edge of the forest, as well as southward along its eastern border to Lake Kivu.

***Batis ituriensis*, new species**

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Most nearly related to *B. minima* (Verreaux) from the Gaboon, but differs in having a broad, glossy-black breast-band and a distinct white nuchal spot. Smaller than any species of *Batis* except *B. minima* and *B. perkeo* Neumann¹; but the female of the latter has a brown breast-band.

TYPE.—No. 159881, A. M. N. H., ♀ ad., Gamangui, on Nepoko River, Ituri District, Belgian Congo, February 4, 1910.

ADULT FEMALE.—A large white patch at each side of forehead, but lores, fore part of crown, and postocular region pure black. Posterior half of crown grayish black, bordered laterally by a lighter line of mixed gray and white, which does not extend forward to the eye. Feathers of nape white, tipped with gray; back dark gray, scapulars blacker, rump with oval spots of white; upper tail-coverts black. Wings black, with a conspicuous white stripe running from the outer median coverts, across the greater coverts, and down the outer margins of three inner secondaries; under wing-coverts white save at margin of wing, where they become black. Tail black, the outermost feather widely margined with white, the next two with a narrow white edge, and a small white speck at the tips of other feathers. Under surface white, save for a glossy-black breast-band, 8 mm. wide, and blackish mottling at sides of body. Feathers of tibiae black, tipped with white. Iris yellow; bill and feet black.

Length (skin), 85 mm.; wing, 48.5; tail, 30; exposed culmen, 11.5; metatarsus, 14.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*Batis ituriensis*. Belgian Congo, Ituri: Gamangui, 1 ♀ ad.

Batis minima. No specimens available, only descriptions by Verreaux, 1855, *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie*, (2) VIII, p. 219, and by Sharpe, Ibis, 1873, p. 169.

Batis minulla. Belgian Congo, Middle Congo: Suata, 1 ♂ ad.

Batis diops O. Grant, 1910, *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, XIX, Pl. xviii, fig. 2.

Batis molitor puella. B. E. Afr.: Guasonarok, N. Guaso Nyiro, 1 ♂ ad.; Kijabe, 1 ♂ im.

¹1907, *Journ. f. Ornith.*, LV, p. 352.

Batis bella nyansæ. Belgian Congo, Uele: Niangara, 3 ♂♂ ad., 2 ♂♂ juv.; Faradje, 3 ♂♂ ad., 2 ♀♀ ad., 2 ♂♂ juv.

Batis bella congoensis. Belgian Congo, Middle Congo: Kwamouth, 1 ♀.

Our single specimen was taken on the border of a clearing in the forest, where no other species of *Batis* was ever observed. Verreaux remarked¹ that *Batis minima* was found in similar situations in the Gaboon. The type of *B. ituriensis* was sexed by me, and I believe that the male and female will prove to be similar in coloration, as they are in *B. diops*. Inasmuch as the male of *minima* is described by both Verreaux and Sharpe as having a greyish-black band across the breast, the present specimen cannot be referred to that species, in spite of its agreement in size. Moreover, the type localities are approximately 1200 miles apart and no specimens of *B. minima* have ever been taken in the intervening territory.

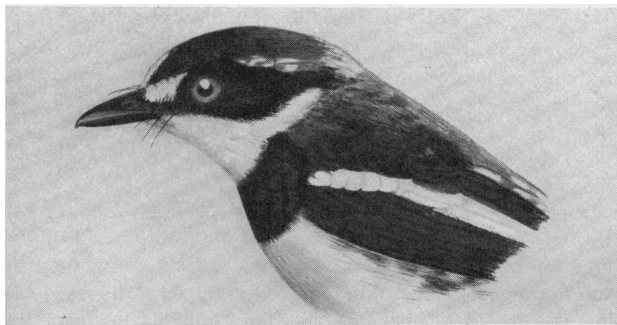


Fig. 2. *Batis ituriensis*, ♀ ad.
Natural size.

Terpsiphone batesi, new species

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling *T. rufocinerea* Cabanis, with a similar, slightly marked crest but always short-tailed, even in the adult male, where the middle pair of rectrices exceeds the second pair by 14.5 mm. at most, on an average by only 8.9 mm. The head is lighter gray, the back brighter rufous than in *rufocinerea*.

TYPE.—No. 160095, A. M. N. H., ♂ ad., Medje, northern Ituri District, Belgian Congo, March 31, 1910.

ADULT MALE (type).—Back, wing-coverts, inner secondaries, outer edges of all remiges, rump and all feathers of tail bright burnt sienna; under tail-coverts bright orange-rufous. Whole head, throat, and hind neck slate-color, with a noticeably

¹1855, Revue et Magasin de Zoologie, (2) VIII, p. 219.

bluer sheen on feathers of crest, which is rather short and rounded, the longest feathers measuring 11.5 mm. Breast, flanks, and abdomen slate-gray, feathers immediately around vent whitish. Inner webs of remiges brownish black, bordered basally with rufous; under wing-coverts largely gray, but longer ones whitish, and the greater coverts with a slight rufous tinge.

Iris dark brown; rim of eyelids slightly expanded, and blue; bill blue with black tip; feet grayish blue.

Length (skin), 175 mm.; wing, 74.5; tail (middle feathers), 94.5, (next pair), 80, (outermost), 65.5; exposed culmen, 14; metatarsus, 15.

Measurements of six adult males are as follows: Wing, 73–77 (74.9)¹; tail (middle feathers), 78–94.5 (88), (next pair), 75–83.5 (79.1); exposed culmen, 12.5–14 (13.5); metatarsus, 14–15.5 (14.9).

ADULT FEMALE.—Somewhat duller and paler, crest without gloss, back Sanford's brown, middle of abdomen paler gray. Dimensions of three adult females are: Wing, 72–73.5; tail (middle feathers), 73.5–75, (next pair), 71; exposed culmen, 12–13; metatarsus, 14–15.5.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*Terpsiphone batesi*. Belgian Congo, Distr. of Stanleyville: Bafwasende, 1 ♂ ad.; Ituri: Avakubi, 3 ♂ ♂ ad.; Bafwabaka, 1 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ ♀ ad.; Medje, 1 ♂ ad., 2 ♀ ♀ ad. Cameroon: Bitye, ♂ 1 ad., 1 ♀ ad.; Assobam, 1 ♂ ad.

Terpsiphone rufocinerea. Belgian Congo, Lower Congo: Boma, 2 ♂ ♂ ad., 2 ♂ ♂ im., 1 ♀ im. Spanish Guinea: Rio Muni, 2 ♂ ♂ ad. Gaboon: Rio Moondah, 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀.

Terpsiphone plumbeiceps. Belgian Congo, Distr. of Stanleyville: Bengamisa, 1 ♂ ad.; Uele: Vankerkhovenville, 1 ♂ ad. Nyassaland: Zomba, 1 ♂.

Terpsiphone batesi is a common and characteristic bird of the Ituri Forest, at least from Bafwasende on the River Lindi and Avakubi on the Ituri northward to Medje and the River Nava. It associates with *T. ignea* in the mixed flocks of insectivorous birds that wander through these shady solitudes; but does not venture forth into clearings around villages. Eastward, it extends to Ukaika and between Mawambi and Irumu, whence Sassi reports specimens collected by Grauer² under the name of *T. rufocinerea*. Westward, it reaches at least to Bitye on the River Ja, South Cameroon, as proved by two specimens in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, collected by G. L. Bates and labeled also as *T. rufocinerea*.

Among the many names proposed for species of *Terpsiphone*, only *rufocinerea* has ever been applied to this one, and I therefore take pleasure in naming it in honor of Mr. G. L. Bates, who has made such invaluable contributions to African ornithology.

T. rufocinerea was described by Cabanis³ from Chinchoxo, Loango Coast, and I have collected specimens not very far away, at Boma, on

¹Averages in parentheses.

²1916, Ann. K. K. Naturhist. Hofmus., XXX, p. 258.

³1875, Journ. für Ornithologie, p. 236.

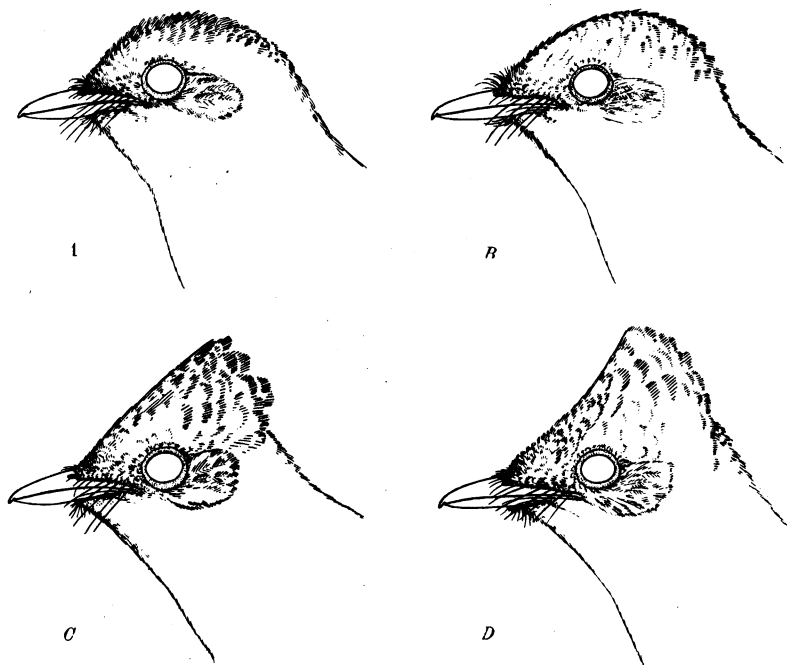


Fig. 3. Heads of adult males in four species of *Terpsiphone*, showing form of crest.
 A.—*T. rufocinerea*. B.—*T. batesi*. C.—*T. plumbeiceps*. D.—*T. viridis*. $\times \frac{1}{2}$.

the Lower Congo. The latter agree with the original description in every respect, and one of Cabanis' two types is stated to have had the middle rectrices greatly lengthened, as they are in my adult males. In the collection of the Philadelphia Academy there are likewise four specimens of *T. rufocinerea* from the Du Chaillu Collection, taken at Rio Moonda, on the west coast. Two of these have long rufous tail-feathers, and one is remarkable in having several greater wing-coverts on both sides black, bordered with white.

Our nine adult specimens of *T. batesi* and the three I have examined from the Cameroon show a striking uniformity in their distinctive characters.

From *T. plumbeiceps* the species here described as new may be known by its shorter crest, bright rufous under tail-coverts, and short tail. It differs from *T. schubotzi*, if Prof. Reichenow's description¹ is

¹1911, Orn. Monatsberichte, XIX, p. 82.

exact, in its bluish gray breast, and from the recently described *T. poliothorax* Reichenow¹ in having the head grayish, not black, and abdomen gray, not rufous.

It bears some resemblance to females and young of *T. perspicillata* and *T. viridis*, but is at once separable by its much brighter rufous back and paler head with more rounded crest. The form of the crest in the different species of *Terpsiphone* is very characteristic, and Figure 3 shows its general outline in four of the species here mentioned.

¹1916, Journ. für Ornithologie, LXIV, p. 161.

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FRANK E. LUTZ, Editor

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