

met with in which the bill measurement will be found to be unreliable as a decisive character as there is some overlap in this measurement in the three forms discussed.

The name of the Grey Sunbird

by P. A. CLANCEY

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The sombre Grey or Mouse-coloured Sunbird *Nectarinia veroxii* of the littoral of south-eastern and eastern Africa was originally described as *Cinnyris Veroxii* by Dr. Andrew Smith (1831). The species was proposed on a specimen from Cafferland presented to Smith by M. Jules Verreaux. Prior to 1831, Smith had been the Superintendent of the South African Museum, Cape Town, in which institution Verreaux was employed in the capacity of taxidermist [Kirby (1965)]. Some years later, Smith again used the same unorthodox spelling of Verreaux's name in describing *Mus Veroxii* Smith, 1834, and *Otis Veroxii* Smith, 1836. These obvious misspellings of Verreaux's name strike a discordant note, because a survey of most of Smith's ornithological writings in the Willughby Society's reprints (1880) shows that he was otherwise meticulous in his employment of dedicatory names, using the honoured person's name unaltered in any way, only adding the single or double terminal i as the case warranted. Smith's use of *veroxii* instead of *verreauxii* is quite evidently intentional, and perhaps stems from a play on the name Verreaux and the Latin word *ferox*, ardent, fierce or warlike. Historical literature does not tell us if Jules Verreaux was particularly belligerent by nature or overtly ardent in his museum duties, though the possibility exists that Smith considered him to possess such traits.

Delacour (1944) has already corrected the name of the Grey Sunbird to *verreauxi* (i), though he has not been followed in this action by more recent workers. Years before Delacour wrote, Sherborn (1932) suggested that *veroxii* should become *verreauxi* (i). In the case of the rodent named *veroxii*, I note that Ellerman *et al.* (1953) use the corrected version, in the combination *Rattus verreauxi* A. Smith.

I believe that, in agreement with Sherborn, Delacour and the mammalogists, the name of the Grey Sunbird should actually be corrected from *N. veroxii* to *N. verreauxii*. However, Article 32 (a) of the *International Code* (1961), dealing with the correct original spelling of names, is quite explicit on an issue such as the one under consideration. Subsection (ii) states that the original spelling of a name is to be retained unless "there is in the original publication clear evidence of an inadvertent error, such as a lapsus calami, or a copyist's or printer's error (incorrect transliteration, improper latinization, and use of an inappropriate connecting vowel are not to be considered inadvertent errors)". As Smith used *veroxii* for three different taxa in three different publications in three different years no lapsus calami or inadvertent error occurred in the naming of *Cinnyris Veroxii*.

Veroxii is clearly a deliberately effected incorrect transliteration of the name Verreaux, but under the terms of Article 32 of the *International Code* a correction of the name to *verreauxii* is inadmissible.

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Records of Falconiformes from the Lake Rudolf area, Kenya

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Among numbers of Falconiformes collected by the Maytag-University of Miami Expedition to Kenya (1958-1959) are certain specimens which are of interest in a consideration of the East African avifauna.

Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides Temminck

Two were observed 4th November, 1958, on the east side of von Höhnel's Bay just north and inland of the oasis of Loiyangalani. On that date numerous birds of prey, obviously in migration, were evident. The two Barbary Falcons were conspicuous in their flight as they passed above the barren, rocky hillsides. The specimen collected, one of the above, was an adult female weighing 609 grams; its irides were dark brown, its cere, legs, and toes yellow. Identification of this specimen was confirmed by Dr. Charles Vaurie of the American Museum of Natural History.

The Barbary Falcon is known to range southward into the Egyptian Sudan (Sclater, 1924: 50). This specimen is apparently the first Barbary Falcon taken in Kenya.

Aquila clanga Pallas

A Greater Spotted Eagle, collected at El Molo Bay, 19th October, 1958, probably represents the southernmost point of collection of this species in Africa as well as the first specimen for Kenya. Identification of the specimen, a female in immature plumage, its remiges much worn, was made at the American Museum of Natural History by Drs. Erwin Stresemann and Charles Vaurie. Bednall (1959: 144) reported a possible sight record of the eagle for Nairobi.

The eagle was encountered at the waterline of a sandy beach. Standing quietly on the ground, its feathers much ruffled by strong wind, it did not flush upon close approach. Fish in advanced stages of digestion were in its stomach.

Circaëtus gallicus (Gmelin)

A Short-toed Harrier Eagle was collected 27th October, 1958, at Uraubuli Luggar, approximately 30 miles north of Loiyangalani. Attention to the eagle, perched atop an acacia of the fringing growth of the luggar, was directed by mobbing of it by Yellow-billed Hornbills, *Tockus flavirostris* (Rüppell) and Lesser Brown-necked Ravens, *Corvus corax edithae* Phillips. An adult female weighing 1,304 grams, its irides



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