

The measurements may be compared with those for the southern forms in McLachlan and Liversidge (1957: 255) and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1962: 633-637). The juvenile lacks any rufous on the nape, and has the feathers of the upperside as a whole less markedly tipped with white than in adults. On the underside the markings on the chest are larger and smudgier than in adults, while the lower chest to abdomen is paler, though there are some darker, adult feathers appearing.

The birds were found in an entirely treeless area covering some three square miles, entirely surrounded by plains with scattered small thorn trees. There was much stony terrain, which however they seemed to avoid, confining themselves to short (less than one foot high) grass. About 20 individuals were seen in all, mostly singletons or pairs, the most seen together being four. When disturbed, they would fly away to settle some distance ahead, thereafter to be flushed close to where they had landed. In flight they made wader-like calls, those recorded by McLachlan and Liversidge (1957: 255) being apparently very similar.

One of the females collected had evidently recently bred, but no other specimen showed any marked gonad activity. The stomach contents were examined by R. H. Carcasson, who found the main food to be curculionids (weevils), present in all six specimens, while three also had tenebrionids (*Diodontes areolatus* Gerst.), and one had a buprestid. In addition there was a 75 mm. long centipede, three lepidopterous larvae including one psychid without its case, and one grass seed. Only one contained any grit, merely a single small angular pebble.

Benson is responsible for the comments on the specimens in this note; Forbes-Watson has provided the remainder of the information. A male and a female of the material he has collected are to be deposited in the National Museum, Nairobi, Kenya; the remainder in the British Museum.

References:

Benson, C. W. 1966. The Spike-heeled Lark *Chersomanes albofasciata* in East Africa. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 86: 76-77.
Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. 1962. *Birds of the Southern Third of Africa*, 1. London.
McLachlan, G. R. and Liversidge, R. 1957. *Roberts' birds of South Africa*. Cape Town.

Some sunbirds: additions and corrections

by C. W. BENSON

Received 6th May, 1966

With reference to the notes in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 1966: 62-66, the correct name for the southern and eastern form of *Nectarinia seimundi* (Ogilvie-Grant) is not *N. s. minor* (Bates) but *N. s. traylori* Wolters (*Journ. Ornith.*, 1965: 357).

Three further males of *N. bouvieri* (Shelley) have been traced in the British Museum, their localities and measurements in mm. as follows:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen from base
Mubuku Valley, Uganda	57	38	21
Sandoa, southern Congo	56	37	23
Sandoa, southern Congo	57	38	24

It would appear that there is a tendency to greater bill-length in the south of the range of the species.

Yet another female of *N. b. bifasciata* (Shaw), originally identified as *N. bouvieri*, and collected by Petit in Cabinda at Chinchoxo (B. M. registered number 95. 5. 1. 2530), has been traced. It has wing 51, tail 32, culmen from base 19.5 mm. Number 2529 is a male, the type of *bouvieri*.

On two specimens of *Pericrocotus flammeus* (Forst.), the Scarlet Minivet, from Ujung Kulon

by A. HOOGERWERF

Received 25th April, 1966

During a collecting trip to Java's most western peninsula, Ujung Kulon, two specimens of *Pericrocotus flammeus* were secured which do not fit into a series of *siebersi* nor do they agree with the Sumatran subspecies *xanthogaster*, *modiglianii* and *minythomelas*. Therefore they seem important enough to be signalized in order to encourage future collectors in this area to pay special attention to the species. Below is a comparison with the material of the species in the Bogor Museum.

The individual variation in plumage of both sexes of *siebersi* is not worth mentioning. In the males there is some difference in tone of the orange-red on the underparts, the wings and the lower back including the tail-coverts but those parts are always less pure red than in the three other subspecies mentioned above. There is also some variation in the tint of the black parts but the average *siebersi* seems less extensively bluish-black than males of the three other races.

The females show some variation in extent of the yellow spot on the forehead and the yellow on the wings and they also vary somewhat in the tone of this colour on the under surface, lower back and tail-coverts. But this yellow, as is the case with the red in the males, is of a different tone than in females of the other subspecies known from Sumatra and surrounding islands.

Junge² and Deignan¹ made it clear that *modiglianii* and *minythomelas* differ in size: birds belonging to the latter race average somewhat smaller, but perhaps the colour difference in the females of both these forms may be seen as the most important character to separate them as pointed out also by Deignan¹. According to Junge² there should be no colour differences in the plumage of both these subspecies when compared with *xanthogaster*, except for the somewhat yellowish tint of the red in both mentioned races when seen in series. I could not confirm this, but my material shows a darker fire-red tone in the males of *xanthogaster* than in both other subspecies, though certain individuals cannot be separated at all. But I did not compare these subspecies on the basis of Deignan's conception regarding colour and markings on rectrices and primaries because I could not see Deignan's paper when comparing my material in Bogor.

Both our fresh skins from Ujung Kulon seem somewhat intermediate between representatives of the Javan subspecies *siebersi* and *xanthogaster* from Sumatra because the male is decidedly brighter red on the lower back,



Benson, C. W. 1966. "Some sunbirds: additions and corrections." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 86, 173–174.

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