

Measurements: 10 ♂♂ wing, 56.0–58.5 (57.4); tail, 43.0–45.5 (44.2); culmen, 15.0–16.0 (15.6). 10 ♀♀ wing, 55.0–58.5 (57.7); tail, 44.0–46.0 (45.0); culmen, 14.0–16.0 (14.8) mm.

Material: 82 (South-West Africa, 56; north-western Cape Province, 26).

Range: South-West Africa, except in the extreme north, and the north-western northern Cape Province as far east as Kuruman, and the western Bechuanaland Protectorate in the highlands.

Remarks: An examination of the original description of this form shows that Wahlberg collected his material "In Mimosis terrae Damararum", i.e., Damaraland. The exact route taken by this traveller on his journey to Lake Ngami, during which trip he collected *Platystira affinis*, is not known for certain, but "He seems, however, to have travelled *via* Okahandja, Otjihaenena, the Nosob River . . . at least to judge from the labels of a number of birds collected in the February and March 1855" (Gyldenstolpe, 1934). As it is desirable to fix the exact type-locality of this form I have accordingly proposed Okahandja, Damaraland, South-West Africa above.

I am indebted to the Directors of the following Museums for the loan of additional material used in this study; South African Museum, Cape Town (through Dr. J. M. Winterbottom), Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (through Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky) and the East London Museum. I am also indebted to Mr. P. A. Clancey, Director of the Durban Museum, for much valuable help during the preparation of this paper, and Dr. J. M. Winterbottom for assistance with the literature.

References:

- Gyldenstolpe, N. (1934), The Travels and Collections of Johan August Wahlberg, 1810–1856: A pioneer naturalist in South Africa. *Ibis* 1934, 264–292.
Levaillant, F. (1805), Histoire naturelle des oiseaux d'Afrique, iv, 38, pl. 161. Paris.
Macdonald, J. D. (1957), Contribution to the ornithology of western South Africa, p. 120 British Museum, London.

Further breeding records from Northern Rhodesia (No. 3)

by C. W. BENSON AND CHARLES R. S. PITMAN

Received 9th August, 1962

The same considerations apply in this paper as those explained in the introduction to our paper in *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 81, 1961: 156–163. In particular, all eggs mentioned are in the British Museum, unless otherwise indicated.

Phalacrocoracidae, Anhingidae, Ardeidae

(1) E. Cooper collected two fresh eggs, from a C/3 of *Ardea purpurea*, and likewise of *Nycticorax nycticorax* and *Phalacrocorax africanus*, 26th August, 1961, Neganega, near Kafue River at 15° 45' S., 28° 02' E. The eggs of *A. purpurea* and *N. nycticorax* are light blue, smooth, without gloss: size respectively 57.2 x 39.1, 55.0 x 39.8; 49.0 x 40.3, 50.9 x 38.5 mm. Those of *P. africanus* are pale blue, slightly chalk-surfaced, smooth, with slight gloss; size 45.1 x 30.4, 45.4 x 29.1 mm. A parent was collected at each of these nests, and identified by C. W. B. The nests were reported by

Cooper as being in a mixed colony, in reeds bordering a lagoon, mostly at about six feet above water level. It was estimated that there were over 100 of *P. africanus*; about 100 of *A. purpurea* and *Egretta alba* (about the same size as *A. purpurea*, mostly with mainly black rather than yellow bills, the colour having probably temporarily changed in the breeding season, see Witherby *et al.*, *Handbook British Birds*, 3, 1944: 139); about 50 of *Ardeola ralloides* (nests lower than those of the other species, mostly only about four feet above water level); and a few of *Anhinga anhinga*. The nests of all species contained three eggs, and even on 3rd September none had hatched, except for one clutch of *A. purpurea*. A Monitor Lizard (*Varanus niloticus*) was seen swimming immediately beneath one nest. It shook the reeds, so that all three eggs fell out, one being caught on the surface of the water and swallowed whole. It then dived for the other two, with what result is not known. For numerous records of predation of eggs by this lizard, see Pitman (1957, 1961).

(2) J. M. C. Uys counted a mixed colony of 183 nests of *Ardeola ralloides* and *Butorides rufiventris*, in a reed-bed in the north-west of the Kafue National Park, the two species being in about equal numbers. The only further details available are that egg-laying started in early March, 1961, and continued until early April. Thereafter no observations were possible, but by early April some young had already hatched.

(3) R. I. G. Attwell observed a mixed colony of *Phalacrocorax africanus* (abundant), *P. carbo* (rare), *Anhinga anhinga* (abundant), *Egretta intermedia* (common) and *Nycticorax nycticorax* (uncommon), on the Lufupa River, in the north of the Kafue National Park, on 13th May, 1961. The identification of *E. intermedia* (quite easily confused with other *Egretta* spp., especially *E. alba*) by this experienced observer may be accepted. The colony extended over some 500 yards of river bank, in *Syzygium* trees. Beneath the colony were crocodiles (*Crocodilus niloticus*), and *Clarias* and *Schilbe* fishes. Predation by *Clarias* and six large crocodiles on young which fell into the water was noticed (for numerous records of predation of birds by fishes and crocodiles, see Pitman, 1957, 1961).

(4) Nineteen records of occupied nests of *Ardea goliath* are available from the north side of the Kariba Lake, during 1959–61, from various observers. Of ten containing eggs or young not more than one week old, the number was in five cases four per nest; in the remainder three. Of nine containing more developed young, only one held as many as three; three held two, and five one only. Evidently there is considerable mortality among nestlings, possibly attributable to Fish Eagles (*Haliaeetus vocifer*). Most nests were solitary, often several hundred yards out in the lake, from one to eight feet above water level, in the tops of dead trees. These nineteen records by months in which egg-laying is calculated to have occurred are as follows: January, five; February, two; March, three; April, June, July and October, one each; November, two; December, three. Considering also the records summarised in the Check List (1957, pp. 3, 157), laying can evidently take place in Northern Rhodesia at any season.

Eupodotis ruficrista ruficrista (Smith)

Coll. C/1 fresh, February, 1961, Livingstone aerodrome (B. L. Mitchell). Rounded, smooth with some gloss; pale stone, with raw umber and burnt umber spots (with staining around) of varying size, generally sparse but

more thickly at narrower end, on underlying, very sparse, spots of grey and light grey; size 49.2 x 41.1 mm. No parent was seen. However, the measurements are well within those given by McLachlan & Liversidge (Roberts' Bds. S. Afr., 1957) for *E. r. ruficrista*, and another egg of this form, measuring approximately 52 x 45 mm., is very similar in colour and markings. On the other hand, eggs of *E. cafra*, although similar in size to those of *E. ruficrista*, are distinct in these other respects.

Hemiparra crassirostris crassirostris (Hartlaub)

Coll. C/3 soon to hatch, 16th September, 1961, Lochinvar (D. M. Reid-Henry). The nest was on a semi-floating platform of coarse reed-growth in water six inches deep. One of the eggs was lost. The remaining two are smooth with slight gloss; light brown, without any olive tint, boldly and irregularly blotched and spotted brown and sepia all over, on underlying (and rather sparse) grey; size 42.1 x 30.3, 41.1 x 30.3 mm. They were borrowed from the National Museum, Bulawayo.

J. M. C. Uys saw a pair accompanied by a juvenile not yet quite able to fly, in the Busanga Swamp, 18th September, 1960. For the only other local record indicative of the breeding season, see Benson (1959: 263).

Mescopicos griseocephalus ruwenzori Sharpe

The records in Benson (1959: 266) of immature specimens suggest egg-laying in May/July (five different clutches concerned). Five adult males in the American Museum of Natural History and the British Museum, from Angola south of 10° 50' S. and west of 16° E. (*M. g. persimilis* Neumann, only differing from *M. g. ruwenzori* in its smaller size), have wing 103–107 mm., culmen (from base, as in all further measurements below) 25–26 mm. But three further males (crown red, in contrast to females, in which it is grey at all ages) therein from this same area, where breeding seasons may be expected to be similar to those in Northern Rhodesia, appear to be not fully grown, as follows: Mt. Moco, 20th August (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.), wing 101, culmen 22 mm.; Ngungo, Bailundu, 10th August (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.), wing 105, culmen 20 mm.; Leba, 3rd August (B. M.), wing 103, culmen 22.5 mm. Compared to the adults, all three are a duller olive, while that from Mt. Moco has only a trace of red on the abdomen, the other two none at all. They were probably from eggs laid in June. In the British Museum, six adult males of *M. g. ruwenzori* from northern Nyasaland and the Mukutu Mts., eastern Northern Rhodesia, have wing 109–112, culmen 26–29 mm. Another male therein has wing 101, culmen 21 mm. It also lacks any red on the abdomen, and is a duller olive than the adults. It is labelled "Songwe, October", and is probably from an egg laid in August.

The foregoing data suggest that this species has an unusually early breeding season, up-to-date egg-laying records by months for other species of Picidae for the Rhodesias and Nyasaland (Southern Rhodesian records supplied by R. K. Brooke and C. J. Vernon) being as follows:

	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<i>Campethera benetti</i>					4	16	8	1
„ <i>abingoni</i>					3	3	1	
„ <i>caillauti</i>					1	2		
<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	1	2	1	3	12	11	1	1
<i>Thripias namaquus</i>		1	2		2	5	2	1

Benson (*Breeding Seasons of Birds in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland*, in MS.) has found that in general there is no difference in the seasons of evergreen forest species and of those of the same family living in open woodland. But in the Picidae, *M. griseocephalus*, much more markedly associated with forest than the other five species, apparently breeds generally earlier than they do. *C. bennetti* and *T. namaquus* are not known to occur in this habitat at all.

Turdoides jardinei kirki (Sharpe)

Coll. C/6, 17th October, 1961, Fort Jameson District at 13° 30' S., 32° 30' E. (V. J. Wilson). The male parent was also collected, and has been examined by C. W. B. Eggs typical, smooth, fairly glossy, blue; size 23.1 x 18.0, 24.9 x 18.2, 23.0 x 18.1, 23.0 x 18.1, 23.4 x 17.9, 24.3 x 17.8 mm. This is an unusually large clutch, but the size may be accepted as correct, since Wilson inspected the nest and its six eggs on at least three occasions before collecting them and the parent. All six were in a very advanced state of incubation. R. K. Brooke informs us that of 79 clutches taken in Southern Rhodesia, six were C/1, fourteen C/2, fifty-three C/3, and six C/4.

Cichladusa arquata Peters

J. M. C. Uys found a nest containing two eggs (not collected) under the eaves of his house at Moshi, Kafue National Park, 14° 24' S., 26° 10' E., 15th November, 1961. It was lined with grass, and some pieces of cloth and strippings from sisal rope used in the binding of the thatch of his office. The eggs were plain white, size approximately 25 x 16 mm. There were a few *Hyphaene* palms, with which this species is so often associated, in the vicinity, but none of them more than six feet high. Association with human dwellings is also reported by Benson (Nyasaland Check List, 1953). Although Uys had spent much of his time for the two previous years at Moshi, during which the house and office were built, it was not until 8th November, 1961 that he ever noticed this bird there, when two pairs were seen.

M. S. Slogrove observed a nest containing two young about one week old under the eaves of a building in a game-viewing camp for tourists at Mfuwe, by the Luangwa River at 13° 03' S., on 6th December, 1961. The young were fed with caterpillars by both parents. The construction of this camp was started in 1959, and completed in 1960.

Cisticola galactotes subsp.

Coll. C/3 fresh, 9th December, 1961, Sihole, Kalabo District at 15° 19' S., 22° 34' E. (M. A. Traylor). Eggs glossy, cream; very thickly and finely freckled all over with brown-madder on underlying pale violet: size 15.0 x 12.3, 15.2 x 12.3, 15.8 x 12.3 mm. The subspecies in this locality is probably *C. g. schoutedeni* White, see Benson (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 80, 1960: 111), but this is being investigated by Traylor himself, who has collected a long series of specimens of this species in the Kalabo District generally. There is no question of these eggs being of *C. pipiens*, since Traylor tells us that whereas *C. galactotes* was common at Sihole, *C. pipiens* was not found there at all. The eggs are typical of *C. g. suahelica* Neumann. We are unaware of any eggs of *C. g. galactotes* (Temminck) being other than immaculate terra-cotta.

Malaconotus blanchoti hypopyrrhus Hartlaub

Coll. C/3 fresh, 14th September, 1961, near Lusaka (R. V. Wood). Eggs smooth, with some gloss; cream with faint pinkish tinge, boldly but very sparingly marked light raw umber, on underlying blotches or coalescences of light grey (all markings with a tendency to concentrate around or at top of large end); size 29.5 x 21.5, 29.4 x 20.4, 30.9 x 20.4 mm. Although this clutch was not taken in the vicinity of a dwelling house, C. R. S. P. has a record of a nest in a hedge in the centre of Broken Hill; and in Uganda, in the grounds of Makerere College, Kampala, and another at a County Headquarters. It seems that this species is attracted to some extent to human settlements.

Anthreptes anchietae (Bocage)

Coll. C/1 fresh, 17th April, 1961, Serenje (C. W. B.). Egg smooth, without real gloss; off-white, with a narrow wreath of sepia, bunting-like scribbings and spots, on a similar wreath of underlying ashy; size 18.3 x 11.8 mm. The nest was in the top of a *Pterocarpus angolensis* tree, about 20 feet above the ground. A. Angus reports that it is composed mainly of flowers of *Protea* sp. and the hairy ovaries of *Faurea saligna*, bound together mainly with the rachids of the leaf of some papilionaceous plant such as *Indigofera* sp. and the awns and glumes of the grass *Loudetia superba*. There can be no doubt about the identification of the bird, as a good view was obtained of one of the parents as it left the nest. For the only previous description traced of the eggs, see Benson (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 71, 1951: 8). This earlier clutch is very similar.

References:

- Benson, C. W. 1959. Some additions and corrections to a Check List of the Birds of Northern Rhodesia. No. 2. *Occ. Papers Nat. Mus. S. Rhod.*, 3(23b): 257-285.
 Pitman, C. R. S. 1957. Further notes on aquatic predators of birds. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 77: 89-97, 105-110, 122-126.
 Pitman, C. R. S. 1961. More aquatic predators of birds. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 81: 57-62, 78-81, 105-108.

A new race of the Spotted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata* (Linn.)

by A. HOOGERWERF

Received 26th January, 1962

When comparing all adult specimens belonging to the subspecies *fretensis* present in the Bogor Museum (18 skins) with a corresponding series of *nisoria* from Java* I find it impossible to separate a sufficient percentage of birds belonging to the former subspecies from those of the latter, though seen in a series *fretensis* might be a trifle duller on the under parts. The population of *Lonchura punctulata*, living on the island of Bawean (between Java and Borneo), however, differs from both *fretensis* and *nisoria* because the brownish edges on the feathers of the under surface are distinctly lighter and also average narrower, giving those parts a paler appearance, whereas the chestnut-brownish area on the chin and throat does not extend so far downward as in both other races. And finally, the

* In accordance with Kenneth C. Parkes¹ the subspecific name for Javan birds should be *nisoria* (Temminck) instead of *punctulata* (Linnaeus).



Benson, C. W. and Pitman, Charles. 1963. "Further breeding records from Northern Rhodesia (No. 3)." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 83, 32–36.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/126838>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/77823>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: British Ornithologists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.