MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS

XVIII

by

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SIX NEW RACES OF BIRDS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

In the museums of the Republic of South Africa, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and Moçambique are now housed nearly 150,000 specimens of birds from central, eastern and southern Africa, of which two-thirds have been taken since 1950. Through the kindly co-operation of the Directors and senior officials of the various museums it is now possible to bring together a sufficient body of material to deal more or less definitively with the geographical variation presented by any southern African species of bird. Detailed studies of five species recently carried out at the Durban Museum reveal the necessity of introducing a further six new subspecies to science, which are described below. For the loan of material for these researches I am deeply indebted to the Directors of the South African Museum, Cape Town (through Dr. J. M. Winterbottom), East London Museum, Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, the Transvaal Museum (through Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky), and the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin). Further material was kindly loaned by Mr. Terence Oatley, of Ndumu, Zululand, and collected specially for my researches by Mr. Miles Markus, of Pretoria.

In the formal descriptions which follow I have used the colour nomenclature of Ridgway, Color Standards and Color Nomenclature,
1912. Washington. The relevant plate numbers in this standard work are given immediately following the first mention of any colour by name.

**Merops hirundineus strenuus**, subsp. nov.


*Diagnosis:* Differs from *M.h.hirundineus* Lichtenstein, 1793: Orange River, in having the upper-parts slightly purer, less bronzy, green. On the ventral surface markedly different in series, having the throat deeper yellow, the blue lower throat band broader and darker (about Hay's Blue (pl.ix), as against Gentian Blue (pl.xxi) with considerable intrusions of Bremen Blue (pl.xxx) in *M.h.hirundineus*); breast and sides of body darker and clearer, less bronzy, green, the feathers not isabelline coloured at their bases, and usually with more extensive blue over the abdominal surfaces and flanks.

*Material examined:* *M.h.strenuus*, 27 (southern Portuguese East Africa, 9; south-eastern Southern Rhodesia, 6; Northern Rhodesia, 9; southern Nyasaland, 3; *M.h.hirundineus*, 88 (lower Orange River and northern Cape, 22; South-West Africa, 7; Bechuanaland Protectorate, 11; Southern Rhodesia, 32; Southern Portuguese East Africa (wintering), 1; south-western Northern Rhodesia, 14; Angola, 1.

*Range:* Eastern littoral plain of southern Sul do Save, Moçambique, and south-eastern Southern Rhodesia, northwards to eastern Northern Rhodesia (west to Chilanga), Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa and Tanganyika Territory (north to about Dar-es-Salaam). Intergrades to the west of its stated range with the nominate race. Ranging occasionally south to Natal.

*Measurements of the Type:* Wing (flattened) 97, culmen from base 37, tail 101.5 mm.

*Remarks:* The typical race of this bee-eater, with the blue band across the lower throat distinctly narrower and paler than in *M.h.strenuus* mihi, ranges from Angola south to about the Orange River (slightly south of the river in some parts), and eastwards through the Bechuanaland Protectorate and northern Cape to the western Orange Free State, western and northern Transvaal and the plateau of Southern Rhodesia; also to western Northern Rhodesia (north-east to Kasama, where mainly intergrades), and the southern Congo in the savannas of the upper Katanga to the Manyema, the
Kasai and probably the Kwango district. A $ specimen from near Tambara Fort, Portuguese East Africa, taken on 18 September, 1952, appears to be a wintering bird from the interior, as others from the same locality are \textit{M.h.strenuus}.

The topotypical population of \textit{M.h.hirundineus} of the Orange River, of which I have a sample of 22 specimens before me, is not quite constant, at least two of my male specimens having rather broader blue throat bands than in the populations occurring further north in arid South-West Africa and Bechuanaland. It may be that the Orange River population of the Swallow-tailed Bee-eater is on a par with that of the Grey-headed Sparrow \textit{Passer diffusus} (Smith) of the same river valley, which is essentially mixed racially. The reason for this is by no means clear, because while the range of the sparrow is all but continuous from west to east in southern Africa north of the Orange River, this is not so in the case of the bee-eater, which is entirely absent from the plateau and montane system lying due east of the Orange River, and the topotypical population of the nominate race is nowhere in contact with \textit{M.h.strenuus}.

The name given to the new subspecies is descriptive of the vigorous and active behaviour of this rather shy bee-eater.

Three specimens of the nominate race of this bee-eater, 1 $, 1 $, 1 0, collected by Mr. Bryan Donnelly at Gweta, Makarikari Salt Lake, Bechuanaland Protectorate, on 27 April, 1957, and now in the collection of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, are of considerable interest in exhibiting in two instances almost complete and in the other partial loss of melanin in all sections of the plumage. In the two extreme examples, the normal green body plumage is about isabelline, the apices of the feathers sulphine yellow (in some lights); the blackish lores, areas below eyes and ear-coverts are replaced by buffish grey, while the bluish throat band is vestigial in both cases. In the wings, the remiges are isabelline, the apices of the secondaries bluish white, and the tail is entirely pale blue-white. It is interesting to note that in the unsexed bird, one of the pale extremes, new secondaries still partially in sheath are just as pallid as older, worn feathers. In the specimen showing partial loss of melanin, the green of the upper- and under-parts shows a considerable admixture of bronzy, and the whole bird is rather duller, less vibrantly coloured than a normal example.

The area of the Makarikari Salt Pan complex is well-known for the number of pallid endemic races confined to the region (in some instances shared with the saltpan group of northern South-West Africa (Etosha)). The variant or mutant bee-eaters to which I
have just drawn attention may be examples of phenotypical variation
induced in the organisms concerned through living in regions of
great aridity, salinity and glare. They are perhaps important in
showing how rapidly well-marked genotypically fixed races may
come into being in species less given to wandering than Swallow-
tailed Bee-eaters. Further, extensive sampling of the Makarikari
population of *M. hirundineus* now seems essential.

Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin has also kindly sent me for examination
an adult ♂ of *Merops pusillus meridionalis* (Sharpe) collected 7
miles east of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, on 12 September, 1957,
also by Mr. Donnelly, which shows loss of the green in the plumage
and its replacement by, in this instance, a bleached isabelline.
The specimen is in very abraded plumage.

**Phyllastrephus flavostriatus distans**, subsp. nov.

*Type:* ♂, adult. Embotyi, Lusikisiki district, Pondoland,
esternal Cape Province. Sea level. 8 August, 1954. Durban Museum
Expedition. In the collection of the Durban Museum.

*Diagnosis:* Similar to *P.f.flavostriatus* Sharpe, 1876: Macamac,
Pilgrims Rest district, Transvaal, but differs in having the ventral
colouration duller, not so suffused with buffy yellow, and rather less
copiously streaked with lemon, the breast distinctly overlaid with
grey, and the flanks considerably darker. On the upper-parts darker
on the head-top, and the mantle and rump rather more saturated.
Wings and tail darker. Considerably smaller in size, most marked
in the male: wings of 5 ♂♂ 90-93 (91.9), tails 82.5-87 (84.5), 7 ♀♀
wings 81-82.5 (81.7), tails 74-79 (76.0), as against wings of 12 ♂♂
94-102 (99.5), tails 88-97 (91.9), 11 ♀♀ wings 82-87 (84.4), tails 78-85
(79.9) mm. in *P.f.flavostriatus*. Rather similar in colouration to
*P.f.dendrophilus* Clancey (see below), of the eastern highlands of
Southern Rhodesia, but more saturated and much smaller in size.

*Material examined:* *P.f.distans*, 12 (Durban Museum, 10;
Transvaal Museum, 2). *P.f.flavostriatus* 23 (Zululand, 5; northern
Transvaal, 6; southern Nyasaland and Portuguese East Africa, 12).
*P.f.dendrophilus*, 56. *P.f.alfredi* (Shelley), 9. *P.f.kungwensis*
Moreau, 1. *P.f.olivaceogriseus* Reichenow, 1.

*Range:* Confined to the coastal forests of Pondoland. The
Durban Museum series was taken at Embotyi, in the Lusikisiki
district, and on the Mtafufu River and at Port St. Johns. The two
skins in the Transvaal Museum collection were taken by Swinny at
Nqqeleni, which lies to the south of Port St. Johns. In 1954,
members of a Durban Museum expedition found this species quite
common in the Pondoland forests.
Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 92.5, culmen from base 24, tarsus 23, tail 84 mm.

Remarks: The name chosen for this new taxon is descriptive of its isolated and remote distribution in relation to that of its immediate neighbour, i.e., the austral components of P.f.flavostriatus in the Ngoye Forest, Zululand.

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus dendrophilus, subsp. nov.


Diagnosis: Similar to P.f.flavostriatus, which it resembles in size, but distinctly darker and clearer grey over the forehead and crown (about Dark Mouse Grey (pl.li), as against Dark Olive (pl.xl)); supra loral-surfaces, lores, areas below eyes and malar stripes distinctly more bluish grey, less olive or brownish tinged than in P.f.flavostriatus. On the under-parts, throat markedly clearer, less buffy white, and rest of under-parts distinctly colder and whiter, less buffish or yellowish, the breast and lateral surfaces with distinct greyish intrusion, and flanks darker.

Material examined: 56 (Chimanimani Mountains (paratypes), 6; Haroni R., 4; Vumba Highlands, Umtali district, 4; Pungwe R., Inyanga, 30; Melsetter and Mt. Selinda (mainly P.f.flavostriatus = P.f.dendrophilus), 12). Material of other races listed under P.f. distans (above).

Range: Confined to the montane forests of the eastern highlands of Southern Rhodesia, from the Chimanimani Mountains in the south, north to Inyanga. The population found in the Chirinda Forest, on Mt. Selinda, in the Melsetter district, is an intergrading one between P.f.dendrophilus and P.f.flavostriatus. Presumably also in immediately adjacent Portuguese East African territory.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 104, culmen from base 25, tarsus 24.5, tail 98.5 mm.

Remarks: The discovery of this highland race in eastern Southern Rhodesia was rather unexpected, as the populations here separated as P.f.dendrophilus are almost invariably associated with those of the eastern and northern Transvaal (P.f.flavostriatus). A critical examination of the material now available in southern African collections shows conclusively that P.f.vincenti Grant and Mackworth-Praed, 1940: Namuli Mt., Quelimane, northern Portuguese East Africa, is a straight synonym of the nominate race,
which is now determined as ranging from Zambezia and southern Nyasaland, southwards through southern Portuguese East Africa (Gorongoza Mt.; Espungabera) to Zululand and the eastern and northern Transvaal. I cannot find the slightest possible difference between southern Nyasaland examples of *P. f. vincenti* and a series in exactly similar plumage from the northern Transvaal (Woodbush; Haenertsburg) (almost topotypical *P. f. flavostriatus*) and north-eastern Zululand (Lebombo Mountains), birds from the south of the range being just as olive headed and yellowish suffused below as those from the north. I therefore formally sink *P. f. vincenti* into the synonymy of the nominotypical race, which has its range adjusted as given above. The population resident in the Chirinda Forest, on Mt. Selinda, south-eastern Southern Rhodesia, is noteworthy, in that samples available to me suggest that it is miscegenal in character, about 75 per cent. of specimens resembling *P. f. flavostriatus*, the remainder *P. f. dendrophilus*.

*P. f. dendrophilus* and *P. f. distans* are closely similar in general colouration, though the latter is less clear grey over the face and has a browner, less grey, forehead and crown, and is still duller coloured below. The upper-parts are more saturated and brownish olivaceous when viewed in series. They differ, however, most markedly in size, though obviously of common origin. *P. f. distans* is an isolate in the truest sense of the term, being separated by some 270 miles from the Ngoye Forest, Zululand, population of *P. f. flavostriatus*, the range of which is interposed between *P. f. distans* and *P. f. dendrophilus*.

The name given to this new race is descriptive of its fondness for forest trees, the mossy trunks of which it investigates in the manner of a titmouse in its search of food. Three races of the Yellow-streaked Bulbul can be admitted to the South African list, as follows:

1. **Phyllastrephus flavostriatus flavostriatus** Sharpe, 1876:
   - Macamac, Pilgrims Rest district, Transvaal.
   - Forehead and fore-crown olivaceous brown, like hind crown; face olivaceous or buffy tinged; under surface strongly suffused with yellowish. Wings of ♀♀ 94-102, ♂♂ 82-87 mm.
   - Range: From southern Nyasaland and Zambezia, southern northern Portuguese East Africa, southwards through southern Portuguese East Africa (Gorongoza; Espungabera) to Zululand and the eastern and northern Transvaal. Ranging just into south-eastern Southern Rhodesia in the Melsetter district.

The type-locality of this race is generally given simply as "Macamac, Transvaal". Macamac, or more correctly Mac Mac, are alluvial diggings on the farm Gelhoutboom No. 220, in the Pilgrim's Rest district of the Transvaal.
(Note: *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus vincenti* Grant and Mackworth-Praed, *Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. lx, 1940, p. 62: Namuli Mt., Quelimane, northern Portuguese East Africa, is a synonym.)

(2) **Phyllastrephus flavostriatus dendrophilus** Clancey, 1962: Chimanimani Mts., eastern Southern Rhodesia.

Forehead and forecrown dark grey, and not uniform with hind crown; face distinctly bluish grey tinged; under-parts without a yellowish ground, more streaked with grey, and throat distinctly whiter, less buff than in *P. f. flavostriatus*. Similar in size.

**Range:** Eastern highlands of Southern Rhodesia, from the Chimanimani Mts. in the south, north to Inyanga. Presumably also in adjacent Portuguese territory.

(3) **Phyllastrephus flavostriatus distans** Clancey, 1962: Embotyi, Lusikisiki district, Pondoland.

Head-top entirely dark olivaceous brown, and face without a distinct bluish tinge. On under-parts lacks the yellowness of *P. f. flavostriatus*, but not as whitish and “cold” as *P. f. dendrophilus*, and laterally rather more heavily washed with dark olive. Smaller in size than the other two South African sub-continental races. Wings of ♀ 90-93, ♀ 81-82.5 mm.

**Range:** The coastal forests of Pondoland, eastern Cape Province.

*Cossypha humeralis crepuscula*, subs. nov.


**Diagnosis:** Similar to *C. h. humeralis* (Smith), 1836: “Inhabits the banks of the Marikwa, etc.”, *i.e.*, Marico R., western Transvaal, of the eastern districts of the plateau of southern Africa, but generally rather paler coloured over the caudad ventral surface, the flanks and under tail-coverts less richly coloured (about Ochraceous-Buff (pl. xv), as against Yellow Ocher (same pl.)). Smaller in size, thus: wings of 12 ♀ 76-80.5 (78.0), tails 69-73.5 (71.3), 8 ♀ 70.5-75 (73.3), 64-69 (66.2), as against 30 ♀ of *C. h. humeralis* wings 80-87 (82.2), tails 74-81.5 (76.5), 12 ♀ 75.5-80 (77.6), 69-72.5 (70.6) mm.

**Material examined:** *C. h. crepuscula*, 37 (southern Portuguese East Africa, 11; Zululand, 17; eastern Swaziland, 7; south-eastern Southern Rhodesia, 2). *C. h. humeralis*, 101 (Bechuanaland Protectorate, 1; Transvaal, 12; Southern Rhodesia, 88).
Range: Zululand and Natal from the lower basin of the Tugela River, northwards in the eastern lowlands to eastern Swaziland and Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa (also on Bazaruto I.). Extends a little way into south-eastern Southern Rhodesia, as shown by specimens from the Sabi-Lundi confluence and Birch-enough Bridge on the Sabi River. Intergrades to the west of its range with the nominate race, as shown by a series from Newington in the eastern Transvaal lowveld.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 76.5, culmen from base 18, tarsus 27, tail 70 mm.

Remarks: The name chosen for this new race is descriptive of its habit, which it shares with many other species of African robins, of becoming singularly active and loquacious at dusk.

In studying the geographical variation of C.humeralis, care must be taken to eliminate birds in first-year dress, as they almost invariably carry juvenal flight- and tail-feathers, and as a result give measurements well below those of adults.

In the nominate race of C.humeralis about 50 per cent. of male specimens have the centre pair of rectrices with the basal surface yellowish tawny, whereas in C.h.crepuscula such a development is only just indicated in two or three of the males available for study.

I am grateful to Mr. Terence Oatley, of Ndumu, for the loan of his series of this robin from north-eastern Zululand and the Transvaal. Mr. Oatley’s specimens of C.h.crepuscula from Zululand measure in the ♂♂ wings 76-79.5, ♀♀ 73-75.5 mm.

Erythropygia quadrivirgata interna, subsp. nov.


Diagnosis: Differs sharply from the contiguous E.q.rovumae Grote, 1921: Mbarangandu R., upper Rovuma, southern Tanganyika Territory, in its redder, less earthen, brown upper-parts (mantle centre Dresden Brown (pl. xv), as against Olive-Brown (pl. xl) in E.q.rovumae), and brighter red rump and upper tail-coverts. In E.q.interna the rump and upper tail-coverts are wholly Antique Brown (pl. iii), whereas in E.q.rovumae the earthen brown of the mantle is diffused over the rump to Buckthorn Brown (pl. xv) on the upper tail-coverts. Ear-coverts lighter and redder. On under-parts not sharply differentiated, but dark streaks to sides of throat usually paler, and with the cinnamon-buff of the breast, sides of the
body and flanks usually slightly yellower (near Clay Color (pl. xxix)) and rather more extensively distributed, resulting in a reduction of the white over the medial ventral surface. Wings lighter, the tertials washed with redder brown. In tail, central rectrices less clear grey, more brownish tinged. then E.q.rovumae. Averaging a little larger in size.

**Material examined:** E.q.interna, 34 (Southern Rhodesia, 17; Northern Rhodesia, 14; northern Bechuanaland Protectorate, 2; Portuguese East Africa (Zambesi R. valley), 1). E.q.rovumae, 30 (eastern Southern Rhodesia, 12; northern and eastern Transvaal, 3; southern Portuguese East Africa, 3; Nyasaland, 11; southern Tanganyika Territory (topotype), 1). E.q.wilsoni (Roberts), 13 (north-eastern Zululand, 12; eastern Swaziland, 1). E.q.quadrirvirgata (Reichenow), 8 (eastern Tanganyika Territory, 1; eastern Kenya Colony, 7).

**Range:** The eastern Caprivi Strip and adjacent northern Bechuanaland to north-western Southern Rhodesia (mainly on the Zambesi R. and its major affluents, eastwards to the mid-Zambesi valley between Chirundu and Feira, where it appears to meet and intergrade with E.q.rovumae), Northern Rhodesia in southern Barotseland and the central and southern provinces, and adjacent extreme south-eastern Angola.

**Measurements of the Type:** Wing (flattened) 87.5, culmen from base 19, tarsus 28.5, tail 81 mm.

**Remarks:** The wings of ♂♂ of E.q.interna measure in 10 adult specimens 84.5-89 (87.7), tails 74-83.5 (79.6), 8 ♀♀ wings 77-85 (80.4), tails 68-74 (71.7) mm. E.q.rovumae is similar in size to E.q.interna but averages a little smaller, thus: wings of 11 ♂♂ 81-89 (85.0), tails 74-83.5 (77.3), 6 ♀♀ wings 76-81 (78.8), tails 69-78 (73.4) mm. In E.q.quadrirvirgata of the littoral of tropical East Africa the wings of ♂♂ measure 77.5-81, ♀♀ 74.5-76, and the tails 67.5-72, 64-67.5 mm.

In my recent note on this species in Durban Mus.Novit., vol. vi, 2, 1960, pp. 36-38, I state that in “studying the variation in this species care must be taken to see that the material is correctly sexed, as males are generally larger than females, while only fully adult birds should be used, owing to the fact that first-year birds carry the juvenile flight and tail feathers long after the completion of the first body moult. Such first-year birds are rather smaller sized than adults . . .”. In describing E.q.interna, I have based my conclusions on birds completely satisfactory from the point of view of plumage condition.
Three races of the Bearded Robin can be admitted to the South African list, as follows:

1. **Erythropygia quadrirvirgata rovumae** (Grote), 1921: Mbarangandu R., upper Rovuma, southern Tanganyika Territory.

   Upper-parts olive-brown; lower rump and upper tail-coverts buckthorn brown. On under-parts, breast, sides of the body and flanks cinnamon-buff.

   Wings of ♂ 81-89, ♀ 76-81, tails of ♂ 74-83.5, ♀ 69-78 mm.

   **Range:** The southern province of Tanganyika Territory, northern Portuguese East Africa, southern Nyasaland, and southern Portuguese East Africa in the districts of Tete, Sofala, Manica and northern Sul do Save (south to just north of Delagoa Bay, and extending up the Zambesi R. valley to the region between Feira and Chirundu, where it intergrades with *E.q.interna*), eastern Mashonaland (in south, west to Nuanetsi), and the northern and eastern Transvaal.


   Lighter and redder on the upper-parts than the last named, the rump and upper tail-coverts brighter (about Antique Brown). On under-parts usually shows more cinnamon-buff over the breast, body-sides and the flanks, with a corresponding reduction in the amount of white exhibited abdominally.

   Wings of ♂ 84.5-89, ♀ 77-85, tails of ♂ 74-83.5, ♀ 68-74 mm.

   **Range:** As already given in the above description.

3. **Erythropygia quadrirvirgata wilsoni** (Roberts), 1936: Mosie Store, near Maputa, north-eastern Zululand.

   Very close to *E.q.rovumae*, but usually a little more suffused with olive, less earthen brown above. On under-parts, the breast, body-sides and flanks are clay coloured, rather than cinnamon-buff, and the breast is darker and distinctly tinged with olive.

   Wings of ♂ 81-85, ♀ 78-80, tails of ♂ 74-78, ♀ 72, 70 mm.

   **Range:** Zululand from Lake St. Lucia north to the Portuguese East African and Transvaal borders, south-eastern Swaziland, south-eastern Transvaal, and the Maputo district of Sul do Save, southern Portuguese East Africa. North of its given range it intergrades with *E.q.rovumae*.
**ERYTHROPYGIA QUADRIVIRGATA** (Reichenow)

Sketch-map showing the approximate ranges of the three races of the Bearded Robin *Erythropygia quadrivirgata* (Reichenow) occurring in southern Africa.

1. *Erythropygia quadrivirgata rouumae* (Grote)
2. *Erythropygia quadrivirgata interna* Clancey
3. *Erythropygia quadrivirgata wilsoni* (Roberts)

**Remarks:** I am grateful to Mr. T. B. Oatley, of Ndumu, for the loan of his useful series of this robin, and also for the gift of three further specimens to the Durban Museum collection.

One of Mr. Oatley’s specimens—a ♂ collected on the Bahene Stream, Dlozi Peninsula, Lake St. Lucia, Zululand, on 9 March, 1959—appears to be a hybrid between *E.q.wilsoni* and *E.s.tongensis* (Roberts).

**Zosterops pallidus caniviridis**, subsp. nov.


*Diagnosis:* Similar to *Z.p.virens* Sundevall, 1850: Durban, Natal, but differs on account of the distinctly colder and greyer green of the entire upper surface (mantle colour about Dull Citrine (pl. xvi), as against Citrine or Citrine/Warbler Green (pl. iv) in
Z. p. virens). On under-parts paler yellow (Citron Yellow (pl. xvi), against Lemon Yellow (pl. iv) abdominally); breast with little olivaceous overlay, and flanks distinctly greyer, less olive, green. Wings and tail more blackish, less brown. Similar in size.

**Material examined:** Z. p. caniviridis, 27 (Transvaal, 18; upper midland Natal, 9). Z. p. virens, 75 (Pondoland, 25; coastal and midland Natal, 50).

**Range:** South-eastern Bechuanaland Protectorate (Gabane; Gaberones), Transvaal highveld, eastern Orange Free State, western Swaziland and the high interior of Natal (above 4,000’ a.s.l.). Perhaps to the foothills of the Drakensberg in East Griqualand, as material from Ingeli, Alfred County, Natal, at 4,000’-5,000’ consists of intergrades. In Natal grades into Z. p. virens below the 4,000’ altitude mark. In parts of the southern Transvaal this new form hybridizes with Z. p. sundevalli Hartlaub, 1865 (vide Clancey and Winterbottom, *Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. 81, 2, 1961, pp. 35, 36), the more marked intergrading specimens having been given the name Zosterops vaalensis Gunning and Roberts, 1911. Occasionally on the Natal coast as a winter visitor.

**Measurements of the Type:** Wing (flattened) 61, culmen from base 14, tarsus 18, tail 46.5 mm.

**Remarks:** The fact that Transvaal populations are greyer backed than Natal coastal Z. p. virens has been on record in the literature for some years. New work shows such greyer backed and ventrally more pallid populations to possess a wide, readily definable range, and the ample evidence before me suggests most cogently that they should not continue to be classified under the trinomen *virens*, but should be given a name of their own.

The range of Z. p. virens has now been determined as from the Eastern Cape Province east of the range of Z. p. attenuatus Sharpe, eastwards through Pondoland and East Griqualand to coastal and midland Natal and Zululand, north certainly to the Lebombo Range.

I am most grateful to Mr. M. B. Markus, of Pretoria, for the trouble he took to bring together the adequate paratypical sample from Pretoria upon which the new race, Z. p. caniviridis, is largely based. The paratypical series, nearly all shot on a single day, bears testimony to his ability as a marksman with an air-rifle! The name chosen for the new taxon is descriptive of the greyish dorsal colouration.