

Distribution.—Northern Angola (Malange district).

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult male, Malange, North Angola, Feb. 12, 1909. Collected by W. J. Ansorge. British Mus. Reg. no. 1910.5.6.848.

Measurements and soft parts.—Bill 10.5; wing, ♂♀, 57; tail, ♂ 44, ♀ 46; tarsus 19 mm. Eye yellow-lake, bill greenish-black; legs and feet dark olive-green, toes pale raw umber.

Remarks.—I may take this opportunity of pointing out that as the arrangement of the skins in the British Museum collection did not seem to me satisfactory I sent what appeared to me to be representatives of three races to be compared in Berlin with the types of *Eremomela congensis* Reichw., *Eremomela mentalis* Reichw., and *Eremomela citriniceps* (Reichw.).

Professor Stresemann kindly undertook to examine the specimens, and wrote to me under date Feb. 19, 1937, that

(i.) In his opinion the specimen from Malange, Angola, represented an undescribed race.

(ii.) A skin (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1907.6.26.125), collected by Douglas Carruthers on the Upper Congo, 3000 ft., Jan. 7, 1907, should be referred to *Eremomela scotops mentalis*, which latter race was wrongly sunk by Selater in the 'Systema Avium,' p. 540, into the synonymy of *E. scotops citriniceps*, both being perfectly recognisable races.

(iii.) A skin (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 87.8.12.7), collected by Bohndorff at Leopoldville, is identical with the type of *Eremomela scotops congensis*.

(iv.) It was a mistake of Reichenow's to include the locality Leopoldville under the range of both *E. congensis* and *E. mentalis* in his 'Vögel Afrikas,' iii. p. 639.

The only skin in the Berlin Museum from Leopoldville is referable to *E. congensis*, and *E. mentalis* does not occur there.

Mr. R. H. W. PAKENHAM sent the following description of a new Scops Owl from Pemba Island :—

Otus pemaensis, sp. nov.

Description.—In general appearance very similar to *Otus rutilus* Pucheran, Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 29 : Madagascar,

and with which it agrees in size ; but more uniform in colour both above and below, *i. e.*, practically lacking the streaking and barring of *O. rutilus*.

Distribution.—Pemba Island, Eastern Africa. Abundant in the north of the island, but appears to be absent or scarce in the south.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult, Wete, Pemba Island, collected by R. H. W. Pakenham on May 27, 1936. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1937.2.14.1.

Measurements of type.—Wing 153, culmen 21, tarsus 26, tail 75 mm.

Remarks.—Four adult males and two adult females examined, including the type. As in other species and races of the Scops Owls rufous phases are present, and two of the males are in this state of plumage. Capt. C. H. B. Grant, who has examined these specimens, agrees that in view of the great distance of Pemba from Madagascar it is better to treat this new bird as a species rather than a subspecies of the Madagascar bird.

Wing-measurements of the six specimens are 148–155 mm., and those of ten specimens of *Otus rutilus* 145–160 mm.

Probably breeds from August to October (the short rains begin in November). Frequents the clove-plantations, favouring the thickest and darkest parts, and also thickly foliated trees such as mangos, big trees in graveyards, or other tall and extensive thickets. Roosts all day in such trees, but has also been found sleeping as near as 5 to 6 feet to the ground in cardamon or other undergrowth, and in the lower branches of trees. Clove-pickers while climbing in the clove-trees frequently find this Owl roosting, and can easily pick them up in the hand. They begin to leave the roosting places about 6.10 P.M. (sun-time), *i. e.*, just as dusk is falling, and at once begin to utter the monotonous monosyllabic call, "hu," sometimes uttered singly, sometimes in a succession of "hu"s uttered at half-second intervals—the latter particularly when two birds are answering one another and both give utterance simultaneously, often one in a low and the other in a high key. These calls continue to be heard fairly frequently until it becomes quite dark, when they decrease, but they may continue to be heard now and again throughout the night.

There is a certain amount of evidence of the fact that the low and high pitched calls are issued by the male and female respectively. Their small size and their partiality for sitting among thick foliage make these birds very hard to see. They may be located by the call, but this is apparently seldom uttered more than a few times from the same spot, and a noiseless departure is made. They are quick off the mark, and rapid fliers, and are constantly on the move. Frequently a bird will not fly straight from one tree to another, but will drop with a dive from the first tree and swoop up into the second. I have heard the call uttered on the wing. They appear to be stupefied by deep slumber in the daytime, and will allow themselves to be knocked down, or taken in the hand, nor do they make any great efforts to struggle or retaliate. During the daytime their vitality appears to be at a low ebb, though at night they are very active. In my experience the food is entirely of insects. Some of these may be caught in flight, but I once saw a bird within half-a-dozen paces of me spring from its perch on to the leafy tip of a slender bough, which hung down under its weight. There it clung for 5 to 10 seconds, with extended wings pressed against the foliage to preserve its balance, apparently consuming some creature it had spotted among the leaves. Nothing is known yet of its breeding habits, though I believe it mates for life. The natives believe that the bird is viviparous, this being proved by quoting persons who are alleged to have found the newly delivered youngster on the grass with the mother expiring close by, for she is believed not to survive the birth of her young. Belief in its laying eggs in a nest was smiled at as a quaint piece of unsophistication on my part! The local native names are "Kihodi" and "Kidunda," and this Owl is in some way identified with or utilized in the practice of witchcraft.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following change of name:—

***Apalis murina whitei*, nom. nov.**

for *Apalis murina bensoni* Grant and Mackworth-Praed, Bull. B. O. C. lvii. 1937, p. 101: Dedza Mt., Nyasaland,