

Luca GHIRALDI*, Matteo RUZZON*

Lifting the veil from a historical collection of birds from Burundi kept at the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali of Turin (Italy)

ABSTRACT

In 1999 the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali in Turin (MRSN) acquired a collection of 248 birds, nearly all from Burundi, which had remained unstudied until then. The specimens had been collected by Savino Bozzelli, an Italian student at Bujumbura University, between November 1967 and November 1968. Regrettably, no further biographical information has been found on Bozzelli. Therefore, no details are available as to how his collection ended up in Turin. The only established fact is that as early as 1967, his first year at university, Bozzelli started sending bird skins on a regular basis to the Central African Museum in Tervuren (Belgium); the collection held at the MRSN is therefore quite likely just a portion of the original one. Revision work on the collection led to the identification of as many as 95 taxa, belonging to 44 families. Therefore, whilst the unknown ways in which the collection came to Turin jeopardised its historical relevance, its scientific value has remained undiminished, both because the collection represents a snapshot of Burundi's biodiversity over the time span 1967-1968, and the comparison with the GBIF datasets yields additional data about Burundian bird specimens preserved in natural history museums.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Natural History Collection, Birds, Burundi, GBIF.

INTRODUCTION

Scientific collections convey a wealth of relevant information on life on Earth and the habitats humans and other species share (Winker *et al.*, 2010). One of the scopes of these collections, throughout most of their 'history', has been to map biodiversity and its distribution (Winker 2005), providing a unique perspective on changes in populations and communities over time (Collar *et al.*, 2003). Each and every specimen is therefore a potentially rich repository of information including site of collection (geographical information), taxonomy (faunal and phylogenetic information), and date of collection (chronological information), which provide insights on past environments that cannot be re-sampled any further. As such, bringing information into the public domain is becoming crucial in order to support a broad range of applications in ecology and evolution, including environmental change issues from global (Tobias *et al.*, 2022) to local levels (Graham *et al.*, 2010, Lagerholm *et al.*, 2017).

* Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino.

The aim of the present work is to make available to the scientific community data on a collection of 248 bird specimens, mostly from Burundi, purchased by the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali of Torino (MRSN) in 1999 and yet unstudied to date. The potential benefits of using international data infrastructure such as GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) is also evaluated.

Despite the limited number of specimens, the collection is definitely interesting both because it comes from a country where ornithology is still a largely neglected science (Hakizimana *et al.*, 2010), and because Burundi is one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in Africa. As a matter of fact, only a small percentage of its territory is today under some kind of protection, the rest facing quite a number of anthropogenic pressures (Nkezabahizi & Manirambona, 2011) heavily threatening its ecological integrity.

However, Burundi is home to a diverse range of resident and seasonal migrant bird species, that can be found in most of the country's ecosystems, ranging from savannahs, forests and most of all wetlands such as the Rusizi delta and northern lakes.

Thanks to the works of Schouteden (1966), Gaugris (1976, 1981), Verschuren (1977) and, more recently, Nzigidahera (2008) and Hakizimana *et al.*, (2010) carried out both through field observations and the study of bird collections preserved in natural history museums, the number of species currently recorded in Burundi amounts to 698 according to Clements *et al.*, (2024)

The MRSN collection of Burundian birds

The collection was acquired in 1999 and consists in 248 bird specimens. At the time of the collection purchase, the only existing information on its origin was that it belonged to Mr. Tiberio Forin, the current co-owner of the safari park in Murazzano (Italy), who later sold it to Mr. Franco Ferrero: a locally based taxidermist, who eventually offered it to the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali of Torino. The specimens were badly prepared as study skins (Fig. 1) and, most of them were labelled with basic information: scientific name, sex, date and site of collection. In a handful of cases, there were additional notes written in French. The birds were collected in two different periods: the first one from 12 November 1967 to 3 June 1968; the second one from 6 October to 22 November 1968. Nearly all the specimens were collected from different localities in Burundi, except for ten, which were obtained from Rwanda. Fortunately, on some labels the name "Bozzelli" was also reported. Further research uncovered a brief paper from Savino Bozzelli (Bozzelli, 1967) reporting that one or more specimens have been prepared by him with arsenical soap and shipped from Burundi to the Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA) in Tervuren (Belgium) where they are preserved.

Thanks to Annelore Nackaerts, the RMCA bird collection manager, it was possible to discover that both a number of specimens from Burundi collected by Bozzelli and an exchange of letters between Dr. Henri Schouteden of RMCA and Prof. Josè Lewalle of the University of Bujumbura, are still preserved at the RMCA (A. Nackaerts, pers. comm. 2024).

The correspondence clarify the reasons why Bozzelli sent bird specimens in Belgium, albeit providing no other useful biographical information. In 1967, Bozzelli was a young student at the University of Bujumbura interested in the study of the ornithological fauna of Burundi. Through the intermediation of Prof. Lewalle, he got in touch with Dr.

Schouteden proposing a collaboration involving the shipping of bird specimens in exchange for technical advice, taxidermy supplies, books and tools for the collection, the identification and the preparation of bird specimens, as well as a period of training at the Tervuren museum to refine his preparation skills.

Thanks to this correspondence, it was also possible to understand that the reason why he interrupted his collection activity in the summer of 1968, were due to his stay at Tervuren at the RMCA. Notwithstanding a great deal of research, no more information has been uncovered about Savino Bozzelli's life after 1968 and, therefore, nothing on how part of his collections came to Turin.



Fig. 1. Some of the bird specimens collected in Burundi by Savino Bozzelli between the years 1967 and 1968.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A three-stage study was undertaken on Bozzelli's bird collection.

First, the accuracy of the scientific names reported on the labels was ascertained and, if required, the taxonomy either updated or the specimen redetermined. Taxa were identified based on diagnostic external traits and geographical distribution, following Billerman *et al.*, (2022); Stevenson & Fanshawe (2020) and Fry & Keith (2004).

The second step was to consider the collection sites of the specimens (Fig. 2) in order to assess if the species had already been listed for Burundi. This was done by checking up-to-date regional checklists (Lepage 2024) and, if it was the case, by assessing whether the species had already been recorded either as preserved specimens or observations in the GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) database (GBIF.org, 2024).

The last stage was the implementation of a commented catalogue of the specimens in Bozzelli's collection. The eBird/Clements Checklist of Birds of the World (Clements *et al.*, 2021) was used for the taxonomic arrangement. The catalogue structure is modelled as in Ghiraldi *et al.* (2021, 2023): all the specimens are identified with a unique alphanumeric code comprising the acronym MRSN (Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali) followed by the letters AV (Aves) and the inventory number; after the identification code, separated by a semi-colon, follow the sex, age, collection locality and date. If a specimen lacked any information, the acronym w.d. (without data) was used. Additional remarks were used to indicate if the specimen was not originally determined or if the specimen was reported in the GBIF database as a preserved specimen or as an observation at the same or a different locality.

RESULTS

This revision work resulted in the taxonomic reclassification of 95 out of 248 bird specimens. A total of 95 taxa belonging to 44 families are represented in the collection (Tab. I). The order Passeriformes is the most represented and accounts for 66.9% of the total, with the largest number of specimens and taxa belonging to the family Ploceidae. Overall, the collection accounts for 13.6% of the taxa recorded for Burundi, according to the country's checklist. The specimens come from 14 different collecting areas (Tab. II). The most intensively collecting districts are the Bujumbura area, Burundi's capital (69.3%), and the neighbouring Rusizi area (14.5%). The only collecting station outside Burundi's borders is Rwinkwavu, Rwanda.

All the species collected are currently reported in the Burundi checklists.

Comparing data of the 91 species collected by Bozzelli in Burundi with those recorded in the GBIF dataset for the same country, reveals that 51 species out of 91 have already been recorded in GBIF as preserved specimens with the same collection locality; 20 species are not present as preserved specimens, but there are observations in the same localities; four species are present as preserved specimens but there are observations for generic localities; four species are not present as preserved specimens but there are observation in others localities; three species are present as preserved specimens with generic localities, but for none of them there are observation in the same localities and finally four species:

African pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*, Ggrey crowned-crane *Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*, European honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and Variable Indigobird *Vidua funerea nigerrima* are not present as preserved specimens and neither as observations, although the first two have been reported in the work of Verschauten (1977), the third in the work of Gaugris (1981) while for the last there are no records.

ORDER	FAMILY	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS	NUMBER OF SPECIES
Anseriformes	Anatidae	2	2
Galliformes	Phasianidae	2	1
Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae	2	1
Columbiformes	Columbidae	1	1
Musophagiformes	Musophagidae	1	1
Cuculiformes	Cuculidae	9	4
Gruiformes	Rallidae	3	2
	Gruidae	1	1
Charadriiformes	Recurvirostridae	1	1
	Charadriidae	5	3
	Rostrotulidae	1	1
	Jacaniidae	1	1
	Scolopacidae	9	3
	Laridae	2	2
Ciconiformes	Ciconiidae	1	1
Pelacaniformes	Pelacanidae	1	1
	Ardeidae	3	1
	Threskiornitidae	2	2
Accipitriformes	Accipitridae	6	4
Coliiformes	Coliidae	5	1
Bucerotiformes	Upupidae	1	1
	Bucerotidae	1	1
Coraciiformes	Alcedinidae	10	4
	Meropidae	9	3
Piciformes	Picidae	2	1
Passeriformes	Oriolidae	1	1
	Platystridae	1	1
	Malaconitidae	2	2
	Monarchidae	1	1
	Laniidae	16	3
	Corvidae	1	1
	Macrosphenidae	1	1
	Acrocephalidae	3	1
	Hirundinidae	1	1
	Pycnonotidae	6	1
	Leiothrichidae	1	1
	Sturnidae	4	2
	Nectariniidae	9	4
	Ploceidae	92	17
	Estrildidae	14	7
	Viduidae	6	2
	Passeridae	3	1
	Motacillidae	2	2
	Fringillidae	3	2

Tab. I. Number of specimens and species by family and order.

LOCALITY	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS	NUMBER OF SPECIES
Bugarama	3	3
Bujumbura	172	57
Gitega	5	4
Lijenda	2	2
Kanyinya	6	5
Musigati	6	2
Ndora	1	1
Rumonge	2	1
Rusizi	36	22
Rwegura	1	1
Rwihinda (Lac des oiseaux)	1	1
Tora	1	1
Rwinkwavu (Rwanda)	9	6
Rwanda	2	2
No locality	2	2

Tab. II. Number of preserved specimens and species by locality.

DISCUSSION

Unfortunately, the lack of information about the circumstances under which the collection came to Turin has reduced its historical interest. It is rather noticeable that the specimens held at the MRSN and at RMCA could be in all likelihood part of the same collection.

Since the percentage of species out of the total of those currently observed in Burundi is rather low and the collection area is predominantly clustered in the Bujumbura and Rusizi areas, it can be asserted that the scientific interest of the collection lies in being a limited snapshot of Burundian biodiversity in the period 1967-1968.

All species with available collecting site information are currently reported as being present in the same areas. Therefore, as highlighted by Nkezabahizi & Manirambona (2011), despite the increase of population density which is the strongest driver in jeopardizing biological balances, doesn't seem that there has been a deterioration of ecological conditions over the years significant enough to lead to the disappearance of some species.

Comparing our collection data with the museum specimens listed in the GBIF datasets, reveals that the publication of our data in the infrastructure, will increase the number of preserved specimens kept in natural history collections and at the same time will enrich the dataset with new collecting localities, thus offering an additional historical insight into Burundi's avian diversity.

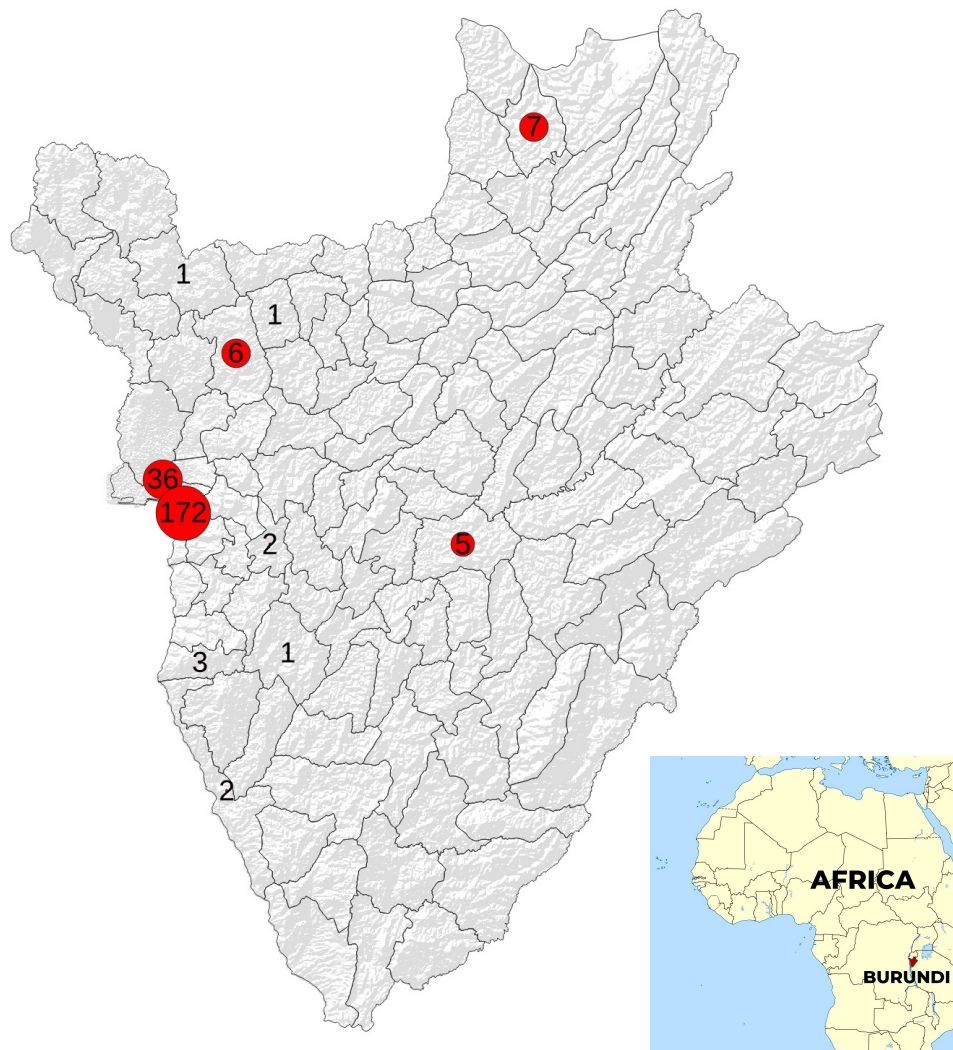


Fig. 2. Number of specimens collected by municipality. As can be seen from the map, about 84% of the birds are clustered in the Bujumbura area.

RIASSUNTO

Svelare una collezione storica di uccelli del Burundi conservata al Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino (Italia).

Nel 1999 il Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino acquisì una collezione di 248 uccelli, quasi tutti provenienti dal Burundi. Gli esemplari furono raccolti da Savino Bozzelli, uno studente italiano dell'Università di Bujumbura, tra il novembre 1967 e il novembre 1968. Purtroppo, non sono state trovate informazioni biografiche approfondite su Bozzelli, pertanto, non sono disponibili i dettagli su come la sua collezione sia giunta a Torino. L'unico dato certo è che già nel 1967, primo anno di università, Bozzelli iniziò a inviare regolarmente pelli di uccelli al Museo dell'Africa Centrale di Tervuren (Belgio); la collezione conservata al MRSN è quindi molto probabilmente solo una parte di quella originale. Il lavoro di revisione della collezione ha portato all'identificazione di ben 95 taxa, appartenenti a 44 famiglie. Pertanto, se da un lato le modalità sconosciute con cui la collezione giunse a Torino ne hanno compromesso la rilevanza storica, dall'altro il suo valore scientifico è rimasto inalterato, sia perché la collezione rappresenta un'istantanea della biodiversità del Burundi nell'arco temporale 1967-1968, sia perché dal confronto con i dataset disponibili su GBIF emerge chiaramente che è possibile ampliare con nuovi dati le informazioni sull'avifauna burundese conservata nei musei di storia naturale.

Keywords: Biodiversità, Collezioni naturalistiche, Ornitologia; Burundi, GBIF.

Luca GHIRALDI
Matteo RUZZON
Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali
Via G. Giolitti, 36
I-10123 TORINO
ITALY
luca.ghiraldi@regione.piemonte.it
matteo.ruzzon@regione.piemonte.it

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COMMENTED CATALOGUE

Order **ANSERIFORMES** Wagler, 1831

Family **ANATIDAE** Vigors, 1825

Dendrocygna viduata (Linnaeus, 1766)

White-faced whistling-duck

MRSN AV498; male; adult; Rusizi; 10/02/1968

Nettapus auritus (Boddaert, 1783)¹

African pygmy-goose

MRSN AV499; male; adult; Kanyinya; 10/12/1967

Order **GALLIFORMES** Temminck, 1820

Family **PHASIANIDAE** Horsfield, 1821

Pternistis afer harterti (Reichenow, 1909)²

Red-necked spurfowl

MRSN AV500; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 28/02/1968

MRSN AV501; male; adult; Bujumbura; 28/02/1968

Order **PODICIPEDIFORMES** Fürbringer, 1888

Family **PODICIPEDIDAE** Bonaparte, 1831

Tachybaptus ruficollis capensi Salvadori, 1884)³

Little grebe

MRSN AV502; female; adult; Kanyinya; 11/12/1967

MRSN AV503; female; adult; Kanyinya; 11/12/1967

¹ Formerly undetermined.

² Formerly undetermined.

³ Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. There are observations for other locations in Burundi, but not in Kanyinya.

COLUMBIDAE Illiger, 1811

Streptopelia semitorquata (Ruppel, 1837)⁴

Red-eyed dove

MRSN AV504; male; adult; Bujumbura; 03/11/1968

MUSOPHAGIFORMES Seebohm, 1890

MUSOPHAGIDAE Bonaparte, 1831

Crinifer zonurus Rüppell, 1835

Eastern plantain-eater

MRSN AV505; female; adult; Kanyinya; 12/1967

CUCULIFORMES Wagler, 1830

CUCULIDAE Vigors, 1825

Centropus grillii Hartlaub, 1861

Black coucal

MRSN AV506; male?; Bujumbura (Plaine); 11/02/1968

Chrysococcyx caprius (Boddaert, 1783)

Dideric cuckoo

MRSN AV507; male; adult; Bujumbura; 19/01/1968

MRSN AV508; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/01/1968

MRSN AV509; female; adult; Bujumbura (Aerodrome); 21/01/1968

MRSN AV510; male; adult; Bujumbura (Aerodrome); 22/01/1968

MRSN AV511; male; adult; Bujumbura (Aerodrome); 23/01/1968

MRSN AV512; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 19/02/1968

Clamator jacobinus pica (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

Jacobin cuckoo

MRSN AV513; female; adult; Rusizi; 21/01/1968

⁴ Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. There are observations in other locations in Burundi, but not in Kanyinya.

Clamator levaillantii (Swainson, 1829)⁵

Levaillant's cuckoo

MRSN AV514; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 27/02/1968

RALLIDAE Vigors, 1825

Zapornia flavirostra (Swainson, 1837)⁶

Black crake

MRSN AV515; male; adult; Bujumbura (Plage); 03/12/1967

Porphyrio madagascariensis (Latham, 1801)

African swampphen

MRSN AV516; female; adult; Rusizi; 01/1968

MRSN AV517; unsexed; adult; Rusizi; 01/1968

GRUIDAE Vigors, 1825

Balearica regulorum gibbericeps Reichenow, 1892⁷

Gray crowned-crane

MRSN AV518; unsexed; adult; Gitega; 11/1967

CHARADRIIFORMES Huxley, 1867

RECURVIROSTRIDAE Bonaparte, 1854

Himantopus himantopus (Linnaeus, 1758)⁸

Black-winged stilt

MRSN AV519; unsexed; juvenile; Rusizi; 23/12/1967

⁵ Formerly undetermined.

⁶ Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. There are observations in the same locality.

⁷ Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. There are observations in other locations in Burundi but not in Gitega.

⁸ Formerly undetermined. Not present in GBIF either as preserved specimens or as observations.

CHARADRIDAE Vigors 1825

Vanellus lugubris (Lesson, 1826)

Senegal lapwing

MRSN AV520; female; adult; Bujumbura; 27/01/1968

MRSN AV521; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 08/11/1968

MRSN AV522; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/11/1968

Vanellus coronatus (Boddaert, 1783)

Crowned lapwing

MRSN AV523; male; adult; Rusizi; 12/1967

Vanellus senegallus lateralis Smith, 1839⁹

Wattled lapwing

MRSN AV524; unsexed; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

ROSTRATULIDAE Mathews, 1911

Rostratula benghalensis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Greater painted-snipe

MRSN AV525; female; adult; Bujumbura; 11/05/1968

JACANIDAE Stejneger, 1885

Actophilornis africanus (Gmelin, 1789)¹⁰

African jacana

MRSN AV526; female; adult; Rusizi; 03/06/1968

SCOLOPACIDAE Vigors, 1825

Actitis hypoleucos (Linnaeus, 1758)¹¹

Common sandpiper

⁹ Formerly undetermined.

¹⁰ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Rusizi. There are observations in the same locality.

¹¹ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. There are observations in the same locality.

MRSN AV527; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/03/1968
MRSN AV528; male; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

Calidris minuta (Leisler, 1812)

Little stint

MRSN AV529; unsexed; adult; Rusizi; 20/10/1968
MRSN AV530; female; adult; Rusizi; 20/10/1968

Tringa glareola Linnaeus, 1758

Wood sandpiper

MRSN AV531; female; adult; Bugarama (Aerodrome); 01/12/1967
MRSN AV532; female; adult; Rusizi; 20/10/1968
MRSN AV533; female; adult; Rusizi; 20/10/1968
MRSN AV534; female; adult; Rusizi; 20/10/1968
MRSN AV535; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

LARIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Larus fuscus Linnaeus, 1758¹²

Lesser black-backed gull

MRSN AV536; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura (Lac); 19/11/1967

Chlidonias leucopterus (Temminck, 1815)¹³

White-winged tern

MRSN AV537; female; juvenile; Rusizi; 20/10/1968

CICONIFORMES Bonaparte, 1854

CICONIIDAE Gray, 1840

Anastomus lamelligerus Temminck, 1823¹⁴

African openbill

MRSN AV538; unsexed; adult; Rwihinda (Lac aux oiseaux); 11/1967

¹² Present in GBIF as preserved specimen generically collected in Tanganika Lake.

¹³ Formerly undetermined.

¹⁴ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s from Rwihinda. There are observations in the same locality.

PELECANIFORMES Sharpe, 1891

PELECANIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Pelecanus rufescens Gmelin, 1789¹⁵

Pink-backed pelican

MRSN AV539; w.d.

ARDEIDAE Leach, 1820

Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Cattle egret

MRSN AV540; male; adult; Bujumbura; 12/1967

MRSN AV541; male; adult; Rusizi; 15/02/1968

MRSN AV542; male; adult; Rusizi; 16/02/1968

THRESKIORNITHIDAE Richmond, 1917

Bostrychia hagedash nilotica (Neumann, 1909)¹⁶

Hadada ibis

MRSN AV543; male; adult; Rusizi; 29/02/1968

Threskiornis aethiopicus (Latham, 1790)¹⁷

African sacred Ibis

MRSN AV544; female; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 13/03/1968

¹⁵ Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. All the observations are clustered in the Rusizi area.

¹⁶ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Rusizi. There are observations in the same locality.

¹⁷ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. There are observations in the same locality.

ACCIPITRIFORMES Sharpe, 1874

ACCIPITRIDAE Vieillot, 1816

Buteo augur Salvadori, 1866¹⁸

Augur buzzard

MRSN AV545; female; adult; Gitega; 12/11/1967

MRSN AV546; female; adult; Gitega; w.d.

MRSN AV547; unsexed; adult; Tora; 03/02/1968

Lophaetus occipitalis (Daudin, 1800)¹⁹

Long-crested eagle

MRSN AV547; female; adult; Rwihinda (Lac aux oiseaux); 10/12/1967

Elanus caeruleus (Desfontaines, 1789)

Black-winged kite

MRSN AV548; female; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 01/03/1968

Pernis apivorus (Linnaeus, 1758)²⁰

Honey buzzard

MRSN AV549; w.d.

COLIIFORMES Murie, 1872

COLIIDAE Sundevall, 1836

Colius striatus kiwuensis Reichenow, 1908

Speckled mousebird

MRSN AV550; no data; 23/04/1968

MRSN AV551; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/11/1968

MRSN AV552; male; adult; Bujumbura; 13/11/1968

MRSN AV553; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/11/1968

MRSN AV554; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.

¹⁸ The specimens AV545 and AV547 were formerly identified as *B. rufofuscus*. AV545 represent a melanistic form of *B. augur*.

¹⁹ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations in Rwihinda.

²⁰ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations. The species is reported as vagrant.

BUCEROTIFORMES Monroe & Sibley, 1993

UPUPIDAE Leach, 1820

Upupa epops africana Bechstein, 1811²¹

Eurasian hoopoe

MRSN AV555; male; adult; Bujumbura; 28/10/1968

BUCEROTIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Lophoceros nasutus epirhinus (Sundevall, 1850)

African gray hornbill

MRSN AV556; female; adult; Rusizi Plaine; 18/03/1968

CORACIIFORMES Forbes, 1884

ALCEDINIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus, 1758)²²

Pied kingfisher

MRSN AV557; male; adult; Kanyinya; 11/12/1967

MRSN AV558; male; adult; Rumonge; 17/11/1968

MRSN AV559; male; adult; Rumonge; 17/11/1968

Corythornis cristatus (Pallas, 1764)²³

Malachite kingfisher

MRSN AV560; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/02/1968

MRSN AV561; unsexed; adult; Gitega; w.d.

Halcyon senegalensis (Linnaeus, 1766)

Woodland kingfisher

MRSN AV562; female; adult; Rusizi; 16/11/1968

MRSN AV563; male; adult; Rusizi; 16/11/1968

²¹ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. There are observations in the same locality.

²² Present in GBIF as preserved specimen but reported with generic locality. Possibly belonging to the subspecies *galeritus* (Müller, 1776).

²³ AV560 has orange-rufous underparts. AV561 has cheeks, breast, and flanks orange-rufous and whitish belly.

Ispidina picta ferruginea Clancey, 1984
African pygmy kingfisher

MRSN AV564; male; adult; Bujumbura Q. Zemet; 21/02/1968
MRSN AV565; male; adult; Bujumbura Q. Zemet; 27/02/1968
MRSN AV566; male; adult; Bujumbura Q. Zemet; 13/11/1968

MEROPIDAE Rafinesque, 1815

Merops bullockoides Smith, 1834²⁴
White-fronted bee-eater

MRSN AV567; male; adult; Rusizi; 16/11/1968

Merops oreobates (Sharpe, 1892)
Cinnamon-chested bee-eater

MRSN AV568; male; adult; Ijenda (2150 m. a.s.l); 23/11/1967
MRSN AV569; male; adult; Musigati; 25/02/1968
MRSN AV570; male; adult; Musigati; 25/02/1968
MRSN AV571; female; adult; Musigati; 04/03/1968
MRSN AV572; female; adult; Musigati; 05/03/1968
MRSN AV573; female; adult; Bujumbura; 06/03/1968

Merops persicus Pallas, 1773²⁵
Blue-cheeked bee-eater

MRSN AV574; female; adult; Kanyinya; 11/12/1967

PICIFORMES Meyer & Wolf, 1810

PICIDAE Vigors, 1825

Campethera abigoni (Smith, 1836)²⁶
Golden-tailed woodpecker

MRSN AV575; female; adult; Bujumbura; 7/02/1968
MRSN AV576; male; adult; Bujumbura; 24/02/1968

²⁴ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. There are observations in the same locality.

²⁵ Formerly undetermined. Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations in Kanyinya.

²⁶ Formerly undetermined. Not reported as preserved specimen/s in GBIF. Observation in the same locality.

Order **PASSERIFORMES** Linnaeus, 1758

Family **ORIOLIDAE** Vigors, 1825

Oriolus larvatus rolleti Salvadori, 1864²⁷

African black-headed oriole

MRSN AV577; male; adult; Rwinkwavu (Rwanda); 02/01/1968

Family **PLATYSTEIRIDAE** Sundevall, 1872

Platysteira peltata mentalis Bocage, 1878

Black-throated wattle-eye

MRSN AV578; male; adult; Ndora (Riviere 1200 m a.s.l); 28/01/1968

Family **MALACONOTIDAE** Swainson, 1824

Laniarius erythrogaster (Cretzschmar, 1829)

Black-headed gonolek

MRSN AV579; male; adult; Rwihinda (Lac aux oiseaux); 29/12/1967

Telophorus dohertyi (Rothschild, 1901)

Doherty's bushshrike

MRSN AV580; male; adult; Ndora (Marais, 200 m a.s.l); 28/01/1968

Family **MONARCHIDAE** Bonaparte, 1854

Terpsiphone viridis kivuensis Salomonsen, 1949²⁸

African paradise-flycatcher

MRSN AV581; female; adult; Gitega; 12/11/1967

²⁷ Formerly undetermined.

²⁸ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations in Gitega. Observation in the same locality.

Family **LANIIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Lanius collurio Linnaeus, 1758

Red-backed shrike

MRSN AV582; female; adult; Bujumbura; 05/11/1968
MRSN AV583; female; adult; Bujumbura; 13/11/1968
MRSN AV584; female; adult; Rusizi; 13/11/1968
MRSN AV585; male; juvenile; Bujumbura; 13/11/1968
MRSN AV586; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968
MRSN AV587²⁹; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968
MRSN AV588; male; juvenile; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

Lanius excubitoroides boehmi Reichenow, 1902

Gray-backed fiscal

MRSN AV589; female; adult; Rusizi; 27/11/1967
MRSN AV590; female; adult; Rusizi; 27/11/1967
MRSN AV591; male; adult; Rwinkwavu; 29/12/1967
MRSN AV592; male; adult; Rusizi; 06/10/1968

Lanius humeralis capelli (Bocage, 1879)³⁰

Northern fiscal

MRSN AV593; male; adult; Rusizi; 18/10/1968
MRSN AV594; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968
MRSN AV595; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 21/11/1968
MRSN AV596; male; adult; Bujumbura; 12/1967
MRSN AV597; male; adult; Bujumbura (Lac); 12/1967

Family **CORVIDAE** Leach, 1820

Corvus albus Müller, 1776³¹

Pied crow

MRSN AV598; female; adult; Bujumbura Q Zemet; 29/02/1968

²⁹ AV587 was formerly identified as *L. collaris*.

³⁰ All the specimens were formerly identified as *L. collaris*.

³¹ Formerly identified as *C. albicollis*, Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations in Bujumbura. Observation in the same locality.

Family **MACROSPHENIDAE** Wolters, 1983

Sylvietta whytii jacksoni Sharpe, 1897³²

Red-faced crombec

MRSN AV599; male; adult; Rwinkwavu (Rwanda); 29/12/1967

Family **ACROCEPHALIDAE** Salvin, 1882

Acrocephalus arundinaceus (Linnaeus, 1758)³³

Great reed warbler

MRSN AV600; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

MRSN AV601; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

MRSN AV602; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

Family **HIRUNDINIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Hirundo smithii Leach, 1818³⁴

Wire-tailed swallow

MRSN AV603; male; adult; Rusizi Plaine; 14/01/1968

Family **PYCNONOTIDAE** Gray, 1840

Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor (Hartlaub, 1862)

Common bulbul

MRSN AV604; male; adult; Bujumbura; 21/03/1968

MRSN AV605; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

MRSN AV606; female; adult; Bujumbura; 15/10/1968

MRSN AV607; male; adult; Bugarama; 20/10/1968

MRSN AV608; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/11/1968

MRSN AV609; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/11/1968

³² Formerly undetermined.

³³ AV587 was formerly identified as *L. collaris*.

³⁴ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Rusizi. Observation on the shores of Lake Tanganika.

Family **LEIOTHRICHIDAE** Swainson, 1832

Turdoides jardineii emini (Neumann, 1904)

Arrow-marked babbler

MRSN AV610; female; adult; Bujumbura; 08/11/1968

Family **STURNIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815

Lamprotornis chalybaeus sycobius (Hartlaub, 1859)³⁵

Greater blue-eared starling

MRSN AV611; female; adult; Rwinkwavu (Rwanda); 01/01/1968

MRSN AV612; female; adult; Rwinkwavu (Rwanda); 02/01/1968

MRSN AV613; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

Creatophora cinerea (Meuschen, 1787)³⁶

Wattled starling

MRSN AV614; female; adult; Rusizi; 06/10/1968

Family **NECTARINIIDAE** Vigors, 1825

Cinnyris stuhlmanni schubotzi Reichenow, 1908³⁷

Stuhlmann's sunbird

MRSN AV615; male; adult; Ijenda (Bruyèn 2150 m a.s.l.); 23/11/1967

Chalcomitra senegalensis lamperti (Reichenow, 1897)

Scarlet-chested sunbird

MRSN AV616; male; adult; Rwanda; 29/12/1967

Cinnyris erythrocerus (Hartlaub, 1857)³⁸

Red-chested sunbird

MRSN AV617; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/01/1968

MRSN AV618; male; adult; Bujumbura; 27/02/1968

³⁵Formerly undetermined.

³⁶ Formerly undetermined. In GBIF reported with generic locality. Observed near Rusizi.

³⁷ In GBIF reported with generic locality. No observations in Ijenda.

³⁸ Formerly undetermined.

Nectarinia kilimensis Shelley, 1885

Bronze sunbird

MRSN AV619; female; adult; Bujumbura; 25/10/1968 Undet

MRSN AV620; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/11/1968

MRSN AV621; male; adult; Bujumbura; 13/11/1968

MRSN AV622; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

MRSN AV623; male; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

Family **PLOCEIDAE** Sundevall, 1836

Ploceus baglafecht stuhlmanni (Reichenow, 1893)³⁹

Baglafecht weaver

male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 04/03/1968

Ploceus cucullatus graueri (Hartert, 1911)⁴⁰

Village weaver

MRSN AV624; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 14/02/1968

MRSN AV625; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/03/1968

MRSN AV626; male; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

MRSN AV627; male; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

MRSN AV628; male; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

MRSN AV629; male; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

MRSN AV630; male; adult; Rusizi; w.d.

MRSN AV631; female; adult; Bujumbura; 18/10/1968

MRSN AV632; female; adult; Bujumbura; 05/11/1968

MRSN AV633; male; juvenile; Bujumbura; 08/11/1968

MRSN AV634; female; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

MRSN AV635; female; adult; Bujumbura; 14/11/1968

MRSN AV636; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968

MRSN AV637; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968

MRSN AV638; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968

MRSN AV639; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968

*Ploceus melanocephalus dimidiatus*⁴¹ (Antinori & Salvadori, 1873)

Black-headed weaver

MRSN AV640; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968

MRSN AV641; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/03/1968

MRSN AV642; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.

MRSN AV643; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.

³⁹ Formerly undetermined.

⁴⁰ Female and juvenile specimens were formerly undetermined.

⁴¹ Formerly undetermined.

Ploceus nigerrimus Vieillot, 1819

Vieillot's black weaver

MRSN AV644; male; juvenile; Bujumbura; 01/03/1968⁴²

Ploceus ocularis crocatus (Hartlaub, 1881)

Spectacled weaver

MRSN AV645; male; juvenile; Bugarama; 01/02/1968

MRSN AV646; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 01/02/1968

MRSN AV647; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 11/02/1968

MRSN AV648; male; adult; Bujumbura; 15/10/1968

MRSN AV649; female; adult; Bujumbura; 18/10/1968

Ploceus pelzelni⁴³ (Hartlaub, 1887)

Slender-billed weaver

MRSN AV650; male; adult; Rusizi; 14/01/1968

Ploceus xanthops⁴⁴ (Hartlaub, 1862)

Holub's golden-weaver

MRSN AV651; female; adult; Rusizi; 22/03/1968

MRSN AV652; female; adult; Rusizi; 22/03/1968

MRSN AV653; male; adult; Bujumbura; 03/12/1967

MRSN AV654; male; adult; w.d.

Pachyphantes superciliosus (Shelley, 1873)⁴⁵

Compact weaver

MRSN AV655; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 19/02/1968

MRSN AV656; female; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 19/02/1968

MRSN AV657; female; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 19/02/1968

Quelea cardinalis (Hartlaub, 1880)

Cardinal quelea

MRSN AV658; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968

MRSN AV659; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968

⁴² Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. Observation on the same locality.

⁴³ Formerly undetermined.

⁴⁴ Formerly undetermined.

⁴⁵ Formerly undetermined.

Quelea quelea aethiopica (Sundevall, 1850)⁴⁶
Red-billed quelea

MRSN AV660; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968
MRSN AV661; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968
MRSN AV662; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968
MRSN AV663; male; adult; Bujumbura; 21/11/1968
MRSN AV664; male; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV665; male; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV666; male; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968

Euplectes albonotatus eques (Hartlaub, 1863)
White-winged widowbird

MRSN AV667; male; adult; Bujumbura; 02/1968
MRSN AV668; male; adult; Bujumbura; 02/1968

Euplectes ardens (Boddaert, 1783)
Red-collared widowbird

MRSN AV669; male; adult; Rwinkwavu; 31/12/1967
MRSN AV670; male; adult; Rwinkwavu; 31/12/1967
MRSN AV671; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 03/02/1968
MRSN AV672; male; adult; Bujumbura; 11/02/1968
MRSN AV673; male; adult; Bujumbura; 19/02/1968⁴⁷

Euplectes axillaris phoeniceus (Heuglin, 1862)⁴⁸
Fan-tailed widowbird

MRSN AV674; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV675; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV676; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.

Euplectes capensis crassirostris (Ogilvie-Grant, 1907)
Yellow bishop

MRSN AV677; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/02/1968
MRSN AV678; male; adult; Bujumbura; 09/04/1968

⁴⁶ AV660, AV661 and AV662 were formerly undetermined.

⁴⁷ Melanistic form.

⁴⁸ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations.

Euplectes hordeaceus (Linnaeus, 1758)⁴⁹

Black-winged bishop

MRSN AV679; male; adult; Bujumbura; 05/02/1968
MRSN AV680; male; adult; Bujumbura; 19/02/1968
MRSN AV681; male; adult; Bujumbura; 19/02/1968
MRSN AV682; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/02/1968
MRSN AV683; male; adult; Bujumbura; 25/02/1968
MRSN AV684; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 05/03/1968
MRSN AV685; female; adult; Bujumbura; 07/03/1968
MRSN AV686; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/03/1968
MRSN AV687; female; adult; Bujumbura; 08/03/1968
MRSN AV688; male; adult; Bujumbura; 09/03/1968
MRSN AV689; female; adult; Bujumbura; 05/11/1968
MRSN AV690; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV691; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV692; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV693; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV694; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV695; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV696; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV697; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV698; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV699; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV700; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV701; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV702; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV703; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.

Euplectes orix (Linnaeus, 1758)

Southern red bishop

MRSN AV704; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV705; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV706; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV707; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV708; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV709; male; adult; Bujumbura; w.d.
MRSN AV800; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV801; female; adult; Bujumbura; 22/11/1968
MRSN AV802; female; adult; Bujumbura; 24/10/1968

Amblyospiza albifrons melanota (Heuglin, 1863)

Grosbeak weaver

MRSN AV803; male; adult; Bujumbura; 01/03/1968
MRSN AV804; male; adult; Bujumbura; 01/03/1968

⁴⁹ Formerly undetermined.

Family **ESTRILDIDAE** Bonaparte, 1850

Uraeginthus bengalus (Linnaeus, 1766)

Red-cheeked cordonbleu

MRSN AV805; male; adult; Rwinkwavu (Rwanda); 08/01/1968

Estrilda melpoda (Vieillot, 1817)⁵⁰

Orange-cheeked waxbill

MRSN AV806; male; adult; Bujumbura; 13/02/1968

Estrilda astrild adesma Reichenow, 1916⁵¹

Common waxbill

MRSN AV807; female; adult; Bujumbura; 06/03/1968

Estrilda kandti Reichenow, 1902⁵²

Kandt's waxbill

MRSN AV808; male; adult; Bujumbura; 06/03/1968

MRSN AV809; male; adult; Bujumbura; 06/03/1968

MRSN AV810; male; adult; Bujumbura; 07/03/1968

*Estrilda paludicola roseicrissa*⁵³ Reichenow, 1892

Fawn-breasted waxbill

MRSN AV811; female; adult; Bujumbura; 07/03/1968

Lagonosticta senegala ruberrima Reichenow, 1903⁵⁴

Red-billed firefinch

MRSN AV812; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/03/1968

MRSN AV813; male; adult; Bujumbura; 08/03/1968

Spermestes cucullata Swainson, 1837⁵⁵

Bronze mannikin

MRSN AV814; male; adult; Bujumbura; 09/04/1968

⁵⁰ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. Observation in the same locality.

⁵¹ Formerly undetermined.

⁵² Formerly undetermined. In GBIF reported with generic locality. No observations in Bujumbura.

⁵³ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. No observations in Bujumbura.

⁵⁴ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. Observation in the same locality.

⁵⁵ Formerly undetermined.

MRSN AV815; male; adult; Bujumbura; 09/04/1968
MRSN AV816; male; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968
MRSN AV817; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968
MRSN AV818; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 15/04/1968

Family **VIDUIDAE** Cabanis, 1841

Vidua funerea nigerrima (Sharpe, 1871)⁵⁶
Variable indigobird

MRSN AV819; female; adult; Bujumbura (Jardin); 28/02/1968
MRSN AV820; male; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 01/03/1968
MRSN AV821; female; adult; Bujumbura; 13/03/1968
MRSN AV822; male; adult; Bujumbura; 01/04/1968
MRSN AV823; male; adult; Bujumbura; 09/04/1968

Vidua macroura (Pallas, 1764)⁵⁷
Pin-tailed whydah

MRSN AV824; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/03/1968

Family **PASSERIDAE** Illiger, 1811

Passer griseus (Vieillot, 1817)
Northern gray-headed sparrow

MRSN AV825; male; adult; Bujumbura; 20/03/1968
MRSN AV826; female; juvenile; Bujumbura; 17/10/1968
MRSN AV827; female; juvenile; Bujumbura; 17/10/1968

Family **MOTACILLIDAE** Horsfield, 1821

Motacilla aguimp vidua (Sundevall, 1850)⁵⁸
African pied wagtail

MRSN AV828; female; adult; Bujumbura (Q. Zemet); 19/02/1968

⁵⁶ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s or observations.

⁵⁷ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. Observation in the same locality.

⁵⁸ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura. Observation in the same locality.

Macronyx croceus (Vieillot, 1816)

Yellow-throated longclaw

MRSN AV829; male; adult; Rusizi; 20/02/1968

Family **FRINGILLIDAE** Leach, 1820

Crithagra frontalis (Reichenow, 1904)⁵⁹

Western citril

MRSN AV830; male; adult; Musigati; 04/03/1968

Crithagra sulphurata sharpii (Neumann, 1900)⁶⁰

Brimstone canary

MRSN AV831; unsexed; adult; Bujumbura; 02/1968

MRSN AV832; male; adult; Rusizi; 20/03/1968

⁵⁹ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Musigati. Observation reported with generic locality.

⁶⁰ Not reported in GBIF as preserved specimen/s in Bujumbura and Rusizi. Observation in the same localities.