

## AN EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY IN ORNITHOLOGY.

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(With 3 textfigs.)

I have very great pleasure in acquainting the scientific world with a discovery of utmost importance, which will not only surprise ornithologists but at the same time it will entirely modify the hitherto established principal characteristics of the Order of Passeriformes.

The Hungarian National Museum received recently a fair number of bird-skins collected along the shores of Lake Jippe in East-Africa by COLOMAN KATONA (who went there in company of Baron PAUL BORNEMISZA) which gentleman is engaged in zoological operations on the Kilima-Njaro and in the adjoining districts since 1902.

There are many new and interesting species in this collection, however amongst them is a pair of Birds, which have a pronounced likeness with Cape-Larks. This «Cape-Lark»-like Passerine-birds are distinguished by there terminal third of the tibia beeing unfeathered, scaled and reticulated as this is the case with Plovers etc. It can be taken granted that this difference is in strict accordance with accomodation to aquatic life.

On account of this most extraordinary peculiarity this hitherto unknown bird ought to be classified in a new genus; the description of which is as follows:

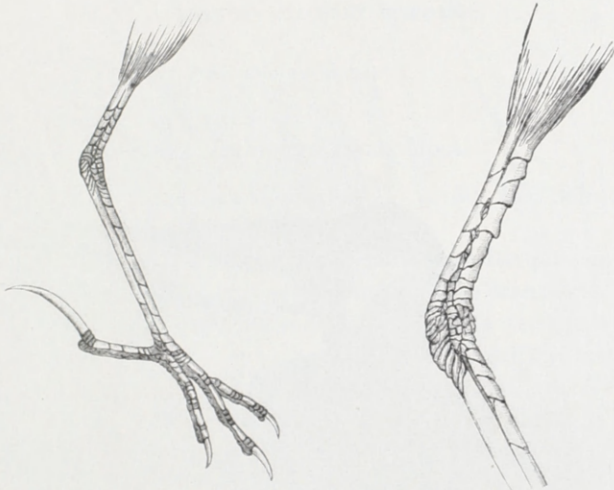
**Charadriola nov. gen.**

The general characteristics of this new genus are similar to those of *Macronyx*, but the terminal third of the tibia is unfeathered, scaled and reticulated; the bill more slender as of *Macronyx*; front of tarsus scutellated; the upper and under part of hinder tarsus with scutellation; hind toe with claw not exceeding the length of tarsus; the principal colours of plumage are yellow, brown and black; male and female differ in colours.

**Charadriola singularis n. sp.**

*Male*: General colour above brown and shaded with olive-yellowish. the feathers obscurely edged with lighter brown; upper tail-coverts lemon-

yellow, mixed with brown; over the eyes a small line of lemon-yellow; general colour of under part bright lemon-yellow, with a crescent formed black band on the upper breast; wings bright lemon-yellow, the terminal end of primaries, the end of primary-coverts and alula black; innermost secondaries brown, smaller wing-coverts black, edged with bright lemon-yellow; median wing-coverts blackish-brown, edged with bright lemon-yellow; tail bright lemon-yellow, the middle feathers edged with blackish



Foot of *Charadriola* (nat. size) and the terminal third of tibia (magnified).

brown on the end, the two central ones entirely blackish brown; maxilla dark horn colour, mandibula of lighter colour; tarsus and claws light horn colour, the unfeathered part of tibia and toes darker. Total length 160, wing 85, tail 64, bill (from front) 12, (from rictus) 18, bare part of tibia 11, tarsus 26, halux with claw 20 mm.

*Female*: General colour above as by male, but lighter and intensively edged with fulvous brown; wings brown, the outer and inner web more or less edged with light yellow; tail yellow, outer edge of feathers, but the outer ones, brown, the four central feathers entirely brownish black; below the tail wholly yellow; throat, breast and lateral part of belly dirty white, washed with fulvous; centre of belly, thighs, under wing- and under tail-coverts lemon-yellow; bill and feet as by the male. Total length 158, wing 78, tail 62, bill (from front) 12, (from rictus) 18; bare part of tibia 10, tarsus 25 mm.

The types of this species (male and female), which belong to the Hungarian National Museum, were collected at Lake Jippe 21<sup>th</sup> of October 1903.



*Charadriola singularis* n. sp. ♂ ♀.