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BIRDS COLLECTED BY ORAZIO ANTINORI IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PISA

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## BIRDS COLLECTED BY ORAZIO ANTINORI IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PISA

**Abstract** - *Birds collected by Orazio Antinori in the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa.* The Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa preserves an extensive ornithological collection that includes a number of specimens from the most important Italian expeditions of the XIX century. The birds collected by Orazio Antinori are 50: 40 specimens were collected during the expedition in Central Africa of 1859-1861, seven during the expedition in Equatorial Africa of 1876-1882 and three are of uncertain origin. The aim of this work, in addition to the systematic review of the specimens, is to report for the first time the presence of specimens of the Antinori collections at the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa, and to contribute to identifying the specimens of Antinori explorations in Africa preserved in the Italian Museums.

**Keywords** - Orazio Antinori, Ornithological Collections, Africa, Natural History Museum of Pisa.

**Riassunto** - *Uccelli raccolti da Orazio Antinori presenti nel Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Pisa.* Il Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Pisa presenta una significativa collezione ornitologica che include anche numerosi esemplari provenienti dalle più importanti esplorazioni italiane del diciannovesimo secolo. Tra questi, quelli raccolti da Orazio Antinori sono 50: 40 esemplari sono stati raccolti durante la spedizione in Africa Centrale del 1859-1861, 7 durante la spedizione in Africa Equatoriale del 1876-1882 e 3 esemplari di incerta provenienza. Lo scopo di questo lavoro, oltre alla revisione sistematica dei reperti, è quello di segnalare per la prima volta la presenza di esemplari raccolti da Antinori nel Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Pisa, contribuendo ad individuare gli esemplari delle esplorazioni di Antinori in Africa conservati nei Musei Italiani.

**Parole chiave** - Orazio Antinori, Collezioni Ornitologiche, Africa, Museo di Storia Naturale di Pisa.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa preserves an extensive ornithological collection consisting of about 7.000 specimens. The collection was established mainly by Paolo Savi (director of the Museum from the 1823 to 1871 and one of the fathers of Italian ornithology) and by his successors Sebastiano Richiardi (from 1871 to 1904) and Eugenio Ficalbi (1905-1922) (Nocchi & Farina, 2017).

Among the specimens of the historical collection, numerous come from the principal Italian biodiversity explorations of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century such as those of Orazio Antinori (North-East Africa), Luigi Maria D'Albertis (New Guinea), Odoardo Beccari (North-East Africa, Sunda Islands), and Lamberto Loria (New Guinea) (Gippoliti, 2005).

Orazio Antinori (1811-1882) was undoubtedly one of the most important naturalists, explorers and Italian travellers of the nineteenth century. His explorations in North Eastern Africa, following the course of the Nile, took him from Egypt to southern Sudan and to the highlands of Ethiopia where he managed to obtain the concession from the king of Scioa Menelik II for the construction of a geographic and scientific Italian station in Let Marefià, near Ankober (Barili *et al.*, 2008). His explorations have contributed significantly to the knowledge of the fauna and flora of Northeast Africa and the specimens collected have enriched many Italian museums.

### *Orazio Antinori*

Antinori began to get interested in the natural sciences, and especially in ornithology, from a young age and from 1828 to 1837 he collected and prepared numerous specimens of the Umbrian fauna, creating a collection that he donated to the University of Perugia. (Barili *et al.*, 2008). In 1837 he moved to Rome where he met the prince Carlo Luciano Bonaparte who appreciated his skills as a taxidermist and with whom he began a scientific collaboration. Since 1849 he was a political exile and continued to collect and prepare specimens in Greece, Crete, Cyprus, Asia Minor and Near East (Barili *et al.*, 2008; Mazzotti, 2011). In Smyrna, Turkey, he collaborated with the Swiss consul, founder of a company for the export of zoological samples for European museums. In 1858 Antinori moved to Egypt, and in 1859 he left for his first mission to Sudan. In 1860 he arrived at the Kordofan region, until reaching Darfur. Returning to Khartoum he met Carlo Piaggia, another great Italian explorer with whom a deep friendship was born (Lupi, 2017).

In November 1860 Antinori and Piaggia came back to the White Nile up to the confluence with the Bahr al-Ghazal. After arriving in Nguri the explorers, due to the adverse meteorological and physical conditions and in addition to the little food left, were forced to go back (Mazzotti, 2011). The mission ended in July 1861 and yielded quite a sizeable ornithological collection (Antinori, 1864) that Antinori, after his return to Italy in 1862, managed to sell to the Italian government in 1863 for 20,000 lire. The Zoological Museum of Turin received the collection and served as a facility for transitory storage. Later, the director, prof. De Filippi, retained damaged specimens and exemplars of species which were missing in the museum collections, and donated the others to the main university collections in Italy (Antinori, 1864; Salvadori, 1870), namely the Museum of Natural History of the University of Florence and the Museum of Natural History of Pavia.

Of the material collected in this expedition, today the Florentine Museum holds 74 specimens, acquired in 1863 (Barbagli, in Barili *et al.*, 2010), while the Museum of Natural History of Pavia is preserving 23 of the original 26 specimens of 25 species dispatched from Turin (Violani & Rovati, in Barili *et al.*, 2010).

Antinori returned to Africa in 1870 when the Italian Geographical Society entrusted him with the direction of the expedition to Bogos Country (Eritrea). Odoardo Beccari and Arturo Issel completed the expedition's scientific staff. The specimens of birds collected in this expedition were listed in a catalogue (Antinori & Salvadori, 1873). Most of the birds were split between the Natural History Museums of Genoa (Poggi, 2017) and Turin (Pulcher & Salvini, 2007), and a part was also destined for the Milan Museum (Visconti, 1988).

The last Antinori expedition to Africa was in the Scioa region in Ethiopia and in the large equatorial lakes with the aim to establish the first scientific Italian station in Africa.

The expedition directed by Antinori leaves Naples on March 8, 1876 and includes the engineer Giovanni Chiarini and the taxidermist Lorenzo Landini, to whom Antonio Cecchi will also be joined (Mazzotti, 2011). After several misadventures the group manages to reach the territories of the kingdom of Shewa (=Scioa) where Antinori meets and becomes a friend of the Negus Menelik. In 1877, during a hunt, Antinori was seriously injured by a shot accidentally fired from his rifle. Menelik, aware of the long convalescence Antinori would need, gave him a land plot to Let-Marefià, where the Italian scientific station will be born (Mazzotti, 2011). From here Antinori left for many excursions in the surrounding territories where he captured numerous specimens including many birds (Salvadori, 1884). These specimens enriched the collections of several Italian museums (Museum of the University of Perugia, Regional Museum of Natural Sciences of Turin, Natural History Museum of Genoa, Natural History Museum of Pavia, Civic Museum of Zoology of Rome and Natural History Museum of Florence). Antinori died at Let-Marefià on 26 August 1882 (Mazzotti, 2011).

In the present paper we report for the first time the specimens collected by Orazio Antinori which are currently kept at the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa, as a contribution to identifying the specimens of Antinori explorations in Africa preserved in the Italian Museums. Furthermore, we compiled a systematic review of the specimens.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The attribution of specimens of the historical collection of the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa to the expeditions of Orazio Antinori was possible thanks to the presence in some cases of the original labels (FIG.1; FIG.2), while in others by the presence of the museum label with the historical information reported (FIG.3). Unfortunately we lack any documentation concerning the arrival of the collection at the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa.

For the systematic review of the specimens, the Handbook of the birds of the world (del Hoyo *et al.*, 1992-2013), Birds of Ethiopia & Eritrea (Ash & Atkins, 2009), Birds of the Horn of Africa (Redman *et al.*, 2009) and The birds of Africa (Urban *et al.*, 1986-2013) were consulted. The species are presented in systematic order following IOC World Bird List v8.2 (Gill & Donsker, 2018).

## RESULTS

In the ornithological collection of the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa, there are 50 specimens collected by Orazio Antinori; 40 birds belong to the expedition in Central Africa of 1859-1861 while 7 specimens belong to the expedition in Equatorial Africa of 1876-1882. Furthermore, there are 3 specimens of uncertain origin: two of them, reporting the locality "Smirne" in the label, probably belong to the period Antinori spent in Turkey and Near East; the last specimen do not report any information regarding locality or date of collection.

Of the 40 specimens referred to the first expedition (1859 – 1861), 34 are mounts, and 6 are skins. All skins, and some of the mounts presented a round-shaped label reporting in one side the specimen number matching that reported in Antinori (1864), in the other the sign “Antinori”, together with locality and date of collection (FIG.1). Together with the round label, the skins presented also a rectangular label, probably placed later, reporting “Collezione Antinori” (FIG.1).

The seven specimens collected during the expedition of 1876 – 1882 are mounts and present the original label reporting “Spedizione Italiana nell’Africa Equatoriale”, with information regarding specimen number, species, sex, locality and date of collection (FIG. 2). In the back of the label, the letter corresponding to the specimen in the catalogue of Salvadori (1884) and the scientific name, if different from the one in the front of the label, were also reported.

The catalogue reports first the species belonging to the expedition of 1859-1861, then those belonging to the expedition of 1876-1882 and finally the specimens of uncertain origin.

For each species, we have reported the locality inscribed on the labels, the date of collection, the number of the original catalogue, sex, the collection number of the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa, the kind of preparation of the specimen (mount or skin) and notes. If the attribution of the subspecies has been provided only by means of the locality of collection, we explicitly mentioned so in the “Notes” section. The spelling of localities follow those reported on the labels.

When the number of the original catalogue is not present on the specimens, we did a cross check between the birds collected in the three Antinori expeditions of Africa (Antinori 1864, Antinori & Salvadori 1873, Salvadori, 1884), to correctly attribute every specimen to the expedition in which it was collected.

## THE CATALOGUE OF THE SPECIMENS

### Expedition in Central Africa (1859-1861)

#### Order *Accipitriformes*

#### Family *Accipitridae*

#### *Accipiter badius* (Gmelin, JF, 1788)

Gallabat, December 1859; Specimen uncertain, sex uncertain.

AV3762 – mount

Notes: this specimen is one of the 5 males reported in Antinori (1864) as “*Micronisus sphenurus*, Bp.”. Even if the label reports the bird as a female, in Antinori (1864) only males are present. The subspecies present in Sudan is *A. b. sphenurus* (Rüppell, 1836).

#### *Melierax metabates* Heuglin, 1861

Rosseres, February 1860; Specimen 241, male.

AV3808 - mount

Notes: this bird is the male n.241 reported in Antinori (1864) as “*Melierax polyzonus*, Bp. Ex Rüppell”. The subspecies present in Sudan is *M. m. metabates* Heuglin, 1861.

#### Order *Charadriiformes*

#### Family *Charadriidae*

***Vanellus senegallus*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

Kordofan, September 1860; specimen 819, male.

AV5693 - skin

Notes: this bird should be one of the four “*Lobivanellus senegalensis*, Strickl.” shot near “Lobeida” (the current El-Obeid) in North Kordofan in September 1860 (Antinori 1864). The subspecies present in the area is the nominate one.

**Order Columbiformes****Family Columbidae*****Oena capensis*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, male.

AV1593 – mount

Notes: the lack of labels do not allow to know more about this specimen. Antinori reported the species as quite common in various part of Sudan but did not give useful information on where the specimen was shot. The subspecies present in the area, as in whole Africa, is the nominate one.

***Columba guinea*** Linnaeus, 1758 (FIG. 4)

Giur, April 1861; specimen 175, male.

AV5861 – skin

Notes: this male is one of the only two birds collected. Antinori (1864) reports to have shot the bird along the White Nile, in the territory of the Giur tribe. The original label reports “I. Giur, April 1861”. In the area the nominate subspecies is present.

***Treron waalia*** (Meyer, FAA, 1793)

Galabat, December 1859; specimen 312, male.

AV6267 – skin

Notes: this skin belong to the male n. 312 of “*Phalaetrotreron abyssinica*, Bp.” reported in Antinori (1864). The species is monotypic.

**Order Coliiformes****Family Coliidae*****Urocolius macrourus*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

Kartum, June 1860; specimen 440, female.

AV6278 – skin

Notes: the only specimen collected, as “*Colius senegalensis*, L.”. According to the locality, this bird should belong to nominate subspecies.

**Order Coraciiformes****Family Coraciidae*****Coracias abyssinicus*** Hermann, 1783

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, female.

AV2157 – mount

Notes: this bird should be the specimen n. 89, reported as the only female collected in Antinori (1864). The specimen, as reported in the archive, was part of the “Passerini Collection” before being acquired by the museum. Monotypic.

***Coracias naevius*** Daudin, 1800 (FIG. 5)

Kartum, July 1861; specimen 236, male (?).

AV2172 – mount

Notes: this bird was probably misidentified by Antinori (1864) as a female (“*Coracias pliosa*, Lath. 1 juv male, 1 female. In coll n° 561, 236”). The examination of the specimen shows that it is the young male killed near Kartum in July 1861 by Dr. Ori, a physician at the service of Viceroy of Egypt (Antinori 1864). The subspecies present in Sudan is the nominate one.

***Eurystomus glaucurus*** (Statius Müller, PL, 1776) (FIG. 6)

Nguri, 14 March 1861; specimen 133, male

AV2251 – mount

Notes: the subspecies present in South Sudan is *E. g. afer* (Latham, 1790)

**Family Alcediniidae**

***Halcyon chelicuti*** (Stanley, 1814)

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV2145 – mount

Note: it is one of three specimens collected (Antinori, 1864). The quite streaked underparts seem to indicate the nominate subspecies.

**Family Meropidae**

***Merops bulocki*** Vieillot, 1817

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV2118 - mount

Notes: it is one of the 7 specimens of “*Melittophagus Bullockii*, Bp. Ex Viell.” cited in Antinori (1864). The subspecies present in the area explored by Antinori is *M. f. frenatus*, Hartlaub 1854.

***Merops albicollis*** Vieillot, 1817

Kartum, 2 August 1861; specimen 240, male.

AV2119 – mount

Notes: monotypic.

***Merops orientalis*** Latham, 1801

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV2132 – mount

Notes: it is one of the four “*Merops viridissimus*, Sw.” reported in Antinori (1864).

**Order Piciformes**

**Family Lybiidae**

***Lybius guifsobalito*** Herman, 1783

Rosseres, May 1860; specimen 402 male.

AV2473 – mount

Notes: This is the only specimen of this species collected. It is reported in Antinori (1864) as “*Laimodon Saltii*, Gray”. Monotypic.

***Pogoniulus chrysoconus*** (Temminck, 1832)

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV2475 – mount

Notes: This bird lacks all labels. Two birds of this species, “*Barbatula chrysocoma*, Hartl. ex Less.” were reported in Antinori (1864).

***Lybius leucocephalus*** (De Filippi, 1853)

Genché, date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV2481 – mount

Notes: According to specimen’s label and Antinori (1864), this bird (reported as “*Laimodon leucocephalus*, De Filippi”) is a male probably collected in Lau, a village of Genché tribe, located South-West of Bhar-el-Ghazal river. The subspecies present in the area is the nominate one.

**Order Falconiformes**

**Family Falconidae**

***Falco chicquera*** Daudin, 1800

Sennaar, November 1859; specimen 21, male.

AV2830 – mount

Notes: one of two specimens collected, reported in the catalogue as “*Chiquera ruficollis*, Bon.” (Antinori 1864). The subspecies proper of that part of Africa is *F. c. ruficollis* Swainson 1837.

**Order Passeriformes**

**Family Platysteridae**

***Batis* cfr. *erlangeri*** Neumann, 1907

Abissinia (generic), date unknown; specimen unknown, female

AV4829 – mount

Notes: according to the notes on the observation areas reported by Antinori (1864) this bird, named as “*Muscicapa torquata* L.”, should belong to *B. e. erlangeri* Neumann, 1907 (see: Louette, 2005).

**Family Malaconotidae**

***Malaconotus blanchoti*** Stephens, 1826

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown.

AV4837 – mount

Notes: This bird belong to the subspecies *M. b. catharoxanthus* Neumann 1899. According to Antinori (1864), all the five specimens collected have been shot between 9<sup>th</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March in the territory of the Djur tribe.



***Nilaus afer*** (Latham, 1801)

Sudan (generic), date unknown; specimen unknown, female.

AV5156 – mount

Notes: One of two females collected.

***Tchagra senegalus*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

White Nile (generic), date unknown; specimen 87, female

AV5164 - mount

Notes: according to the locality of collection this bird ("*Telephonus cucullatus*, Gray" in Antinori 1864) should belong to subspecies *T. s. armenus* (Oberholser, 1906) (del Hoyo et alii., 2009).

***Dryoscopus gambensis*** (Lichtenstein, MHC, 1823)

Djur, March 1861; specimen unknown, male

AV5165 – mount

Notes: this is one of the three males collected as *D. cubla* (Antinori 1864). According to locality it should belong to the subspecies *D. g. malzacii* (Heuglin, 1870).

**Family Laniidae*****Lanius excubitoroides*** Prévost & Des Murs, 1847

Tek, January 1861; specimen 17, male

AV4701 – mount

Notes: the locality reported in the round shaped label ("*Tek, in Gengké*") most likely refer to a village in the Bar-el-Ghazal area, where Antinori was in January 1861. Antinori (1864) reported the species as "*Lanius macrocercus*, De Filippi" in honour of the Italian zoologist, even if, as Antinori himself stated, the scientific name of "*Lanius excubitorius*, Des Mures" has priority.

**Family Dicruridae*****Dicrurus adsimilis*** (Bechstein, 1794)

Sennaar, date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown

AV4979 – mount

Notes: one of the four "*Dicrurus lugubris*, Bp. Ex Vieill." collected. The subspecies living in the area should be *D. a. divaricatus* (Lichtenstein, MHK, 1823).

**Family Monarchidae*****Terpsiphone viridis*** (Statius Müller, PL, 1776)

Locality and date unknown; specimen 253, male

AV6008 – skin

Notes: Antinori (1864) described in detail every specimen of this species (as "*Theitrea Ferreti*, Guer.") but he did not report the date and locality of collection. The specimen is a young male "*so similar to a female to be confused with it*".

**Family** *Leiothrichidae*

***Turdoides fulva*** (Desfontaines, 1789)

Bayuda desert, June 1859; specimen 27, male

AV3903 - mount

Notes: the only specimen collected, as “*Spenura acaciae*, Lichte.”. The subspecies present in the area is *T. f. acaciae* (Lichtenstein MHK, 1823).

**Family** *Muscicapidae*

***Empidornis semipartitus*** (Rüppell, 1840)

Lek, Tek, Rek (generic), date unknown; specimen unknown, sex unknown

AV4555 - mount

Notes: one of the three “*Muscicapa semipartita*, Rüpp” collected by Antinori in the area of the “Genké” tribe, West of the White Nile river.

***Oenanthe isabellina*** (Temminck, 1829)

Galabat, date unknown; specimen 279, male

AV3458 – mount

Notes: the only specimen collected, as “*Saxicola isabellina*, Rüpp.” (Antinori, 1864)

**Family** *Necytariniidae*

***Hedydipna metallica*** (Lichtenstein MHK, 1823)

Nubia (generic), June 1859; specimen 64, male

AV5064 - mount

Notes: one of four males collected, as “*Nectarinia metallica*, Licht.” (Antinori 1864). Monotypic.

**Family** *Passeriidae*

***Passer simplex*** (Lichtenstein MHK, 1823)

Dongola, June 1859 (?); specimen unknown, male

AV5215 – mount

Notes: probably this male is one of the three specimens of “*Corospiza simplex*, Bp.” that Antinori shot at Dongola in June 1859 where “*the species was common*” (Antinori, 1864). In Sudan the nominate subspecies is present.

**Family** *Ploceidae*

***Dinemellia dinemelli*** (Rüppell, 1845)

Jambara (?), date unknown; specimen 210, male

AV4331 – mount

Notes: this is one of the three males collected near Jambara (Antinori 1864). The round-shaped label of this specimen reports, in addition to the specimen number and the name “Antinori”, the word “*Njamba*” and then “39. n. e.”

The village of Jambara is reported three times in Antinori (1864), located between 4 and 6 degrees of latitude, “West of Kondokoro” (= Gondokoro) and “West of White Nile”. According to these information Jambara is likely to be identified with Tumbura (05°35'24"N 27°28'12"E), a city located near Sudan South-Western border with Central African Republic. Although we are not able to ascertain it with certainty, it seems likely that the three specimens of this species that Antinori (1864) reported as “*Alecto dinemelli*, Bp”, together with the two specimens of *Otus leucotis* (“*Epialthis leucotis*, Bonap. ex Temm.”) and the male of *Lybius rolleti* (“*Pogonius rolletii*, De Filippi”) were bought by Antinori near Kartum, as himself admitted regarding the specimen of *Otus leucotis* (Antinori, 1864). In Sudan the nominate subspecies is present.

***Ploceus* cfr. *galbula*** (Rüppell, 1840)

Daberki, January 1860; specimen 294, sex unknown

AV6279 – skin

Notes: according to Antinori (1864) this bird should be a juvenile male. It was collected at Daberki, a village besides Dinder river, near Ethiopian border. During his review of the material collected by Antinori, the italian ornithologist Tommaso Salvadori (Salvadori, 1870) found, among the specimens collected as “*Textor galbula*, Bp. ex Rüpp.”, a male *P. vitellinus* and a female *P. badius*. In light of the similarity of this specimen with young or female *P. vitellinus*, we left the specific attribution as dubitative.

**Family Estrildidae**

***Uraeginthus bengalus*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

Kartum, date unknown; specimen unknown, male

AV4371 – mount

Notes: one of two males collected as “*Estrela phenicotis*, Sw”. According to locality the bird belongs to the nominate subspecies.

***Euodice cantans*** (Gmelin, JF, 1789)

Sennaar, date unknown; specimen uncertain, male

AV4383 - mount

Notes: One of three birds collected as “*Amadina cantans*, Gray”.

***Lagonosticta senegala*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

Nubia, date unknown; specimen 109, male

AV4390 – mount

Notes: according to collecting area, this bird (“*Estrela minima*, Gray” in Antinori 1864) should belong to *L. s. rhodopsis* (Heuglin, 1863).

**Family Viduidae**

***Vidua orientalis*** Heuglin, 1870

Blue Nile, date unknown; specimen unknown, male

AV4962 - mount

Notes: one of six males collected as “*Steganura paradisea*, Reich. ex. L.” (Aninori 1864). According to the locality the bird should belong to nominate subspecies.

***Vidua macroura*** (Pallas, 1764)

Antub, date unknown; specimen 4, male

AV4967 - mount

Notes: reported in the catalogue as “*Vidua principalis*, Cuv ex L.” (Antinori 1864). Monotypic.

**Family Motacillidae**

***Motacilla aguimp*** Temminck, 1820

Rosseres, March 1860; specimen unknown, male

AV3243 – mount

Notes: one of the two males collected, as “*Motacilla Lichtensteini*, Cabanis”. The subspecies living in the area is *M. a. vidua* Sundevall 1850.

**Family Fringillidae**

***Crithagra mozambica*** (Statius Müller, PL, 1776)

Gazal, date unknown; specimen unknown, male

AV4181 – mount

Notes: the collection locality of this bird, reported by Antinori (1864) as “*Crithagra chrysopyga*, Sw.” suggests that it should belong to *C. m. barbata* (Statius Müller, PL, 1776)

**Expedition in Equatorial Africa (1876-1882)**

**Order Phoenicopteriformes**

**Family Phoenicopteridae**

***Phoeniconaias minor*** (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, É, 1798)

Lake Cialalakà, 18 [April] 1879; specimen unknown, male

AV289 – mount

Notes: the original labels of this bird were lost. We were able to find information about the specimen in the Museum catalogue. This bird should be one of the 4 specimens collected on 18 April 1879 as “*Phoenicopterus minor* Geoff. St. Hil” characterized by the presence of long pink-white scapular feathers (Salvadori, 1884).

**Order Accipitriformes**

**Family Accipitridae**

***Gypaetus barbatus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Let Marefia, 28 November 1878; specimen j(738), female

AV2652 – mount

Notes: one of 19 birds collected as “*Gypaetus ossifragus* (Savigny)” (Salvadori, 1884).

**Order Musophagiformes**

**Family Musophagidae**

***Tauraco leucotis*** (Rüppell, 1835) (FIG.7)

Denz, 16 June 1877; specimen p(276), female

AV1893 – mount

Fokaré Ghemb Forest, 16 May 1877; specimen c(234), male

AV1894 – mount

Notes: two of 25 specimens collected as “*Turaco leucotis* (Rüpp)” (Salvadori, 1884); both belong to nominate subspecies.

**Order** *Passeriformes*

**Family** *Oriolidae*

***Oriolus monacha*** (Gmelin, JF, 1789)

Foresta di Sciotalit, 16 December 1877; specimen e(432), male

AV5104 – mount

Notes: this bird, one of the 21 collected as “*Oriolus monachus* (Gm.)” (Salvadori, 1884), belongs to the subspecies *O. m. meneliki* Blundell & Lovat, 1899.

**Family** *Sturnidae*

***Lamprotornis superbus*** Rüppell, 1845;

Dainbi, Adda galla, 13 April 1879; specimen p(859), female

AV4810 – mount

Dainbi, 17 November 1879; specimen f(1092), male

AV4810 – mount

Notes: two of 20 birds collected. Monotypic.

**Isolated specimens**

**Order** *Falconiformes*

**Family** *Falconidae*

***Falco cherrug*** Gray, JE, 1834

Locality and date unknown; specimen unknown, male

AV2852 – mount

Notes: this bird lack of any label; however the underside of the stand bears the inscription “Falco ?, Smirne, Antinori”.

**Order** *Passeriformes*

**Family** *Leiothrichidae*

***Turdoides plebejus*** (Cretzschmar, 1828)

Locality and date unknown; specimen 159, female

AV5234 – mount

Notes: the label of the NHMP (the only available for this bird) reported only “Collezione Antinori, 159, ♀”. Antinori (1864) reported a male and a female of “*Cratheropus plebejus*, Gray e Rüpp.” as specimen n. 145 and n. 115. Since the number n.145 corresponds in the catalogue also to “*Eurystomus afra*, Bp. ex Lath.”, it is likely that an error has occurred.

## Family *Silvidae*

### *Sylvia curruca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Smirne, March 1852; specimen unknown, sex unknown

AV5256 - mount

Notes: this bird was collected during the period that Antinori spent in Asia Minor. In light of the complexity of the taxon and the conservation status of the specimen, it is not possible to attribute this bird to any subspecies.

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## CAPTIONS

- FIG.1 – Original labels of the expedition in Central Africa 1859-1861 (AV 2172)
- FIG. 2 – Original label (front and back) of the expedition in Equatorial Africa 1776-1882 (AV1893)
- FIG. 3 – Label of the Natural History Museum of the University of Pisa reporting the information of the specimen (AV2481)
- FIG. 4 - AV5861 *Columba guinea* Linnaeus, 1758
- FIG. 5 - AV2172 *Coracias naevius* Daudin, 1800
- FIG. 6 - AV2251 *Eurystomus glaucurus* (Statius Müller, PL, 1776)
- FIG. 7 - AV1893 *Tauraco leucotis* (Rüppell, 1835)

*Ceracias Levakianii* 5  
(236) *cartum Lugli 1961*

Collezione  
Antononi  
236

*cartum*  
*Lugli: 1961*  
*Antononi*  
Collezione  
Antononi



SPEDIZIONE ITALIANA NELL'AFRICA EQUATORIALE  
N.º 276.  
*Corythoix leucotis*, L.  
Tide ..... Becco ..... Piedi .....  
*Danz. 1/2 G. ing. n.º* 187

*μ. Turanus leucotis (Müpp.)*









