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# Zulu bird names: A progression over the decades (I) [Part one: The first hundred years, from Delegorgue to Samuelson]

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For nearly 250 years, beginning with Linnaeus in 1758 and continuing through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, birds have been given scientific and vernacular names created by deliberate, conscious, and methodological taxonomical *naming* processes. On the other hand, Zulu names for birds, for centuries only residing in oral tradition, have only found their way into print through being *recorded* in writing. In this process, oral knowledge is recast as written knowledge. This article looks at the first hundred years of such recording of Zulu names, beginning with the first settlers and explorers in what is now KwaZulu-Natal and continuing through to the publication of Samuelson's dictionary in 1923. The article, and its planned follow-up article, looks at the contribution of various lexicographers, including Bishop Colenso, the Reverend AT Bryant, and CM Doke and BW Vilakazi, and then interfaces their dictionaries with various works on southern African birds, beginning with Layard's 1867 *Birds of South Africa*, looking closely at Woodward and Woodward's 1899 *Natal Birds*, and ending with the seventh edition of *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa*, published in 2005. The primary focus is on how the Zulu oral tradition of bird knowledge has increasingly been revealed to the Western world through the efforts of naturalists and lexicographers. The article concludes with a brief look at recent developments in Zulu bird names between 2013 and 2017.

## Introduction

In European and Western societies, since the time of Linnaeus in the eighteenth century, the naming of birds has been run on two different but parallel naming systems: the Latin-based binomial scientific nomenclature, and the vernacular names of the different countries and groups of people. Obviously, in any given ornithological publication, the essential vernacular language will be the language the publication is written in, in other words, if the book is written in German, the two types of names will be the Latin-based scientific names and the German vernacular names. In the ornithological works on southern African birds discussed in this article, the essential vernacular names are English, as all the works I have consulted are written in English. I say 'essential' here as in many of the publications other vernacular language bird names are given: Dutch, French, Xhosa, Zulu and any of the other Bantu languages spoken in the southern African region.<sup>1</sup>

The primary focus of this and the planned follow-up article is the Zulu bird names, and in examining the recording of Zulu bird names in the past 200 years, the material reviewed has been of three main types:<sup>2</sup>

1. Ornithological publications, ranging from the earliest (Layard's 1875–1884 *Birds of South Africa*) to the latest (Chittenden, Davies & Weiersbye's 2016 second edition of the *Roberts Field Guide*);
2. Zulu dictionaries, from the earliest (Bishop Colenso's 1884 *Zulu-English Dictionary*) to the latest (Nyembezi's 1992 *Isichazimazwi Sanamuhla Nangomuso* [A Dictionary of Today and Tomorrow]); and

3. A miscellanea of various publications such as travel narratives like those of Adulphe Delegorgue (published in English in 1990 and 1997) and Godfrey's 1941 *Bird-Lore of the Eastern Cape Province*.

In order to discuss these Zulu names properly, they first need to be put into an onomastic context.

## Zulu bird names in a wider onomastic context

The four volumes of Stark and Sclater's (1900–1906) *The Birds of South Africa*, as with every ornithological work consulted for this article, use scientific binomials. Stark and Sclater are particularly diligent in recording all previous synonyms, listing not only the authors of each synonym, but other writers who have used each and every synonym in their own works.

In addition, however, they introduce the reader to a (perhaps unintentional) classification of vernacular names. For each entry for each species of bird they give a number of different types of name, and unusually for any work of a biological nature, they explain and define the type of name they are using. Volume four of their work is much more specific about the different types of names. It distinguishes between (in order of their appearance in each entry for each bird species):

1. The 'current' scientific name, i.e. the synonym selected as valid at the time of writing;
2. The authors' own choice of English vernacular names out of the various possibilities. This is their 'default' vernacular name, or 'book name';
3. The various scientific synonyms – up to nine in some cases;

4. The names of what are described as 'some authors', i.e. the English vernacular names used by other writers of ornithological works;
5. The names used by Dutch colonists, presumably only orally, otherwise they would also be 'some authors';
6. The names used by English colonists, often specified as being from 'The Colony' (i.e. the Western Cape of today) or from Natal;
7. The names of a variety of different peoples and language groups including Xhosa, Zulu, 'Bechuanas', 'Matabilis' and such disparate entities as 'Zambesi natives'. For these they frequently name their sources, giving for example 'Ugaka of Natal Zulus (Woodward)' for *Cossypha bicolor* Noisy Robin-Chat, and 'Invanana of Matabele (Ayres)' for *Crateropus kirki* Kirk's Babbler; and
8. The names of specialist groups like sailors and sealers, especially for the sea-based birds like albatrosses, terns, skuas and the like.

The different onomastic categories of bird names in Stark and Sclater's four volumes of the birds of South Africa suggest that a typology of bird names is long overdue, but that must be the task of a separate study.

In this article, out of all the possible categories of names suggested by Stark and Sclater, the focus is only on the Zulu names, which fall under item seven in the list of name types given above. The main section of this article is ordered chronologically, starting with the earliest mention of Zulu bird names.

### Earliest mention of Zulu bird names

Henry Francis Fynn was one of the earliest arrivals at Port Natal (later Durban) in 1824, and he kept a diary which recorded his daily activities during the years 1824 to 1836. There are a number of references to birds in this diary, ranging from the vultures that gathered at Shaka's 'Cliff of Execution' to the crane feathers delivered to Shaka as tribute, but none are referred to by their Zulu names. The only Zulu bird name in this publication is the name the Zulus themselves gave to Fynn, described in the following:

Soon after Fynn's arrival at Port Natal he visited the main residence of King Shaka kaSenzangakhona where he was '...asked to gallop round the circle two or three times in the midst of tremendous shouting of the words, "*Ujojo wokhalo!*" (the sharp or active finch of the ridge)<sup>3</sup> (Fynn, 1950: 72). The bird 'ujojo' appears in Fynn's *izibongo* (Zulu praises) which begin:

*Umbulazi weTheku!*

*Ujoj' ovel' emaMpondweni.*

*Umhamb' engasayi kogoduka.*

'Prince of the Bay!

Long-tailed Finch that came from Pondoland.

Traveller who will never go home' (Fynn, 1950: title page).

This use of the word 'ujojo' as a praise-name for a newly-arrived white on the shores of Natal may be the first Zulu bird name recorded in writing. Other early arrivals, contemporaries of Fynn, also received Zulu praise-names based on bird names. Dick King, famous for his long ride to Grahamstown, was praised as uNgqungulu, derived from the Zulu name ('ingqungulu') for the Bateleur, and Fynn's

own son, Henry Francis Fynn Jr., was given the name uGwalagwala because he always wore the feather of a loerie (Z. 'igwalagwala') in his hat.<sup>4</sup>

Another early arrival in colonial Natal was the French traveller Adulphe Delegorgue. He travelled in what is now KwaZulu-Natal and the province of Limpopo between 1838 and 1844, and took pains to try and learn Zulu, and to identify by name the plants, animals and birds he saw around him. His *Vocabulaire de la Langue Zoulouse* ('Vocabulary of the Zulu language') was an appendix to the second volume of his two-volume *Voyage dans l'Afrique Australe* ('Travels in Southern Africa'), published in 1848.<sup>5</sup> It contains more than 650 entries, only 15 of which are the names of birds. The following are examples:

'ekoikoye': green crested touraco [= Knysna Loerie = Z. 'igwalagwala']

'ikoalakoala': pheasant, francolin [= 'igwalagwala', the name for the Knysna Loerie above]

'ikoé': ostrich [= Z. 'intshe']

'iploup-loulou': masked barbet (*Pygonias personnatus*) [It has not been possible to identify this entry.]

'izikova': owl [this is perfectly recognisable as Z. 'isikhova', although D. has given the plural form]

'landa': egret, *Ardea bubuleas* [= Z. 'ilanda']

'monkongo': oriole [a somewhat abbreviated form of 'umgoqongo']

'omkoloani': hornbill [within the limits of D. spelling system, a perfectly accurate rendering of 'umkholwane']

'omoucé': Le Vaillant's caterpillar destroyer [could this be 'umunswi', the Zulu generic name for thrushes?]

'tingou': drongo [= Z. 'intengu']

The spelling here is quite different to the spelling used today, but we must remember that at the time Delegorgue wrote the account of his travels and published them, there was no standard form of writing Zulu, and Delegorgue spelt them phonetically as if they were French words. They range from highly accurate words, as in the name 'omkoloani' (today 'umkholwane') to names which are untraceable today, such as 'iploup-loulou', where not only the Zulu name is untraceable, but the English 'masked barbet' and the Latin '*Pygonias personnatus*' cannot be found either. Delegorgue makes an error in assigning 'ikoalakoala' (= Z. 'igwalagwala') to the pheasant/francolin group of birds (the family *Phasianidae*), and here and there gives a plural Zulu form for the name of a bird, for example 'izikova' for 'isikova'. But errors and the limited range of the list aside, this was the first such lexicon of Zulu words for birds, and consequently Delegorgue can be considered to be the pioneer of the recording of Zulu bird names.

### Sharpe's 1875–1884 revision of Layard's *Birds of South Africa*

Sharpe's (1875; 1884) revision of Layard's 1867 *Birds of South Africa* contains a number of vernacular names from the Dutch-speaking and English-speaking colonists, but the Bantu-language names are mostly restricted to names

collected in the 'Zambesi region' by a certain Dr Kirk and to names given by the 'natives' in present-day Namibia and southern Angola where 'Senor Anchieta' was extremely busy collecting specimens. The only possible Zulu names are the following pair: a reference to the Southern Ground Hornbill (Zulu 'insingizi') in 'Kaffir name "Insigees"...' (1884: 122) and a reference to the Grey-backed Bush Warbler (*Camaroptera olivacea*) in 'The Caffres call this bird "Imboos Ischlaty"'. (1884: 293). The modern form of this name is 'imbuzi yehlathi' ('goat of the forest'), a reference to the bleating sound the bird makes.

The next publication to be described is an exact contemporary of Sharpe's second volume of *Layard's Birds of South Africa*, having come out in the same year – 1884, which would explain why Sharpe was unable to access the Zulu names it contained.

### The first of the dictionaries: Bishop Colenso's Zulu-English Dictionary

Our first major contributor to the recording of Zulu bird names is the Right Reverend JW Colenso, the Bishop of Natal from 1853 to 1883, and well-known for his contribution to the writing of Zulu. In addition to many ecclesiastical works in Zulu, he published a Zulu grammar as well, but it is his 1884 dictionary which concerns us here.<sup>6</sup>

This first major lexicographical work of Zulu contains 126 names for birds. Two things become clear when we look carefully at this dictionary: (1) Colenso may have been well-versed in Zulu, but he was no ornithologist, with little or no knowledge of the bird species in the wider area where Zulu was spoken;<sup>7</sup> and (2) he collected the names from oral sources, very probably by asking a number of informants to give him the names of as many birds as possible, and then to describe them. The first eight bird name entries in his dictionary clarify this (Colenso, 1884):

'isAnzwili': a small bird of the tableland, which makes a whistling sound

'uBantwanyana': bird, so-called from the sound it makes, said to resemble the words, *bantwanyana*, *ning'endi*

'isiBelu': bird with brownish wings and red breast, about the size of a dove

'iBoboni': name of a small bird

'iBoi': name of a bird said to foretell rain

'imBucu': name of a small bird

'isiCelegu': small bird with white spots

'iCelegwana': small brown bird with white tail

Most of the bird name entries in Colenso's dictionary are like these, and seldom is an exact species identified. This is not to say that Colenso *never* links names to species in his dictionary. We find entries like 'iGwababa: white-necked crow',<sup>8</sup> 'isiKwehle: Natal pheasant',<sup>9</sup> 'inKankane: Black Ibis',<sup>10</sup> and 'uFukwe: Rain cuckoo'.<sup>11</sup> There are, however, not very many of these entries. A far greater number of entries identify a generic group, as in the following: 'isiGwaca: small kind of quail'; 'iHlandhlokazi: kind of hawk'; 'iJuba: dove, pigeon'; 'inKonjane: swallow'; and 'iSeme: paw'.<sup>12</sup> It is fair to say, however, that for the majority of Zulu-speakers in Colenso's time (and even today) a 'dove

was a dove was a dove'. There would have been few who could distinguish between an *ivukuthu*, an *ijubantonto*, an *isibhelu* and an *unkombose*, just as today it is only the ornithologist or the keen birder who can distinguish between the Rock Pigeon, the Green Pigeon, the Tambourine Dove and the Namaqua Dove (respectively, the English versions of the four Zulu names given immediately above).

There are some interesting curiosities in Colenso's dictionary, such as when he assigns the word 'unozalizingwenya' ('that which gives birth to crocodiles') to the pelican. This name for the Goliath Heron (*not* the pelican) is given because this bird spends much time in the shallow waters of pans where juvenile crocodiles sun themselves. Colenso's sources may have thought, or indeed found, that pelicans do the same. A similar mis-assigning of name to bird is found in the case of the Southern Ground Hornbill. Colenso glosses its name 'insingizi' as 'kind of buzzard or falcon'.

On another tack, Colenso's dictionary is extremely useful in giving information about cultural traditions and beliefs relating to birds. His dictionary contains over 200 Zulu proverbs, many of them bird-based, as in 'Akuk' inkwali epandel' enye' ('there is no partridge which scratches for another', i.e. everyone should look after his own interests). I give only two examples of entries which contain cultural information:

'uFukwe': Rain-cuckoo, a large-brown bird, eaten only by old people; it makes a prolonged sound *utututututu*, descending from high to low notes.

'iSakabuli': name of a bird whose feathers make the plumes of Zulu soldiers.

To sum up Colenso's bird entries in his dictionary, we could say that they occur on a sliding scale of 'definitiveness' roughly listed below on four points of the scale, beginning at the vaguest level, and ending at the most definitive level:

1. Recognition that the word is the name of a bird, for example, 'umDweza': name of a bird;
2. Unidentified as to genus or species, but with more or less detail about appearance, song, or habitat, for example, 'isiCelegu': small bird with white spots;
3. Identification of a genus (the term 'genus' is used loosely here as with the English 'owl', or 'eagle'), for example, 'isiGwaca': small kind of quail; and
4. Identification of species, for example, 'iGwababa': white-necked crow (now the Pied Crow).

Our next contributors to the history of Zulu bird names were ecclesiastical contemporaries of Colenso, but unlike Colenso, the Woodward brothers were enthusiastic birders.

### The Woodward brothers and Natal Birds

Like Bishop Colenso, Robert Woodward (b. 1848) and his younger brother John<sup>13</sup> were Anglicans, born in England, trained as missionaries and sent out to Africa. They became deacons at St. Lukes in Pietermaritzburg in 1881 and served there until after 1885, after which they spent time at various mission stations in Natal and Zululand including Adams Mission at Amanzimtoti and St. Luke's Mission at eMpopphoma (between Eshowe and Melmoth). Keen ornithologists – they describe themselves as 'naturalists' – they collected specimens from various places in Natal and

Zululand and their travels have been recorded in the British ornithological journal *Ibis*.<sup>14</sup>

In 1899 they published *Natal Birds*, the first published regional bird list for southern Africa. There are 386 entries for distinct species of birds in this book, although only 107 of these are assigned what Woodward and Woodward called the 'native name'. Although this total of Zulu names is certainly less than Colenso's 126 published some 15 years previously, there is, especially from an ornithological point of view, a major difference between the two publications: where the majority of Colenso's entries are either vague ('small bird with white spots') or generic ('type of hawk'), Woodward and Woodward's Zulu names all refer to a distinct species of bird. The difference can be seen easily in Table 1, where in each case the Colenso gloss comes first, and the Woodward and Woodward gloss second. The current names for each bird are given in a third column.

As with almost every publication, whether ornithologically oriented or lexically oriented (the dictionaries), there is no indication of the source of the Zulu names. Although Colenso's dictionary was published 15 years before Woodward and Woodward's book, there is no evidence that they relied on Colenso. While most of the Zulu names in Woodward and Woodward are correctly spelt (for their time),<sup>15</sup> occasionally their spellings are awkward and confusing. Compare the following, where Woodward and Woodward's name is given first, followed by the more correct name of Colenso: *inqupan* : *umngqupane*; *ivugute* : *ivukutu*; and *ujoerjo*: *ujojo*. But these are very minor errors; by and large the Zulu names for birds in Woodward and Woodward can be considered to be correct.

Woodward and Woodward's *Natal Birds* was an extremely influential work of its time, the influence being felt most keenly in two works which followed very soon after: Stark and Sclater's *The Birds of South Africa* and AT Bryant's *Zulu-English Dictionary* of 1905.

### **Stark and Sclater's *The Birds of South Africa* (1900–1906)**

The research and writing of *The Birds of South Africa* was started by Stark in the 1890s, but before he could complete and publish the first volume, he was killed at the very beginning of the siege of Ladysmith in 1899.<sup>16</sup> Volume one was completed by Sclater, who used Stark's notes to complete the next three volumes. Stark and Sclater's four

volumes are a treasure-trove for onomasticians, as seen above.

In volume one, there are only three Zulu names recorded, and from their curious spellings it seems clear that these were not taken from Woodward and Woodward, not unexpectedly as volume one was published a single year after Woodward and Woodward's work, not enough time for the information in one to be available in the next. But from volume two (1901) the pace picks up: there are 20 Zulu names in volume two, 32 in volume three and 14 in volume four, giving a total of 69 Zulu names recorded overall. This gives the sad picture of a decline in Zulu names over 22 years: Colenso's 126 names in 1884; Woodward and Woodward's 97 names in 1899, and Stark and Sclater's 69 names between 1900 and 1906. However, this decline was about to be sharply reversed by Bryant's 1905 publication.

Stark and Sclater are unusual among ornithological writers in that they not only give the source of each scientific name (the 'author' of the name, and the reputable journal or authoritative document in which the name was published), but they also give the source of the indigenous African names. Thus almost all Xhosa names come from someone called Stanford, and 'Matabili' names are contributed by the ornithologist Ayres.<sup>17</sup> Most of the Zulu names are actually attributed to 'Woodward' (in the singular), but a good proportion are just given as 'Isebelu of the Zulus' or 'Ijubantoto of Natal Zulus'. Nevertheless, almost every Zulu bird name comes from the Woodward and Woodward *Natal Birds*.<sup>18</sup> This becomes clear when we see little idiosyncrasies and unintentional errors ('typos') in Woodward and Woodward being copied directly into Stark and Sclater. The following are examples: 'ikwela 'matyeni' (Rock Thrush), more correctly 'ikwel'ematsheeni' appears exactly as 'ikwela 'matyeni' in Stark and Sclater. The inaccurate 'inqupan' (Red-winged Bush Shrike, more correctly 'umngqupane') goes into Stark and Sclater as 'inqupan'. Even typographical errors like 'umchwlane' instead of 'umehlwane', and 'ihlebabafazi' instead of 'ihlekabafazi', are copied in Stark and Sclater's work. Woodward and Woodward's curious and unidentifiable names 'Swingiane' and 'Iguondwana' occur exactly like that in Stark and Sclater.

Stark and Sclater's work, then, while an extremely valuable contribution to ornithology at the time, can be said to contribute nothing at all to the progressive publication of Zulu bird names.

**Table 1:** Comparison between Colenso (1884) and Woodward and Woodward (1899), with modern designations

Colenso gloss	Woodward and Woodward gloss	Current names
intengu: name of a black bird that comes immediately after grass is burnt	intengu: Large Drongo ( <i>Buchanga assimilis</i> )	Fork-tailed Drongo ( <i>Dicrurus assimilis</i> )
ipemvu: name of a brown bird with white breast	ipemvu: Helmet Shrike ( <i>Prionops talacoma</i> )	White-crested Helmetshrike ( <i>Prionops plumatus</i> )
indhrazi: small bird, whose long tail feathers are used for the head	indhrazi: Common Coly ( <i>Colius striatus</i> )	Speckled Mousebird ( <i>Colius striatus</i> )
inkwazi: large kind of hawk that eats, fish, crabs, &c.	inkwazi: White-headed Sea-eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i> )	African Fish Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i> )
iqola: name of a bird with white and black feathers	iqola: Fiscal Shrike ( <i>Lanius collaris</i> )	Southern Fiscal ( <i>Lanius collaris</i> )
iboboni: name of a small bird	iboboni: Large Puff-backed Bush Shrike ( <i>Dryoscopus rufiventris</i> )	Black-backed Puffback ( <i>Dryoscopus cubla</i> )

And now we come to Bryant and his 1905 dictionary.

### Bryant's 1905 Zulu-English Dictionary

Father AT Bryant (1865–1953) was a British-born Catholic priest and missionary who came to KwaZulu-Natal in 1883 and joined the Marianhill Mission. He left in 1887 to study for the priesthood, and returned to KZN in 1896. He is well known for his 1929 historical work *Olden Times in Zululand and Natal* and his 1949 [1967] ethnographic work *The Zulu People*, but it is his earlier and equally important *Zulu-English Dictionary* of 1905 which concerns us here.

Bryant's dictionary contains 211 entries for Zulu bird names. Most of these are for distinct species. Where a name is used as a generic, Bryant says something like 'idada: generic name for any bird of the "duck" kind; more especially Black Duck (*Anas sparsa*) or 'ifefe: Roller, of which there are several varieties'. If these varieties have their own name, Bryant lists the generic name as well as the specific names, as in

iJuba and all its variants: iJuba: Rock Pigeon (*Columba phaeonota*), Collared Turtle Dove (*Turtur semitorquatus*), Lesser Collared Turtle Dove (*Turtur capicola*); iJubantendele (C.N.) = iVukutu; iJubantondo or (C.N.) iJubantonto: Common Green Pigeon (*Vinago delalandi*) (1905: 281).

Bryant marks some of his entries with 'N', indicating that they are used in 'Natal', i.e. south of the uThukela River. Occasionally he uses 'C.N.' indicating that a word is given by Colenso as used in Natal, although the word is unknown or unused in Zululand (i.e. north of the uThukela). A very useful feature of his dictionary are the numerous cross-references, either to other birds using the same name, or other names for the same bird. The following are examples:

isiKova: Hooting owl, of which there are several different varieties, cp. inKovana, uMabengwane. NB. The owl, when it cries, says *Vuk' ungibule!* (Get up and whack me!) (1905: 321).

and in the Appendix:

isiKova: Generic name for owl; (in a particular sense) Cape Eagle Owl (*Bubo capensis*). cp. uMandubulu, inKovana, iFubesi, uMabengwane (1905: 771).

As can be seen for the entry for 'isikova' above, Bryant frequently includes the Zulu vocalisation of the bird's call. This and various other snippets of cultural information are frequently found, as in the entry for the 'South African Coly (*Colius Capensis*)'<sup>19</sup>:

inDhlazi: Mouse-bird (*Colius Capensis*) whose long tail-feathers are used as an ornament.

*Nginonele pakati njengendhlazi* – I am fat inside like a mousebird, i.e. my feelings, thoughts, anger, or revenge, is [sic] not seen by you, but you may come to feel it – may be used as a threat, or of a person with a brooding ill-feeling.

NB. The *amafutha* of this bird is used as an *isibetelo* (qv) 'because it is always sticking at home in its nest' (1905: 100).

Entries like this make Bryant's dictionary an invaluable source, not only of Zulu bird names, but also of traditional

cultural information concerning beliefs about various species.

Clearly, with 211 entries compared to Woodward and Woodward's 97, Bryant's dictionary contains a far more comprehensive collection of Zulu bird names. He is also far more consistent with the linguistic treatment of the names, as might be expected from a work of this nature. Nevertheless, Bryant does rely on Woodward and Woodward when it comes to the scientific name for each bird.

Being published in 1905, Bryant's dictionary was just too late to be useful for WL Sclater when he was completing the work started by AC Stark.

### RCA Samuelson's *The King Cetshwayo Zulu Dictionary of 1923*

Robert Charles Azariah Samuelson (1858–1934) was a contemporary of Father AT Bryant (Samuelson's *Long, Long Ago* was published in 1929, the same year as Bryant's *Olden Times*), but his dictionary appeared 18 years after Bryant's. Samuelson was the interpreter for Zulu king Cetshwayo kaMpande at the time of the king's exile on St Helena.

His dictionary contains 135 Zulu bird names, compared to Bryant's 211 names, a definite retrogression in the recording of Zulu names. He does, however, give eight names for birds which are *not* recorded in Bryant and these can then be considered to be additions to the overall published lexicon of Zulu bird names. These are worth listing, and although Samuelson himself never identified the exact species of the bird referred to, some of these names are current today and the species is given in square brackets after the name:

'isiCagogwane': a small grey bird that has the habit of sitting on dry sticks and jumping from one to the other, making a clicking sound [this bird has not been identified]

'iGolantethe': species of large swallow, black back, white underneath, that comes in large flocks to catch locusts [used in the form 'unogolantethe' to refer to the White Stork *Ciconia alba*]

'imBhuyelelo': the small, light-blue kingfisher [This name has been assigned to the Woodlands Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*]

'uNhlekwane': a long-tailed finch with black and white colour [This name is used for the male of the Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*]

'iNkanku': a black and white bird which utters a piercing call at commencement of summer, thus announcing it [This is the name used for the Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*]

'uNhoqakala': the small white crane that follows grazing cattle [This bird has not been identified]

'isiWelewele': a bird of Zululand living in marshy places that, at evening times, makes several flights into the air and utters a loud and rippling noise like the neighing of many horses in the distance [This bird has not been identified]

'umZwangedwa': a bird living in glens and grottoes, moving by itself, and uttering one plaintiff [sic] note; a secret, a personal feeling of grief. [This bird has not been identified]

It is remarkable how the entries here resemble much of the entries in Colenso's dictionary of 40 years previously: a 'bird' is known, but not a species, and the entries consist of either 'bird' or a genus ('kingfisher', 'crane') with various kinds of descriptive details. It is surprising that Samuelson does not identify species, given that his dictionary appeared well after Bryant's dictionary, where species details are recorded.

Samuelson is also a poor lexicographer: many of his entries are out of alphabetical order, and he often repeats himself on different pages. For example the word for 'turkey buzzard' [= Ground Hornbill] is entered on page 436 as 'inSingizi' and again as 'inTsingizi' on page 471. The name 'uNhlekwane' found on page 303 with the gloss 'a long-tailed finch with black and white colour' is found again on page 318 with exactly the same entry.

Samuelson's dictionary has a number of extensive appendices, including special lists of terms for legal practitioners and for health practitioners, an explanation of the names of the months of the year, and the praises of several kings. From an ornithological point of view, however, Samuelson's dictionary does not mark progress in the recording of Zulu bird names. It is rather a step back. Samuelson, we must conclude, like Colenso, was not interested in birds.

## Conclusion

In this survey of the first hundred years of the recording of Zulu bird names, from the days of the earliest settlers in Port Natal in the 1820s and 1830s to the publication of Samuelson's *King Cetywayo Zulu Dictionary*, it is clear that two particular groups of people were involved: one group is that of the named white colonials, the settlers and explorers like Fynn and Delegorgue, the missionaries and churchmen like Colenso and the Woodward brothers, and the lexicographers, often churchmen themselves, like Bryant and Samuelson. The other group is the un-named Zulus who held the oral knowledge of birds and their names and conveyed this knowledge to the first group for them to write down and then later publish under their own names. The actual process of this transfer of knowledge is never recorded, nor, indeed, is it acknowledged, apart from Fynn noting that it was the thousands of Zulu warriors who shouted out the praise name *uJojo wokhalo*. This unequal relationship between the unnamed holders of knowledge and the named knowledge recorders is detailed in Nancy Jacobs' very perceptive 2016 *Birders of Africa: a History of a Network*. In this she deals mainly with the explorer-travellers of the nineteenth century and the scientists of the early twentieth century who collected birds for the purpose of studying them, sorting them into scientific taxa, and naming them accordingly. Jacobs (2016) notes that these people are named, very often in the actual names of birds, like Wahlberg's Eagle (*Aquila wahlbergii*) and Shelley's Francolin (*Francolinus shelleyii*), but the indigenous peoples who help them hunt and collect specimens are never named.

The first hundred years of the recording of Zulu bird names does not include the publication of popular field guides for 'bird-watchers'. The first of these in South Africa is generally considered to be to Austin Roberts's 1940 *Birds of South Africa*, which was a phenomenal publishing success in its

time. Six revised editions of this work have appeared over the last 75 years, each incorporating Roberts's own name in the title. In the second part to this article, the first publication to be discussed will be Roberts's own first edition of 1940, and as with this first part of 'Zulu bird names: A progression over the decades', the interwoven roles of Zulu dictionaries and ornithological works will be discussed.

## Notes

1. As this article is written in English, I have elected to use English names of languages, as in 'Dutch', 'French', 'Zulu' and 'Xhosa', although I am aware that this journal's style is to use forms like 'isiZulu', 'seSotho' and 'kiSwahili' for the Bantu languages.
2. At the end of this article I mention the accessing of orally held knowledge from contemporary mother-tongue Zulu-speaking bird experts, and this is also discussed in more detail in the follow-up article.
3. A footnote from either James Stuart or D McK Malcolm at this point explains that the words mean 'Long tailed Finch of the Ridge' implying that the person so addressed is quick and brave at attacking. The name *ujojo* is still used today for the male of the Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macrura*), and many people have noted how quick this bird is to attack other birds at bird tables.
4. For more information on Zulu praise-names for whites based on the names of birds, see Koopman (2014: 58–62).
5. I have not been able to access the original volumes published in France, and am relying on the English translations by Fleur Webb published in 1990 (volume 1) and 1997 (volume 2). See Koopman and Davey (2000) for a detailed analysis of this early lexicon.
6. The only copy I could access was the 1984 third edition. The dictionary was first published in 1861, followed by a second edition in 1878. A fourth edition, edited by Harriette Colenso, was published in 1905, well after Bishop Colenso's death in 1883.
7. It should be noted in Colenso's defence that the first edition of his dictionary appeared in 1861, well before Layard's first edition of *Birds of South Africa* in 1867. This would have been the first ornithological work on South African birds for Colenso to consult.
8. Today the Pied Crow (*Corvus albus*).
9. Today the Natal Spurrow (*Pternistes natalensis*).
10. Today the Hadada Ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*).
11. Now White-browed Coucal (*Centropus superciliosus*), although 'rain-bird' is still in use as an informal English vernacular name.
12. In Colenso's time, 'pauw' (or 'paauw') a Dutch word for peacock, was the term invariably used by both Dutch/Afrikaans- and English-speaking colonists for what today are korhaans and bustards.
13. Details on the lives of the Woodward brothers are vague. I have only the date of birth of Robert and neither the date of birth nor the date of death of John.
14. See Sharpe (1897) and Woodward and Woodward (1898; 1900), as well as Koopman (2017).
15. There have been a number of orthographical changes in Zulu since Woodward and Woodward's time.
16. See Koopman (2016).
17. This Transvaal-based naturalist is commemorated in names like Ayre's Cloud Cisticola (*Cisticola ayresii*).
18. Three or four Zulu bird names have the name Millar as the source. There was apparently a Mr Millar of Durban, a keen amateur ornithologist who was continually sending birds' eggs to museums, or snippets of information concerning habitat, distribution, diet, etc. to Slater.
19. In Bryant's time many authors spelt the specific epithet with a capital letter if it was based on a proper name, as in 'Capensis' from '(the) Cape' as in this instance.

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