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A NEW SPECIES OF THRUSH FROM ANGOLA

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In the first shipment of birds from Angola, from the collection made in 1954 by Gerd Heinrich for Chicago Natural History Museum, were three specimens of a thrush that is so obviously a new species that it is described here in advance of the study of the rest of the collection.

Cossypha heinrichi sp. nov.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum no. 221,000. Duque de Braganza (about 30 km. northeast), northern Angola. Adult, sex(?). Collected May 30, 1954, by Gerd Heinrich.

Diagnosis.—A large-sized member of the genus *Cossypha* approaching *albicapilla* in size, and with a long graduated tail like that species but at once distinguished from all the other members of the genus by the coloration: the whole head and neck are pure white; the breast, abdomen and under tail coverts, outer tail feathers, and rump are rich dark orange rufous; the back is dark grayish olive; and the central tail feathers are black.

Description.—Adult, sex(?) [=female]; head and neck all around pure white; back grayish olive, some of the feathers with faint dark tips that give a lightly scaled appearance; rump and upper tail coverts, and under parts from breast to under tail coverts and thighs deep orange rufous, darkest on breast; lesser upper wing coverts like back; greater wing coverts similar, but grayer; primary coverts blackish, lightly washed with grayish olive on outer webs; primaries and secondaries blackish, and, except for the outmost, narrowly edged with grayish olive and the inner secondaries washed with olive; central tail feathers black; next two black on inner web and chestnut on shaft, outer web, and tips of inner web; next three pairs of rectrices chestnut, about like rump; outer pair damaged, but one of the pair all chestnut like the others, the other broken, but appar-

ently with a black margin to outer web for distal half. Under wing coverts grayish black, tipped with chestnut; rest of under wing unpatterned grayish black.

First year plumage: Sex(?) [=male?]; similar to the adult but the greater wing coverts and many of the lesser ones with chestnut tips; a few blackish tips to some rump feathers; the next to the central pair of rectrices chestnut with only a narrow edging of blackish on inner web; and the distal half of the outer web of the outer pair of rectrices blackish. In addition, the rectrices are narrower and more pointed.

Nestling plumage, male (reconstructed from a bird molting into first year plumage): Head, neck, and breast buffy ochraceous, the feathers with blackish margins that give a scaled appearance; back similar but more ochraceous and with wider black margins; abdomen buffy ochraceous.

Details of external structure: Bill very similar in detail of shape, subterminal notch, position, shape and feathering of nostrils to *albicapilla* and *heuglini* and about half way between the more slender, shorter bill of *heuglini* and the longer, stouter bill of *albicapilla*; rictal bristles small and inconspicuous as in *albicapilla*; tail long, slightly longer than wing, and strongly graduated as in *albicapilla*, the outer tail feathers about two-thirds as long as the central ones; wing rounded, with first (outermost) primary somewhat longer than one-half of second; wing tip formed by tips of fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries, which are subequal; tarsus booted and slender.

MEASUREMENTS

	Adult ♀?	First year ♂?	Juv. ♂
Wing.....	115	119	114
Tail.....	128	132	...
Culmen (from base).....	21	24	23
Tarsus.....	37	40	39

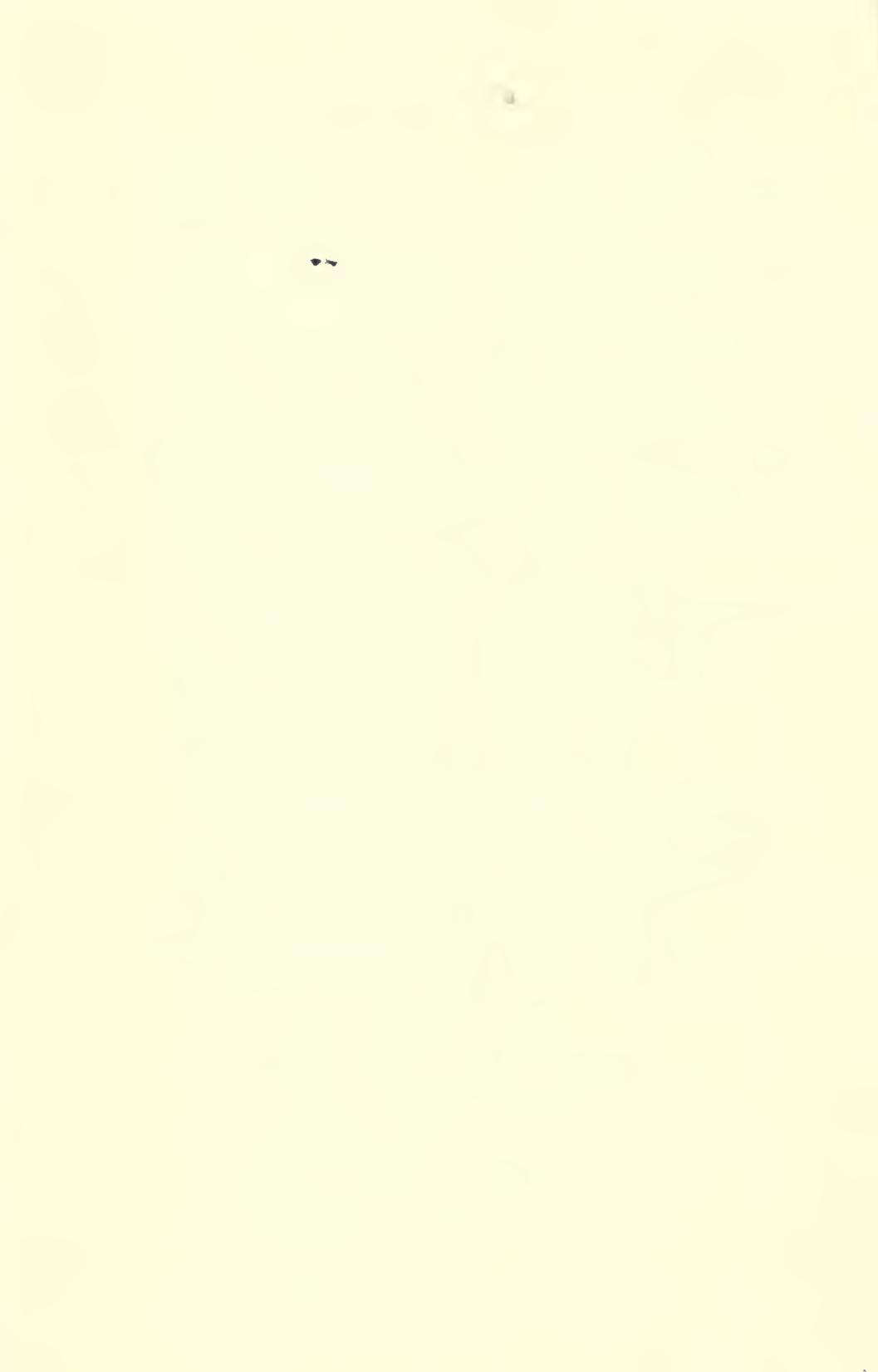
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Range.—Known only from the type locality near Duque de Braganza in northern Angola.

Remarks.—Mr. Heinrich sent three specimens of this striking new species, all from the one locality. On the back of one of the labels is the note, "Savannah with scattered bushes and small trees." The specimens were taken in April and May; the well-grown immature still bearing much nestling plumage but molting into the white-headed adult plumage, was taken April 3, and the other immature

in plumage very similar to that of the adult on April 8. This indicates that the breeding season was past.

In large size and in long, graduated tail this species seems closest to *C. albicapilla* of the savanna belt of Upper Guinea and as far south and east as Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa. However, it lacks the elongated feathers of the nape of *albicapilla*, has a proportionately longer tail, and a more slender tarsus. The rufous plumage is very much darker, and the mantle is olive, instead of black. The color pattern of the all white head and neck seems unique in the genus and the orange rufous coloration is much darker and richer than in any other species. It seems advisable to consider it a species, near *albicapilla*.







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