

DONATION OF MONSIGNOR GABRIEL FOUCHER FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY "GRIGORE ANTIPA" IN BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

PETRESCU Angela, RIDICHE Mirela Sabina, PETRESCU Ana-Maria

Abstract. Ornithological collection donated in 1913 by Abbot, later on Monsignor Gabriel Foucher to the National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest, as it was known at that time, comprises 38 specimens, 37 species, 34 genus, 18 families from 9 orders. It was part of the exhibition of the Museum, in "Hilarie Mitrea" Hall of Exotic Birds, for about 100 years.

Keywords: Gabriel Foucher donation, ornithological collection, birds, Bucharest.

Rezumat. Donația monsegnior Gabriel Foucher din colecția ornitologică a Muzeului Național de Istorie Naturală „Grigore Antipa” din București (România). Colecția ornitologică donată în 1913 de către abatele Gabriel Foucher, Muzeului Național de Istorie Naturală din București, rămasă necunoscută foarte mult timp, este alcătuită din 38 de exemplare, care aparțin la 37 de specii, 34 de genuri, 18 familii și 9 ordine. A fost expusă în sala de păsări exotice "Hilarie Mitrea" aproape 100 ani.

Cuvinte cheie: Gabriel Foucher, donație, colecție ornitologică, păsări, București.

INTRODUCTION

The ornithological collection of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest comprises bird species from Palearctic, mainly from Romania and fewer specimens from world fauna, almost three thousands. During time, these were acquired from different traders, scientists or received as small donations from various personalities. "Willy & Schluter Sons" and "Maison Deyrolle" are among the numerous specialized firms in providing museums with biological specimens.

In 1913, Abbot Gabriel Foucher donated to the National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest a small collection which comprised birds, ethnographic objects and a crocodile from Buin Island. This small donation has not been published before, therefore its donor remained unknown for a long period of time (Pl. 1 D, E, H).

This study is an homage, which marks 150 years from the birth of two grandiose cultural and scientific personalities, Grigore Antipa and Monsignor Gabriel Foucher, the founders of two important natural history museums, from Bucharest (Zoology Museum, as it was known in 1913), now bearing its founder's name and from Bourges (founded in 1927).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study is based on documents regarding this donation from the Historical Archive of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History: three letters signed by Abbot Foucher to Grigore Antipa, the lists made by the museum's ornithologist, Robert Ritter von Dombrowski, and the inventory register of exotic birds (1912/2, 27-30 pp.).

We have verified the presence of the bird specimens in the scientific collection and we have updated their scientific names according to the present nomenclature. In order not to create confusions, for those specimens we have maintained the old name, which is present in the collection register book.

In the donation bird list, for each specimen, we mentioned: the scientific name, the author, as well as the English and French vernacular names. The taxonomic list of the donation was made using several papers and websites (SIBLEY & MONROE, 1990; DICKINSON, 2003; DICKINSON & CHRISTIDIS, 2014; CLEMENTS et al., 2016; WOLTERS, 1975-1982; HILTY & BROWN, 1986; FRY et al., 1992; GRAY, 1855; PETERSON (1999); BURNS, 1997; BURNS et al., 2014; <https://avibase.bsc-eoc.org>; JOHNSGARD, 2009, for Thraupidae family; HILTY, 2011 for *Tangara* genus; KLEIN et al., 2004, for Parulidae family; KLICKA et al., 2007, for Cardinalidae; del HOYO et. al, 1996, 2002 and 2004; The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL (2016) for *Coua cristata*, *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster*, *Piranga rubra*, *Platycercus elegans*, *Pyrrhura calliptera*, *Sarothrura insularis*.

Used abbreviation: **w. d.** = without data; **m** = naturalized-mounted specimen; **s** = skin; ♂ = male; ♀ = female; **sp.** = specimen; **sps.** = specimens; **no. coll.** = registration number in the collection; **w. no. coll.** = without number in the collection; **juv.** = juvenile; **ad.** = adult.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The entire bird species collection was received from France, in May 1913 and it numbered 38 pieces, which were conserved as skins. Only 30 specimens had been prepared as naturalized-mounted pieces by Robert Ritter von Dombrowski, ornithologist and curator of the vertebrate collection. Therefore it is probable that not the entire bird donation was in a very good condition. Since 1913, Grigore Antipa has exhibited these specimens in the "Hilarie Mitrea" Hall of Exotic Birds, for more than a century. After the modernization and reorganization of the Museum in 2011, these birds were deposited in the scientific collection.

The studied material includes over 30 naturalized-mounted specimens, 3 skins and 5 other specimens, which lost during time. Unfortunately, many of them have no collecting data.

Abbot Foucher or Monsignor Gabriel Foucher's donation to the National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest, later on the "Grigore Antipa" National History Museum arrived on May 1913. On the 22th of May, The Ministry of Cults and Public Instructions announced the Zoology Museum that a collection, registered as a donation, had arrived on behalf of Abbot Foucher, curator of the collections of the Catholic Institute Museum from Paris. *«Parmi ces collections il y a une série d'arme don't se servent les habitants de l'Archipel Salomon (Océanie) qu'il était missionnaire en ces lieux: ensuite différent oiseaux tropicaux de l'Amerique, de l'Océanie, etc.»* ("Among these collections, there is a series of weapons used by the inhabitants of Solomon Archipelago (Oceania), places where he served as missionary, and also different tropical species of birds from America and Oceania", engl. transl.) (MARINESCU & IONESCU, 1985). For many years, it was erroneously believed that Monsignor Gabriel Foucher had visited the Museum. In the archives of the Museum, we have recorded three letters from Abbot Gabriel Foucher addressed to the director of the Museum, dr. Grigore Antipa, documents which reveal that Grigore Antipa and his wife Alina Antipa had visited the Catholic Institute from Paris, thus meeting the curator of the collections. From here we deduct that Grigore and Alina Antipa may have visited, in 1912, the invertebrate exhibition organized in Bois de Boulogne by Abbot Foucher and Prince Charles d'Arenberg. Impressed by the collections he had visited, more definitely, Grigore Antipa searched the opportunity to ask for Abbot Foucher's support, by describing the Museum from Bucharest and the necessity for collections. The enthusiasm he exhibited and also the sympathy which Foucher had for him, determined the Monsignor to answer Antipa's request, by donating a small ethnographical collection and few birds from the tropical region of America and Oceania. Foucher's donation is mentioned in several papers regarding the history of the Museum and that of the bird collection, where the donor is briefly noted as "abbé Foucher", therefore remaining almost unknown for more than a century in the collections of the Museum.

Who is "abbé G. Foucher"? Gabriel Jean-Baptist Foucher was an important French ecclesiastic personality, with an ample social and scientific activity, but with a less known biography. Born on July 21st 1865 in Henrichemon, he had a passion for nature study since childhood and for monachal life and he combined them perfectly during his entire life. In 1889, after graduating the seminary, Gabriel Foucher is named priest in Avord, a commune in Cher department from the central region of France. He proves to be a passionate entomologist by organizing an important collection of Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Orthoptera and other insects, thoroughly gathered with the help of a network of correspondents from different regions of the world (Molucca Archipelago, New Guinea, etc.). In 1907, he became the Vice-Rector of the Catholic Institute from Paris and also the curator of the collections. Monsignor Foucher also creates the vivarium from Jardin des Plantessand and becomes the honorific deputy director of the Natural History Museum from Paris. For many years Monsignor Foucher was the secretary of the Council of the Acclimatisation Society of France (*«Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France»*) (GILBERT, 2011; www.museum-bourges.net).

Gabriel Foucher studied exotic orthopters and described their shedding mechanism in detail, and also he conducted researches on Phasmids, concerning the influence of nutrition in sexes. His numerous studies on the biology of Orthoptera are published in 1916, united under the title *«Études biologiques sur quelques orthoptères»* ("Biological studies on some orthopters"- engl. transl.). His contribution was recognized after being awarded the Montyon prize on behalf of the French Academy (Society of Science) for the novelties brought in insect and other invertebrate biology. For the important contributions concerning the xylophagous insects, Gabriel Foucher received the Agricultural Merit (*«l'Ordre du Mérite agricole»*). For his services as a professor at the Catholic Institute of Paris, Pope Saint Pius X awarded him *«Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice»* (The Cross for the Church and Pontiff) in April 1914 (NARBOUX, 2015).

From the correspondence extracted from the archives of the Museum, we deduct that Grigore Antipa had expected a much larger collection from Gabriel Foucher. Hoping to stimulate the donors, Antipa used to promise and give medals and gratitude diplomas on behalf of the Romanian State and the Royal House of Romania for those who contributed with donations for his museum. On the 3rd of May 1913 Foucher writes to Antipa: *«Je faire preparer d'autres dans les meme conditions, et aussi je collaborerai á l'extension de votre Musée.»* ("I will prepare others in the same conditions and I will also collaborate in the extension of your museum"- engl. transl.). Proving diplomatic abilities, Foucher gently reminds Antipa about the promise he had made and that it would be his decision about the means and the estimated success of convocation with His Majesty King Carol I of Romania: *«Quant au desir que je vous ai exprime, je en rapporte completement a vous, il est bien evidente que le succes depend beaucoup de la maniere donc le requite sere presenter a sa majeste, est sous ce point vous êtes seul jeuges. La sympathie que vous m'avez temoigner, m'est un sûr gerant que vous y mettez tout vos efforts ete d'avance je vous eu remerciere de tout coeur.»* ("As to the desire which I have expressed, I completely rapport it to you, it is evident that the success depends very much on the manner in which the request is presented to His Majesty, and, at this point, you are the only judge. The sympathy that you have testified to me, is a sure proof that you put all your efforts in advance and I thank you wholeheartedly"- engl. transl.). Abbot/ Monsignor Gabriel Foucher receives a medal in Monaco from His Majesty King Carol I of Romania (GILBERT, 2011). It is indeed the merit medal from "Bene Merenti" Order, civil service. "Bene Merenti" Order was founded by King Carol I under the Royal Decree nr. 314 from the 20th of February 1876. The order

was the first civil medal awarded for merits in culture, science, industry and agriculture. The decorations would have been conferred to both Romanian and foreign citizens.

A complex person, permanently active in social and cultural domains, Monsignor Gabriel Foucher was designated during the First World War (1914-1918) as the chaplain of the Academy Ambulance. In 1921, after the end of the war, he retired to Bourges. In 1922, he became canonical titular of Bourges Cathedral and prelate of the «Maison de la Sainteté» (“House of Holiness”- engl. transl.). In 1926, he was appointed a custodian of the Berry Museum. But, one year later, the Bourges Museum opened and later on, Monsignor Foucher was designated as the new director of the Museum. With the help of the mayor of Bourges, in 1932, Monsignor Foucher had the initiative to found the new Museum of Natural History in the premises of the Ecological Park, thus becoming a place for scientific education for all the students of the Cher department schools. The Bourges Natural History Museum was officially declared as an annex of the Museum from Paris. Through its collections it was considered the richest science museum from France. In 1932, the official opening of the museum was accompanied by Monsignor’s Fouchet donation of all his collections and his personal library. Also from his initiative, in 1933, a zoological park and an aquarium were opened. He remained curator of the museum until his death, on the 25th of March 1949, at 84 years old (NARBOUX, 2015).

After receiving through mail the package representing Monsignor’s Gabriel Foucher donation, Robert Ritter von Dombrowski, made an inventory list. The naturalization state of the specimens, according Dombrowski’s list, was unprocessed skins. During the years, only three skins remained unprepared, whilst 30 skins were prepared as naturalized-mounted specimens and exhibited in the museum until 2011, when the Museum was closed for renovation.

We reproduce the letters received by Grigore Antipa from Monsignor Gabriel Foucher regarding his donation.

Paris 6 Avril 1913

Cher Monsieur,

Avant toutes choses, je m’am presse de vous demander si le voyage n’a pas trop fatigué M^{me} Antipa, et si vous êtes maintenant rassuré sur sa santé, vous seriez bien aimable de me le dire dans votre réponse.

Selon ma promesse, je vous envoie des objets d’Ethnographie pour votre Musée. Je vous prépare un second envoi d’oiseaux assez rares qui vous sera expédié aussitôt qu’il sera bien classé.

Parmi les objets d’Ethnographie vous remarquerez une arme composée d’une longue tige avec un gros silex baillé en biseau. Les Indigènes des Iles Salomon ont donc utilisé les mêmes matériaux de défense que les premiers habitants de notre terre, c’est assez curieux et je pense que ces pièces intéressent tous vos Compatriotes.

Après les Oiseaux, je vous enverrai des PapillonsetInsectes.

Quand au désir que je vous ai exprimé, je m’en rapporte complètement à vous, il est bien évident que le succès dépend beaucoup de la manière dont la requête sera présentée à sa Majesté, et sur ce point vous êtes seul juge; la sympathie que vous m’avez témoignée, m’est un sûr garant que vous y mettrez tous vos efforts, et d’avance je vous en remercie de tout coeur.

Soyez assez bon de présenter mon hommage respectueux à M^{me} Antipa et agréez l’expression de mes sentiments de cordialité.

*L’abbé G. Foucher
24 Rue Cassette
Paris*

Objets d’Ethnographie offerts par M.l’Abbé Foucher, conservateur du Musée de l’Institut Catholique de Paris, au Musée de Bucarest.

Remis aux bons soins de M. Antipa.

Tous ces objets proviennent de l’Ile de Buin, Groupe des Iles Salomon.

- 1. Une baton sculpté, insigne de la Royauté*
- 2. Un carquois et ses flèches*
- 3. Un hache en silex taillé*
- 4. Une bonnet tressé, coiffure de cérémonie*
- 5. Trois lances de combat tressées*
- 6. Trois lances de parade tressées*
- 7. Un saurien de même provenance*

L’abbé G. Foucher

Je prépare un important envoi d’oiseaux des Iles catalogués pour votre Musée d’Ornithologie.

Paris 3 Mai 1913

Je pense que vous avez reçu les objets d’Ethnographie que je vous ai envoyés.

Aujourd’hui je fais partir à la gare un petit caisse contenant une trentaine d’oiseaux en peau, il vous sera facile de les faire monter pour votre Musée, ils sont tous déterminés. J’en fais préparer d’autres dans les mêmes conditions, et ainsi je collaborerai à l’extension de votre Musée.

J’espère que M^{me} Antipa est complètement remise de ses fatigues.

Agréez, cher Monsieur, l’expression de mes sentiments de toute cordialité,

Hommages respectueux à M^{me} Antipa.

*L’abbé G. Foucher
24 rue Cassette*

List of birds donated by Abbot Gabriel Foucher to the Zoology Museum from Bucharest in 1913

Order Passeriformes

Family Cardinalidae Ridgway, 1901

Piranga (Vieillot, 1807)

Piranga rubra Scl.

Piranga rubra (Linnaeus, 1758) - Summer Tanager; Piranga vermillon; 1 sp.; m; old no. coll. 899; no. coll. 4321; ♂ ad., Bogota; w.d.

Geographic range: SE USA; winters to the Amazonian Brazil and N Bolivia (BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016c).

Pheucticus L. Reichenbach, 1850

Pheucticus uropygialis Scl. et Sal.

Pheucticus aureoventris uropygialis Sclater & Salvin, 1871 - Black-backed Grosbeak; Cardinal à croupion jaune; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4347; w. d.; Colombia.

Geographic range: E and Central Andes of Colombia.

Family Thraupidae, Cabanis, 1847

Tangara Brisson, 1760

Tangara cyanocephala St.

Tangara cyanocephala (Statius Müller, P. L., 1776) - Red necked Tanager, Calliste à tête bleue; 1 sp.; m; ♂ ad.; no. coll. 4304; w.d.; Bolivia (Pl. 1 C, F).

Geographic range: SE Brazil (S Bahia) to E Paraguay and NE Argentina.

Calliste gyroloides Lafr.

Tangara gyrola albertinae (von Pelzeln, 1877) - Bay-headed Tanager; Calliste rouverdin (gyroloides). 1 sp.; m; ♂ ad.; no. coll. 4312; w. d; Bogota.

Syn.: *Tangara gyrola gyroloides* Lafresnaye, 1847

Geographic range: it is a resident breeder in Costa Rica, Panama, South America south to Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia, southern Brazil, and Trinidad.

Chlorornis L. Reichenbach, 1850

Psittospiza riefferii Bois.

Chlorornis riefferii (Boissonneau, 1840) - Grass-green Tanager; Tangara de Rieffer; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4517; w. d.; Colombia.

Geographic range: the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador.

Diglossa Wagler, 1832

Diglossopsis caerulea Scl.

Diglossa caerulea (Sclater, PL, 1856) - Bluish Flowerpiercer; Diglossopsis à bec d'argent, Perceflour bleuté; 1 sp.; s.; w. d.; w. no. coll.

Geographic range: Coastal mts. of N Venezuela.

Bangsia T. E. Penard, 1919

Buthraupis arcaei Scl.

Bangsia arcaei (Sclater & Salvin, 1869) - Blue-and-gold Tanager; Tangara jaune et bleu; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4488; w. d.; Panama.

Geographic range: Humid lowlands of W Panama.

Iridosornis Lesson, 1844

Iridornis dubusia Bonp.

Iridosornis rufivertex (Lafresnaye, 1842) - Golden-crowned Tanager; Tangara auréolé ou Tangara de Reinhardt; 1 sp.; m.; no. coll. 4487; w. d.

Geographic range: the E Andes of Colombia to SW Venezuela, E Ecuador, E Peru. It is found in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist montane forests.

Family Pipridae Rafinesque, 1815

Manacus Brisson, 1760

Chiromacheris gutturosa Desm.

Manacus manacus gutturosus, (Desmarest, 1806) - White-bearded Manakin; Manakin casse-noisette; 1 sp.; m; w. d.; no. coll. 4337; Brasil (Pl. 1 I).

Geographic range: SE Brazil to E Paraguay and NE Argentina.

Pipra Linnaeus, 1764*Cirrhopipra filicauda* Sp.

Pipra filicauda von Spix, 1825 - Wire tailed Manakin; Manakin filifère; 1 sp.; m; w.d.; no. coll. 4332; Ecuador.
Geographic range: E Ecuador to NE Peru, S Venezuela and W Amazonian Brazil.

Pipra sp. - Indet.; 1 sp.; s; w. d.; Lost.

Family Rhodinocichlidae
Rhodinocichla Hartlaub, 1853

Rhodinonchla rosea Less.

Rhodinocichla rosea (Lesson, 1832) - Rose-Thrush Tanager; Tangara à poitrine rose; 1 sp.; s; w. d.; w. no. coll.
Geographic range: NW Venezuela, Tropical Pacific coast of Mexico, SW Costa Rica to W Panama, W slope of the E Andes of central Colombia (Bogotá to e Tolima).

Family Parulidae Wetmore et al., 1947
Setophaga Swainson, 1827

Setophaga ornata Boiss.

Myioborus ornatus (Boissonneau, 1840) - Golden-fronted Warbler; 1 sp.; s; w. d.; no. coll. 5558/5.
Geographic range: the E Andes of Colombia and adjacent SW Venezuela; the W and Cent. Andes of Colombia

Mniotilta Vieillot, 1816*Mniotilta varia* Linn.

Mniotilta varia (Linnaeus, 1766) - Black-and-white Warbler; Paruline noir et blanc; 1 sp.; m; w. d.; no. coll. 4184; Nicaragua;
Geographic range: Canada to Gulf states; winters Mexico to Peru and West Indies.

Family Icteridae Vigors, 1825
Icterus Brisson, 1760

Andriopsar giraudii Cass.

Icterus chrysater giraudii Cassin, 1848 - Yellow-backed Oriole; Oriole noir et or; 1 sp.; m; w.d.; no. coll. 4199.
Geographic range: Panama to Northern and Western Colombia and Northern Venezuela.

Hypopyrrhus Bonaparte, 1850*Hypopyrrhus pyrrhogaster* Tarr.

Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster (de Tarragon, 1847) - Red-bellied Grackle; Carouge à ventre rouge, Quiscale à ventre rouge; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4206; w. d.

Syn.: *Cassicus pyrohypogaster*; *Quiscalus pyrrhogaster*; *Q. pyrohypogaster*; *Hypopyrrhus pyrrhogaster*.
Geographic range: the Andes of Colombia.

The species is threatened by habitat destruction. The International Union for Conservation of Nature considers it to be a "vulnerable species". *Hypopyrrhus pyrohypogaster* is known from all three Andean ranges of Colombia. The red-bellied grackle is endemic to Colombia where it is found at altitudes of 800 to 2,400 m above sea level, in all three Andean ranges. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist montane forest. The population was previously estimated to 1,000-2,499 individuals. It is considered Vulnerable at the national level in Colombia. There are recent records from a number of protected areas. The population is now placed in the band for 2,500-9,999 mature individuals (BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016b).

Family Corvidae Vigors, 1825
Cyanolyca Cabanis, 1851

Xanthura caeruleocephala Gr.

Cyanolyca armillata (Gray, GR, 1845) – Black-Collared Jay; Geai à col noir, Geai à collier; 2 sps., no. coll. 4196 and 4197; Venezuela; w. d.

This species have a large geographic range - the Andes of E Colombia and W Venezuela.

Family Sturnidae Rafinesque, 1815
Aplonis Gould, 1836

Calornis metallica Tm.

Aplonis metallica metallica (Temminck, 1824) - Metallic Starling; Stourne luisant; 1 sp; m; no. coll. 4119; Australia; w.d

Geographic range: Moluccas, Sula Is. and Aru Is. to New Guinea and NE Queensland.

Lamprotornis Temminck, 1820*Lamprocolius glaucovirens* Vieil.*Lamprotornis splendidus splendidus* (Vieillot, 1822) - Splendid Glossy-Starling; Choucador splendid; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4121; Gabon; w. d.

Geographic range: S Benin to NW Angola, Ethiopia and Zambia.

Family Cotingidae Bonaparte, 1849

Rupicola Brisson, 1760*Rupicola boliviana* Lath.*Rupicola peruvianus* (Latham, 1790) - Andean Cock-of-the-Rock; Coq-de-roche péruvien; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 43611; w.d.; Bolivia.*Rupicola peruvianus saturates* Cabanis and Heine, 1859: the Andes of SE Peru and W Bolivia.

Family Pittidae Swainson, 1831

Pitta Vieillot, 1816*Pitta boschi* Mull. et Schl.*Pitta irena* Temminck, 1836 - Malayan Banded Pitta; Brève de Malaisie, Brève irène; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 4109; w. d.; Sumatra (Pl. 1 A, G).

Geographic range: S Peninsular Thailand, Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.

Pitta irena is found in Peninsular Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra, Indonesia (RHEINDT & EATON, 2010). It is described as locally common, although now rare in Thailand and decidedly local in Sumatra. Native: Indonesia; Malaysia; Thailand (HILTY & BROWN, 1986).

Order Psittaciformes Wagler, 1830

Family Psittacidae Rafinesque, 1815

Aratinga Spix, 1824*Conurus mitratus* Tsch.*Aratinga mitrata* (Tschudi, 1844) - Mitred Parakeet; Conure mitrée; 1 sp.; m.; ad; no. coll.3839; w. d.; Brasil.

Geographic range: the Andes of central Peru to Bolivia and NW Argentina.

Pyrrhura Bonaparte, 1856*Pyrrhura calliptera* Mass.*Pyrrhura calliptera* Massena & Souance, 1854) - Brown-breasted Conure; Conure à poitrine brune; 1 sp.; m; ad; no. coll. 3830; Bogota, Colombia; w. d.

Geographic range: the E Andes of Colombia.

This species is considered Vulnerable at the national level in Colombia. This species has a very small range and a small population, known from fewer than ten locations, where it is declining rapidly owing to habitat loss and persecution as a crop-pest. These declines in range and population are expected to continue. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable (BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016e).

Platycercus Vigors, 1825*Platycercus elegans* Gm.*Platycercus elegans* (Gmelin, 1788) - Crimson Rosella; Perruche de Pennant; 1 sp.; m; ad; no. coll. 3868; w. d.

Geographic range: The crimson rosella occurs from southeastern South Australia, through Tasmania, Victoria and coastal New South Wales into southeastern Queensland. A disparate population occurs in North Queensland.

Native: Australia; Norfolk Island; Introduced: New Zealand.

The global population size has not been quantified, but the species is described as generally common to abundant (del HOYO et al. 1996; BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016d).

Order Piciformes Meyer & Wolf, 1810

Family Picidae Vigors, 1825

Piculus Spix, 1824*Hypoxanthus rivolii* Boiss.*Piculus rivolii* (Boissonneau, 1840) - Crimson mantled Woodpecker; Pic de Rivoli; 1 sp; m; coll. no. 3912; (Pl. 1 K).Syn.: *Colaptes rivolii* (Boissonneau, 1840).

Geographic range: nominate: the Andes of E-Central Colombia to NW Venezuela.

Hypoxanthus sp. - 1 sp.; s; w. d.; Lost.

Campephilus G. R. Gray, 1840*Campephilus rubricollis* (Boddaert, 1783) - 1 sp.; s; w. d.; Lost.*Campephilus* spec. - 1 sp.; s; w. d.; Lost.

Order Apodiformes, Peters, 1940

Family Trochilidae, Vigors, 1825

Oxygogon Gould, 1848*Oxygogon guerini* Boiss.*Oxygogon guerinii* (Boissonneau, 1840) - Bearded Helmetcrest; Colibri casqué de Guérin; 1 sp; m; ♂ ad.; no. coll. 4378; w. d. (Pl. 1 B).

Geographic range: the E Andes of Colombia.

Syn.: *Ornismia guerinii*.*Pterophanes* Gould, 1849*Pterophanes temminki* Boiss.*Pterophanes cyanopterus* (Fraser, 1840) - Great Sapphirewing; Colibri á ailes saphir; 1 sp; m; ♂ ad; no. coll. 4404; w.d.; Colombia.Syn.: *Pterophanes temminckii* Boissonneau.

Geographic range: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, N Bolivia.

Aglaeactis Gould, 1848*Aglaeactis cupripennis* Bourc.*Aglaeactis cupripennis* (Bourcier, 1843) - Shining Sunbeam; Colibri étincelant; 1 sp; m; ♂ ad; no. coll. 4548; w. d; Colombia.

Geographic range: the Andes of Colombia to Ecuador and central Peru.

Phaethornis Swainson, 1827*Phaethornis antophila* Bourc.*Phaethornis anthophilus* (Bourcier, 1843) - Black-cheeked Hermit, Pale-bellied Hermit; Ermite anthophile, Ermite oreillard; 1 sp.; w. d; Columbia; Lost.

Geographic range: Central Panama to Colombia and N Venezuela.

Order Coraciiformes Forbes, 1884

Family Alcedinidae Rafinesque, 1815

Todiramphus Lesson, 1825*Halcyon sanctus* Vig.*Todiramphus sanctus* (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) - Sacred Kingfisher; Martin-chasseur sacré; 1 sp; m; ♂ ad; no. coll. 4013; w.d.; Talangang, Sumatra (Pl. 1 J).

Geographic range: Australia to Solomon Islands; winters to New Guinea.

Chloroceryle Kaup, 1848*Ceryle americanus* Gm.*Chloroceryle americana* (Gmelin, J. F., 1788) - Green Kingfisher; Martin-pêcheur vert; 1 sp.; s.; w. d.; w. no. coll.

Order Cuculiformes Wagler, 1830

Family Cuculidae Vigors, 1825

Coua Schinz, 1821*Coua cristata* Linn.*Coua cristata* (Linnaeus, 1766) - Crested Coua; Coua huppé; 1 sp; m; no. coll. 3943; w. d.; Madagascar.

Geographic range: Madagascar.

The global population size of crested coua has not been quantified, but the species is reported to be widespread and locally common (del HOYO et al. 1996).

The crested coua is distributed in the forests, savannah and brushland of Madagascar. It is found from sea-level to the altitude of 900 metres. The diet consists mainly of various insects, fruits, berries, seeds, snails and chameleons. The female usually lays two white eggs in a nest made of twigs (BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016a).

Order Columbiformes Latham, 1790

Family Columbidae Illiger, 1811

Ptilinopus Swainson, 1825*Ptilopus superbus* Temm.*Ptilinopus superbus* (Temminck, 1809) - Superb Fruit Dove; Ptilope superbe; 1 sp.; w. no coll; New Guinee; Lost.

Geographic range: Moluccas to Bismarck Arch., Solomon Is. and NE Australia, Sulawesi and Sula Islands.

Order Ciconiiformes Bonaparte, 1854
 Family Ardeidae Leach, 1820
Butorides Blyth, 1852

Butorides virescens Linn.

Butorides virescens (Linnaeus, 1758) - Green Heron, Little green Heron; Héron vert; 1 sp.; m; ad; no. coll.3657/1; w. d.; Venezuela.

Geographic range: Central US and E Canada to Panama and Caribbean.

Order Gruiformes Bonaparte, 1854
 Sarothruridae Verheyen, 1957
Sarothrura Heine, 1890

Ortygometra insularis Shar.

Sarothrura insularis (Sharpe, 1870) - Madagascan flufftail; Râle insulaire; 1 sp.; m; no. coll. 3777; w. d.; Madagascar.

Geographic range: *Sarothrura insularis*: Humid forests of e and NW Madagascar.

Syn.: *Coturnicops insularis*, *Sarothrura insularis*, *Ortygometra insularis*, *Corethrura insularis*.

This species is a sedentary endemic species of Madagascar, its breeding season stretching between October and September (del HOYO et al. 1996; BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2016f).

CONCLUSIONS

The ornithological collection of the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest comprises bird species from Palearctic, mainly from Romania and fewer specimens from world fauna, almost three thousands.

In 1913, Abbot Gabriel Foucher donated a small collection to the National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest, which contains birds, ethnographic objects and a crocodile from Buin Island. The ornithological collection donated in 1913 by Abbot, later on Monsignor Gabriel Foucher to the National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest, as it was known at that time, comprises 38 specimens, 37 species, 34 genus, 18 families from 9 orders. It was part of the exhibition of the Museum, in "Hilarie Mitrea" Hall of Exotic Birds, for over 100 years.

This study is an homage offered at 150 years from the birth of two grandiose cultural and scientific personalities, Grigore Antipa and Monsignor Gabriel Foucher, the founders of two important natural history museums, from Bucharest (Zoology Museum, as it was known in 1913), now bearing its founder's name, and from Bourges (founded in 1927).

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Petrescu Angela

National Museum of Natural History "Grigore Antipa",
Kiseleff Street, no. 1, 011341 București, Romania.
E-mail: angelap@antipa.ro

Ridiche Mirela Sabina

Museum of Oltenia Craiova – Natural Sciences Department,
Popa Șapcă Street, no. 8, 200422 Craiova, Romania.
E-mail: rimirela@yahoo.com

Petrescu Ana-Maria

National Museum of Natural History "Grigore Antipa",
Kiseleff street no. 1, 011341 București, Romania.
E-mail: anapetrescu@antipa.ro

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PLATE 1. A - *Pitta irena*; B - *Oxyopogon guerinii*; C- *Tangara gyrola*; D - The envelope of Foucher's donation letter; E - List of ethnographic objects donated by Foucher; F- Present collection label; G - Old collection label; H - Foucher's signature; I - *Manacus manacus gutturosus*; J - *Todiramphus sanctus*; K - *Piculus rivollii* (originals photos).