

[Hawaiian Honeycreeper]

Sassius simplex

hypothetical, erroneous report

An old mounted specimen of a plain brown bird with a long curved bill, found in the Vienna Museum, was described as a new Hawaiian honeycreeper, *Sassius simplex*, by Rothschild and Hartert (1926; see also Sassi 1933). It had reached the museum, apparently in 1802-1806, with the label "*Drepanis (Certhia) obscurus*", referring to an akialoa (see [Synonymies](#)). This name apparently was an erroneous transcription of "*Certhia griseus*", an old name for *Cinnyris lotenius*, the Long-billed Sunbird of India and Ceylon (Olson and Schifter 1989). The specimen was later determined to be made from parts of this and other sunbirds glued on a carved wooden body (Bryan & Greenway 1944, Amadon 1950). Olson & Schifter (1989) discuss the ornithological history of this specimen, confirm its identity, and show it to be completely dissociated from the Hawaiian avifauna.