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BULLETIN

31 JUL 1941  
PURCHASED

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

DR. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.

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VOLUME LXI.  
SESSION 1940-1941.

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LONDON:

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1941.

ALBER FLAWMAM.



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## PREFACE.

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THE past Session, 1940-1941, has been an abnormal one in every way. Owing to the war conditions at present prevailing the Committee decided, when they met in October, that it would be inadvisable to continue the usual dinners and that it would not be possible to hold the usual number of meetings during the Session. It was thought, however, that it would be unfortunate if the activities of the Club should cease altogether, so as a compromise it was decided that meetings should be held on Saturday afternoons instead of Wednesday evenings, and that arrangements should be made for a luncheon to precede the meeting so as to give members an opportunity of seeing and talking to each other. This arrangement has worked well, and meetings were held in October (Annual General and ordinary Meeting), December, February, April (in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union in place of their annual meeting in March), and in June.

The number of attendances for the Session was as follows :—  
72 members, 11 members of the B. O. U., 2 guests of the Club and 25 other guests—a total of 110.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, the Chairman of the Club, gave his Annual Address at the June meeting. He gave a review of the past year 1939 to 1940 and then dealt with Field Studies, Ecology, Behaviour, and other aspects of Ornithology.

Captain Alan Lendon, F.R.C.S., Australian Army Medical Corps, gave a very interesting talk on the Parrots of Australia, and at the combined meeting of the Club and Union, Mr. W. E. Higham showed his marvellous Hungarian Bird Film which he, assisted by Miss Barclay-Smith, made in Hungary during the summer of 1939. This was in colour and was a beautiful production, as were also some studies of Golden Plover, Kingfisher, and Sheld-Duck taken in England. The applause at the end of the film showed how much the Members and their Guests had enjoyed and appreciated these wonderful works of art.

New forms were described by Mr. R. E. Moreau, by Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed and by Mr. C. M. N. White, while Capt. Grant and Mr. Mackworth-Praed continued their very interesting and valuable notes on Eastern African Birds.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear showed chicks of the Egyptian Plover (*Pluvianus aegyptius*).

The Club entertained as distinguished guests Capt. Alan Lendon and Mr. W. E. Higham.

G. CARMICHAEL LOW,

*Editor.*

*London, July 1941.*





# BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(FOUNDED OCTOBER 5, 1892.)

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## TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

## RULES.

(*As amended, October 12, 1938.*)

### MANAGEMENT.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term ; two Vice-Chairmen, who shall serve for one year, and who shall not be eligible for the next year ; an Editor of the ' Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term ; a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each be elected for a term of one year, but who shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place ; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

11. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Any Member who resigns his Membership on going abroad may be readmitted without payment of a further Entrance Fee at the Committee's discretion.

#### TEMPORARY ASSOCIATES.

V. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who are ordinarily resident outside the British Isles, and ornithologists from the British Empire overseas or from foreign countries, may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee as Temporary Associates of the Club for the duration of any visit to the British Isles not exceeding one Session. An entrance fee of five shillings shall be payable in respect of every such admission

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if the period exceeds three months. The privileges of Temporary Associates shall be limited to attendance at the ordinary meetings of the Club and the introduction of guests.

### MEETINGS.

VI. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VII. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report ; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VIII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS.

IX. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

### ' BULLETIN ' OF THE CLUB.

X. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the ' Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the 'Bulletin,' but if they desire to exercise this privilege they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the 'Bulletin' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

XI. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the 'Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

#### ALTERATION AND REPEAL OF RULES.

XII. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

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#### COMMITTEE, 1940-1941.

- Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON, *Chairman*. Elected 1938.  
 Capt. C. H. B. GRANT, *Vice-Chairman*. Elected 1940.  
 Mr. B. W. TUCKER, *Vice-Chairman*. Elected 1940.  
 Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW, *Editor*. Elected 1940.  
 Mr. N. B. KINNEAR, *Hon. Secretary*. Elected 1940.  
 Major A. G. LAMBART SLADEN, *Hon. Treasurer*. Elected 1936.  
 Mr. H. J. R. PEASE. Elected 1939.  
 Miss PHYLLIS BARCLAY-SMITH. Elected 1940.  
 Mr. B. G. HARRISON. Elected 1940.  
 Miss E. P. LEACH. Elected 1940\*.

\* In place of Mr. P. A. D. Hollom called up on Service.

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club,  
Past and Present.

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**Chairmen.**

P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.	1892-1913.
Lord ROTHSCHILD, F.R.S.	1913-1918.
W. L. SCLATER.	1918-1924.
H. F. WITHERBY.	1924-1927.
Dr. P. R. LOWE.	1927-1930.
Major S. S. FLOWER.	1930-1932.
D. A. BANNERMAN.	1932-1935.
G. M. MATHEWS.	1935-1938.
Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.	1938-

**Vice-Chairmen.**

Lord ROTHSCHILD, F.R.S.	1930-1931.
W. L. SCLATER.	1931-1932.
H. F. WITHERBY.	1932-1933.
G. M. MATHEWS.	1933-1934.
N. B. KINNEAR.	1934-1935.
H. WHISTLER.	1935-1936.
D. SETH-SMITH.	1936-1937.
Col. R. SPARROW.	1937-1938.
Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.	1938-1939.
Hon. GUY CHARTERIS.	1938-1939.
W. L. SCLATER.	1939-1940.
Dr. D. A. BANNERMAN.	1939-1940.
Capt. C. H. B. GRANT.	1940-
Mr. W. B. TUCKER.	1940-

**Editors.**

R. BOWDLER SHARPE.	1892-1904.
W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT.	1904-1914.
D. A. BANNERMAN.	1914-1915.
D. SETH-SMITH.	1915-1920.
Dr. P. R. LOWE.	1920-1925.
N. B. KINNEAR.	1925-1930.
Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.	1930-1935.
Captain C. H. B. GRANT.	1935-1940.
Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.	1940-

**Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers.**

HOWARD SAUNDERS.	1892-1899.
W. E. DE WINTON.	1899-1904.
H. F. WITHERBY.	1904-1914.
Dr. P. R. LOWE.	1914-1915.
C. G. TALBOT-PONSONBY.	1915-1918.
D. A. BANNERMAN.	1918-1919.
Dr. PHILIP GOSSE.	1919-1920.
J. L. BONHOTE.	1920-1922.
C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED.	1922-1923.
Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.	1923-1929.
C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED.	1929-1935.

**Honorary Secretaries.**

Dr. A. LANDBOROUGH	
THOMSON.	1935-1938.
C. R. STONOR.	1938-1940.
N. B. KINNEAR.	1940-

**Honorary Treasurers.**

C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED.	1935-1936.
Major A. G. L. SLADEN.	1936-

# LIST OF MEMBERS.

JUNE 1941.

- ACLAND, Miss C. M. ; Walwood, Banstead, Surrey.
- ALEXANDER, H. G. ; 144 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham.
- AYLMER, Commdr. E. A., R.N. ; Wyke Oliver, Preston, Dorset.
- BAKER, E. C. STUART, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.L.S., H.F.A.O.U. ;  
6 Harold Road, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.
- 5 BANNERMAN, DAVID A., M.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S.E. (*Chairman*,  
1932-1935) ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell  
Road, S.W. 7.
- BARCLAY-SMITH, Miss PHYLLIS (*Committee*).
- BARRINGTON, FREDERICK J. F., M.S., F.R.C.S. ; 42 Harley  
Street, W. 1.
- BENSON, C. W. ; c/o Secretariat, Zomba, Nyasaland.
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- 10 BOORMAN, S. ; Heath Farm, Send, Woking, Surrey.
- BOOTH, H. B. ; Ryhill, Ben Rhydding, Yorks.
- BOYD, A. W., M.C. ; Frandley House, near Northwich, Cheshire.
- BROWN, GEORGE ; Combe Manor, Hungerford, Berks.
- BUXTON, ANTHONY ; Knighton, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
- 15 CAMPBELL, Dr. JAMES W. ; Layer Marney Hall, Kelvedon,  
Essex.
- CAVE, Colonel F. O. ; Stoner Hill, Petersfield, Hants.
- CHAPIN, Dr. JAMES P. ; Musée du Congo, Tervueren, Belgium ;  
and American Museum of Natural History, Central Park,  
New York City, U.S.A.
- CHAPMAN, F. M. ; American Museum of Natural History,  
Central Park, New York City, U.S.A.
- CHARTERIS, Hon. G. L. ; 24 Oxford Square, W. 2.
- 20 CHASEN, FREDERICK N. ; Raffles Museum, Singapore.

- CHISLETT, RALPH ; Larkspur, 42 Broom Crescent, Rotherham, Yorks.
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- CLARKE, Brig.-General GOLAND VAN HOLT, C.M.G., D.S.O. ; Maudlyn House, Steyning, Sussex.
- CLARKE, JOHN P. STEPHENSON ; Broadhurst Manor, Horsted Keynes, Sussex.
- 25 CLARKE, Col. STEPHENSON ROBERT, C.B. ; Borde Hill, Cuckfield, Sussex.
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- CUNNINGHAM, JOSIAS ; Drinagh, Kensington Road, Knock, Belfast.
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- 30 DELACOUR, JEAN ; New York Zoological Park, Bronx, N.Y. City, U.S.A.
- DEWHURST, Major F. W. ; Manor Side, Ochlynge, Eastbourne.
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- 35 ELLIS, RALPH, F.L.S. ; 2420 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
- EZRA, A., O.B.E. ; Foxwarren Park, Cobham, Surrey.
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- FISHER, JAMES ; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W. 8.
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- 40 FLOWER, Major S. S. (*Chairman*, 1930-1932) ; 27 Park Road, Tring, Herts.
- FOULKES-ROBERTS, Captain P. R., M.C. ; Westwood, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon ; and c/o The Administrator of the Colony, Lagos, Nigeria.



- GILBERT, H. A. ; Bishopstone, near Hereford.  
GLEGG, W. E. ; c/o Zool. Mus., Tring, Herts.  
GLENISTER, A. G. ; The Barn House, East Blatchington,  
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HACHISUKA, The Marquess ; Mitashiba, Tokyo, Japan.  
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- 55 HOLLOM, P. A. D. ; Rolverden, Hook Heath, Woking,  
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HOPKINSON, EMILIUS, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B. ; Wynstay,  
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HUTSON, Lieut-Col. H. P. W., R.E. ; Chatham House, Rome  
Gardens, Abassia, Cairo, Egypt.  
INGLIS, C. McFARLANE ; Natural History Museum, Darjiling,  
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INGRAM, Capt. COLLINGWOOD ; The Grange, Benenden,  
Cranbrook, Kent.
- 60 JABOUILLE, PIERRE ; Address unknown.  
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JORDAN, Dr. KARL ; Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.  
JOY, NORMAN H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; Dungeness, Kent.
- 65 KINNEAR, NORMAN B. (*Hon. Secretary*) ; British Museum  
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mouth, Hants.
- 110 SANDEMAN, R. G. C. C. ; Dan-y-parc, Crickhowell, Brecon.
- SCHAUENSEE, R. M. DE ; Devon, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
- SCHOUTEDEN, Dr. H. ; Musée du Congo, Tervueren, Belgium.

- SCLATER, WILLIAM LUTLEY, M.A. (*Chairman*, 1918-1924)  
10 Sloane Court, S.W. 3.
- SETH-SMITH, DAVID ; " Brabourne," Poyle Road, Guildford.
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- SIMONDS, Major MAURICE H. ; Fines Baylewick, Binfield,  
Berks.
- SLADEN, Major A. G. LAMBART, M.C. (*Hon. Treasurer*) ;  
Horsenden Manor, Princes Risborough, Bucks ; and  
39 St. James's Street, S.W. 1.
- SPARROW, Col. R., C.M.G., D.S.O. ; The Lodge, Colne Engaine,  
Earls Colne, Essex.
- STEUART, Mrs. RONALD ; The Old Rectory, North Fambridge,  
Chelmsford, Essex.
- 120 STEVENS, HERBERT ; Clovelly, Beaconsfield Road, Tring,  
Herts.
- STEVENS, NOËL ; Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, Salop.
- STONOR, C. R. ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell  
Road, S.W. 7.
- TAKA-TSUKASA, Prince NOBUSUKE ; 1732 Sanchoime, Kami-  
meguro, Meguro-Ku, Tokyo, Japan.
- THOMSON, A. LANDSBOROUGH, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.  
(*Chairman*) ; 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10.
- 125 TICEHURST, N. F., O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S. ; 24 Pevensey  
Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
- TUCKER, B. W., M.A. (*Vice-Chairman*) ; 9 Marston Ferry  
Road, Oxford.
- TURTLE, LANCELOT J. ; 17-21 Castle Place, Belfast.
- URQUHART, Capt. ALASTAIR, D.S.O. ; Latimer Cottage,  
Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.
- VAN SOMEREN, Dr. V. G. L. ; East Africa and Uganda Natural  
History Society, Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi,  
Kenya Colony, East Africa.
- 130 VINCENT, J. ; " Firlie," Mooi River, Natal, South Africa.
- WADE, Major G. A., M.C. ; St. Quintin, Sandy Lane, Newcastle-  
under-Lyme, Staffs.
- WAIT, W. E., C.M.G., C.F.A.O.U. ; Applegarth, Aldbury,  
near Tring, Herts.

- WAITE, HERBERT WILLIAM ; c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co., Ltd.,  
Bombay, India.
- WALLIS, H. M. ; 110 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks.
- I35 WARE, R. ; Leafwood, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- WATT, Mrs. H. W. BOYD ; at Holmbury, 12 Campbell Road,  
Boscombe, Bournemouth, Hants.
- WHISTLER, HUGH, F.L.S. ; Caldbee House, Battle, Sussex.
- WHITE, CHARLES M. N. ; Park-View, Garstang Road,  
Broughton, near Preston, Lancs.
- WISHART, E. E. ; Marsh Farm, Binsted, Arundel, Sussex.
- I40 WITHERBY, HARRY F., M.B.E. (*Chairman*, 1924-1927) ;  
Gracious Pond Farm, Chobham, near Woking, Surrey.
- WOOD, CASEY A., M.D. ; c/o The Library of Ornithology,  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- WORKMAN, WILLIAM HUGHES ; Lismore, Windsor Avenue,  
Belfast.
- WORMS, CHARLES DE ; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.
- I44 YAMASHINA, The MARQUIS ; 49 Minami Hiradei, Shikuya-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan.

Total number of Members . . . . 144

**NOTICE.**

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and those residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

# LIST OF AUTHORS

## AND OTHER PERSONS REFERRED TO.

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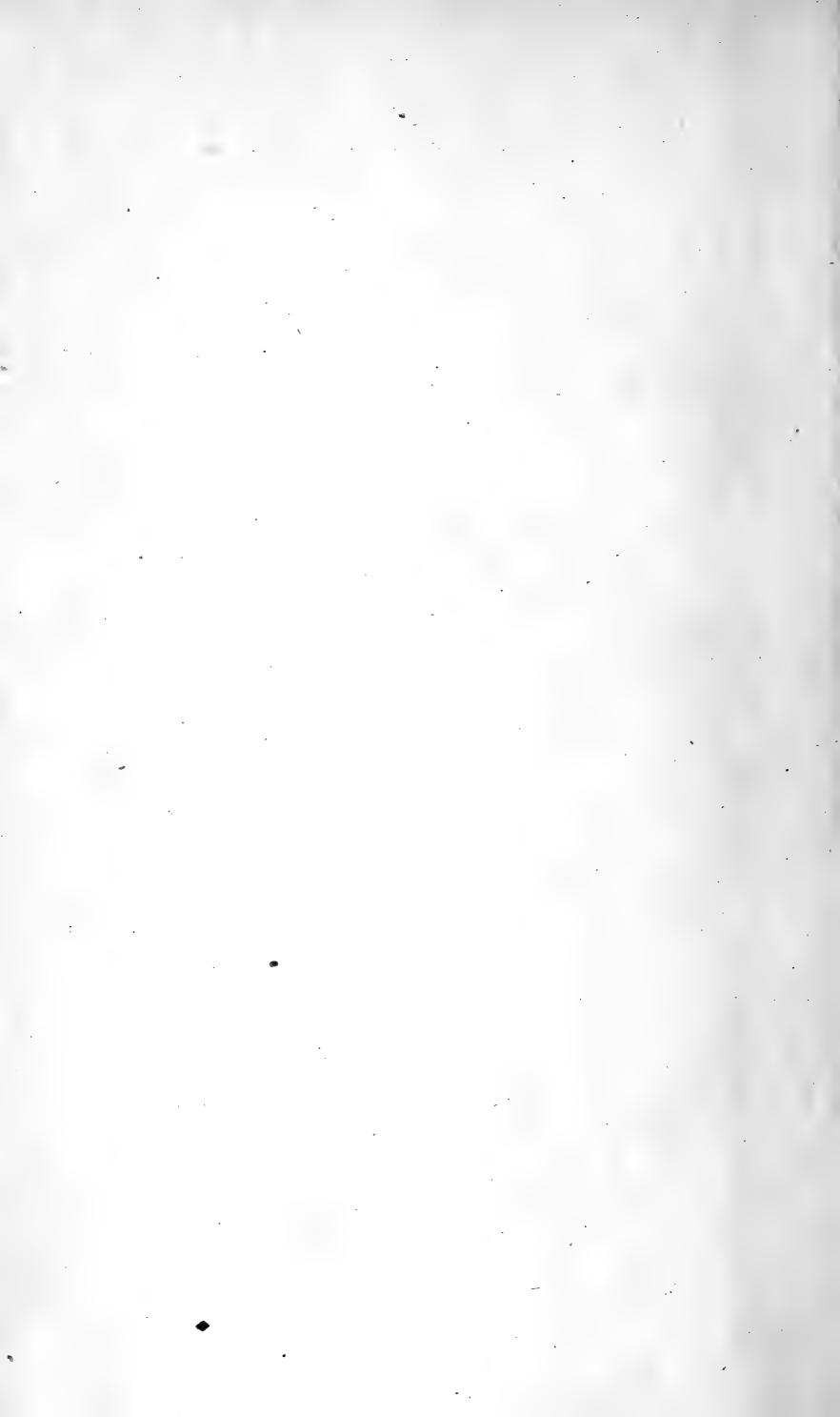
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8 NOV 1940  
PURCHASED

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

**No. CCCCXXXIV.**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

*Chairman* : DR. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

This was held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 2.30 P.M. on Saturday, October 12, 1940 ; 10 Members present.

The minutes of the last General Meeting, held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 6 P.M. on Wednesday, October 11, 1939, were read and confirmed.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR then submitted the Secretary's Report. He said that the number of members showed a decrease of 16 (169 to 153). The following four members had died : G. L. Bates, A. L. Butler, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, and Miss E. L. Turner.

Sixteen members had resigned and no new members had joined the Club.

The usual meetings had been held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 6 P.M., before instead of after the dinner at 7 P.M.

The attendances at the meetings were good, considering the conditions prevailing. Members 200 ; Members of the B. O. U. 24, Guests 67 ; Guests of the Club 3 ; making a total of 294.

The Report was approved.

Major A. G. LAMBART SLADEN sent his Annual Report as Treasurer. In it he said :—

The Financial Statement now submitted covers the eleven months from the 1st October, 1939, to the 31st August, 1940. Although the last Financial Statement covered a period of thirteen months as against the present period of eleven

months, the items brought to account actually represent the income and expenditure for the relative Sessions.

It will be seen that, in spite of the fact that the subscriptions from members is slightly reduced owing to resignations etc., the balance of cash in hand and invested funds amounts to £776 6s. 3d., as against £738 1s. 5d. for the preceding period. Increase in the balance is largely due to lower costs of printing and publication of the 'Bulletin' and the fact that certain expenses were incurred last year, such as £50 for printing the proceedings of the Ornithological Congress, arrears of subscriptions to the Zoological Society, and the hire of the Royal Geographical Society's hall.

Having regard to the difficult times through which we are now passing the financial position of the Club may be regarded as satisfactory, but it is hoped that every effort will be made to keep up the membership.

Considerable difficulty has naturally been experienced in collecting subscriptions of Foreign Members, but with a very few exceptions these have now all been received.

The Financial Statement will appear in the 'Bulletin.'

The Report was approved.

Captain C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. B. W. TUCKER were elected Vice-Chairmen in place of Mr. W. L. Sclater and Dr. D. A. Bannerman, whose period of office terminates.

Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW was elected Editor of the 'Bulletin' in place of Captain C. H. B. Grant, whose term of five years had expired.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring Editor.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR was elected Secretary in place of Mr. C. H. Stonor, who had to relinquish the post on joining the Army.

Major A. G. L. SLADEN was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

Miss PHYLLIS BARCLAY-SMITH and Mr. G. B. HARRISON were elected members of the Committee in place of Miss E. P. Leach and Mr. H. Leyborne Popham, retiring through seniority.

A discussion then took place as regards the question of holding further meetings of the Club, and the dates and times of such meetings, if the war conditions at present prevailing permitted,

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Financial Statement for the 11 months October 1, 1939, to August 31, 1940.

13 mths ended  
Sept. 30, 1939.  
£ s. d.

To Balance in Hand, October 1, 1939.—	£	s.	d.
Cash at Bank, Current a/c . . . . .	139	0	10
Do. . . . .	255	13	4
500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank . . . . .	400	0	0
£256 14s. 1d. 3½% War Loan . . . . .	255	13	4
Cash in Hands of Treasurer. . . . .	1	7	0
	<hr/>		
	796	6	2

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
79	10	7			
1	10	6			
400	0	0			
255	13	4			
1	7	0			
<hr/>			738	1	5

Entrance Fees of 6 New Subscribers . . . . .	154	5	0
Subscriptions of 145 Members. . . . .	35	4	3
Subscriptions in advance . . . . .	8	19	8
Entrance Fees in advance . . . . .	0	0	1
	<hr/>		
Sales of 'Bulletin' . . . . .	53	11	10
War Loan Interest . . . . .	4	9	10
Bank Interest . . . . .	0	10	6

£1040 8 4

£936 10 5

13 mths ended  
Sept. 30, 1939.  
£ s. d.

By Printing and Distribution of Publications and 'Bulletin' . . . . .	154	7	7
Printing Proceedings of the Ornithological Congress . . . . .	50	0	0
Hire of Lanterns at Meetings, &c. . . . .	28	16	0
H. B. Usher for compiling and arranging Index of 'Bulletin', B. O. C., 1939/40 . . . . .	6	6	8
Miscellaneous Expenditure, including Audit Fee, Printing, Stationery, and Postages . . . . .	22	2	2
Royal Geographical Society—Hire of Hall . . . . .	9	4	6
Zoological Society . . . . .	31	10	0
Miss Barclay-Smith—Report on Wild Fowl . . . . .			
	<hr/>		
Balance in Hand, August 31, 1940:—	79	10	7
Cash at Bank, Current a/c . . . . .	118	13	1
Do. . . . .	1	10	7
500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank. . . . .	400	0	0
£256 14 1 3½% War Loan . . . . .	255	13	4
Cash in Hands of Treasurer . . . . .	0	9	3
	<hr/>		
	776	6	3

£1040 8 4

£936 10 5

A. G. LAMBART SLADEN, Hon. Treasurer.

We have examined the foregoing Account with the Books and Vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the 11 months ended August 31, 1940, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank and the holding of National Savings Certificates and 3½% War Loan.

23 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.  
October 1, 1940.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants.

It was finally decided to hold the meetings on Saturday afternoons, if possible, on dates to be decided by the officers of the Club.

Due notice of such decisions would be forwarded to the members of the Club from time to time.

### Committee 1940-41.

- Dr. A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON, *Chairman* (elected 1938).  
 Capt. C. H. B. GRANT, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).  
 Mr. B. W. TUCKER, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).  
 Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW, *Editor* (elected 1940).  
 Mr. N. B. KINNEAR, *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1940).  
 Major A. G. LAMBART SLADEN, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1936).  
 Mr. P. A. D. HOLLOM (elected 1938).  
 Mr. H. J. R. PEASE (elected 1939).  
 Miss PHYLLIS BARCLAY-SMITH (elected 1940).  
 Mr. B. G. HARRISON (elected 1940).

### ORDINARY MEETING.

The four-hundred-and-twenty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, October 12, 1940, immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

*Chairman* : Dr. A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON.

*Members present* :—F. J. F. BARRINGTON ; J. FISHER ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; Lieut.-Col. H. A. F. MAGRATH ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; T. H. NEWMAN ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; C. R. STONOR.

*Guest* :—Mrs. A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members 14 ; Guest 1.

### Remarks on the Chick of an Egyptian Plover.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR exhibited a chick and other specimens of the Egyptian Plover (*Pluvianus ægyptius*), and made the following remarks :—

For many years we have been trying to get a chick of the Egyptian Plover (*Pluvianus ægyptius*), and now, thanks to the efforts of Colonel Cave, we have received a small series from Wau in S.W. Sudan.

The late Mr. A. L. Butler and others have from time to time examined live chicks, and the former reproduced in 'The Ibis,' 1931, a detailed description taken from his notebook of a bird he had examined. This description Dr. P. R. Lowe found to agree very well with an unhatched chick presented to the Museum by Mr. Mackintosh from the Sudan.

The Egyptian Plover was placed by Dr. Lowe (Ibis, 1931) in the family Glareolidæ on account of certain anatomical characters, and he drew attention to the remarkable resemblance in the colour-pattern of the head and nape between the chick of this Plover and the adult Courser (*Cursorius c. cursor*). Here, however, the resemblance ends, and not only is the chick very different, but the juvenile is of quite another type of colour-pattern.

In 1931 the late Mr. G. L. Bates procured two specimens of this bird in juvenile plumage on the River Niger below Gao in French Sudan, and these are exhibited together with the newly received specimens.

For comparison specimens of adult, juvenile, and chick of *Cursorius cursor cursor* were also exhibited.

### Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following seven notes :—

- (1) On the Races of *Turdus libonyanus* (Smith) occurring in Eastern Africa.

We agree with Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, pp. 690–693, that *Turdus libonyanus* and *Turdus pelios* should be treated as separate species, as although there is a superficial resemblance there is a marked difference in the throat-markings. Vincent, Ibis, 1935, p. 485, is not sure of his identifications and considers the group requires reviewing.

An examination of the series of over 100 specimens in the British Museum collection from south to eastern Africa

shows that there is no character whereby races can be recognized between Natal and Swaziland and Tanganyika Territory. There are no colour-differences to be noted and wing-measurements show considerable variation in birds from the same area, and there is certainly no character by which *Turdus cinerascens* Reichw., *Turdus libonyanus costæ*, and *Turdus libonyanus niassæ* Rensch can be differentiated.

As regards wing-measurements, birds from southern Portuguese East Africa vary in males from 109–119 mm. and in females from 106–114 mm.; northern Portuguese East Africa males 107–118 mm., females 101–115 mm.; Nyasaland males 110–118 mm., females 107–119 mm.; one unsexed 101 mm. Birds from Zululand, Swaziland, south-eastern Belgian Congo and Tanganyika Territory have similar wing-measurements, and odd specimens run up to 125 mm., *i. e.*, one unsexed from Mwanza, Tanganyika Territory, has 125 mm., three males from Fort Hill, northern Nyasaland, 113–122 mm., a male from the Chambezi Valley, Northern Rhodesia 122 mm., and an unsexed bird from near Victoria Falls, Southern Rhodesia, 121 mm.

We are therefore only able to recognize one race in Eastern Africa :

**TURDUS LIBONYANUS TROPICALIS** Peters.

*Turdus tropicalis* Peters, J. f. O. 1881, p. 50 : Inhambane, Portuguese East Africa ; of which *Turdus cinerascens* Reichenow, O. M. 1898, p. 82 : Tabora, central Tanganyika Territory ; *Turdus libonyanus costæ* Rensch, J. f. O. 1923, p. 99 : Magogoni, Ruvu River, eastern Tanganyika Territory, and *Turdus libonyanus niassæ* Rensch, J. f. O. 1923, p. 100 : Zomba, Nyasaland, are synonyms.

Chest more buff, less grey. Wing 101–124 mm. (One hundred and twenty-eight specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Natal and Swaziland to Portuguese East Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, south-eastern Belgian Congo, Nyasaland and Tanganyika Territory.

The typical race *Turdus libonyanus libonyanus* (Smith), *Merula libonyana* A. Smith, Rep. Exped. C. Afr. 1836, p. 45 : near Kurrichane, western Transvaal. Chest washed with



grey. Wing 115–127 mm. (Four specimens examined); apparently being confined to the western Transvaal.

(2) On the Status of *Geokichla gurneyi raineyi* Mearns, Smiths.

Misc. Coll. lxi. no. 10, 1913, p. 4 : Mt. Mbololo, east of Kilimanjaro, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

Slater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 444, places this name as probably a synonym of *Geokichla piaggix kilimensis* Neumann; and Friedmann and Loveridge, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxxxi. no. 1, 1937, p. 243, are of opinion that *G. g. usambaræ* Neumann, J. f. O. 1920, p. 82 : Mlalo, Usambara Mts., north-eastern Tanganyika Territory, and *G. g. raineyi* are the same, but do not definitely place the former as a synonym. Van Someren, J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. xiv. nos. 1–2, 1939, p. 79, is of opinion that *G. g. raineyi* and *G. g. usambaræ* are both recognizable races.

The British Museum Collection now has two specimens of *G. g. raineyi* from the Taita Hills and seven specimens of *G. g. usambaræ* from the Usambara Mts. This material indicates that Friedmann and Loveridge are correct, and we are therefore of the opinion that *Geokichla gurneyi usambaræ* Neumann must become a synonym of *Geokichla gurneyi raineyi* Mearns.

(3) On the Name of the Brown-tailed Rock-Chat.

*Saxicola scotocerca* Heuglin, Orn. N.O. Afr. i. 1869, p. 363 : near Keren, Bogosland, Eritrea; and *Ruticilla fuscicauda* Blanford, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. iv. 1869, p. 329 : North Abyssinia, were both published in November 1869. Most authors, including Slater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 457, use the former name, though the latter has been given priority; see Seebohm, Cat. Bds. B.M. v. 1881, p. 361. Slater, in a footnote, points out that there seems to be some doubt about which name has priority, and states that the Orn. N.O. Afr. i. 1869, was published in September. The evidence in the case is that it is stated definitely on the second title-page of vol. i. of Orn. N.O. Afr. that this volume was published on November 1, 1869; the dates 1869–1874 on the first title-page covers the publication dates of the whole work, vols. i.–iv.

Although of recent years the *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* has been published on the 1st of the month, Messrs. Taylor & Francis inform us under date August 9, 1940, that they cannot trace in their records any authentic dates of publication as far back as 1869. The evidence is that we do know that vol. i. of the *Orn. N.O. Afr.* was published on November 1, 1869, but we do not know the exact day in November 1869 when vol. iv. of the *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* was published, and the presumption that it was published on November 1, 1869, cannot be accepted.

Therefore *Saxicola scotocerca* Heuglin must be accepted as having priority over *Ruticilla fuscicauda* Blanford.

- (4) On the Races of *Pinarochroa sordida* (Rüppell, N. Wirbelt. Vög. 1837, p. 75, pl. 26, fig. 2 : Simen, northern Abyssinia) occurring in Abyssinia.

Four races have been described from Abyssinia, three of which have been recognized by Selater, *Syst. Av. Æthiop.* ii. 1930, p. 461, and the fourth is considered as a synonym. Our examination of the small series of eleven specimens in the British Museum collection from northern, central, and east central Abyssinia shows that there are no differences in colour, and wing-measurements are:—Two northern birds (male and female), 67–71 mm.; nine from central and east central Abyssinia, 72–78 mm. It would thus appear that two races might be separated on size, but Reichenow for his *Pinarochroa sordida erlangeri* (O. M. 1905, p. 25 : Gara Mulata, near Harar, eastern Abyssinia) gives wing 65–69 mm.; and Neumann for his *Pinarochroa sordida schoana* (O. M. 1905, p. 78 : Abuje, Gindeberat, Shoa, central Abyssinia) gives wing 68–74 mm.; and for *Pinarochroa sordida djamdjamensis* (O. M. 1905, p. 79 : Abera in Djamdjam Mts., east of Lake Abaya, southern Abyssinia) 72–74 mm. This shows a complete overlap in size, and as we can see no other character, we consider only one race can be recognized in Abyssinia, i. e., *Pinarochroa sordida sordida* (Rüppell).

- (5) On the Status of *Myrmecocichla leucolæma* Finsch & Reichenow, O. C. 1880, p. 181 : Nguru Mts., Morogoro

District, eastern Tanganyika Territory; and *Myrmecocichla nigra* var. *collaris* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 707: Kakoma, Tabora District, west central Tanganyika Territory.

Finsch and Reichenow give characters as throat, cheeks, and wing-coverts white, wing 95 mm., and they do not compare their description with any other bird. Reichenow's description is, throat, ear-region, band round neck, and wing-coverts white, but does not give any measurements. Both these descriptions agree with the female of *Thamnolæa arnotti arnotti* (Tristram), Ibis, 1869, p. 206, pl. 6; and Neunzig, J. f. O. 1926, p. 754, records the type of *Myrmecocichla nigra* var. *collaris* as a female, and gives wings, males 100–105 mm., and females 90–97 mm.

Our examination of birds from South Africa to Tanganyika Territory shows that there is no difference in colour, markings or size, and that some females have the feathers of the nape and hind neck with white bases, which tends to form in some specimens the white band described by Reichenow. The character of the difference in auricular markings given by Friedmann & Loveridge, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. lxxx. 1, 1937, p. 247, between *T. leucolæma* and *T. collaris* does not hold good. As the characters given for both *M. leucolæma* and *M. n.* var. *collaris* are those of the female, we are of opinion that both these names must become synonyms of *Thamnolæa arnotti arnotti* (Tristram).

(6) On *Saxicola maura* (Pallas), 1773, and *Saxicola varietaga* (Gmelin), 1774.

Slater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 469, gives both *Saxicola maura* (Pallas, Reise versch. Prov. Russ. Reichs. ii. 1773, p. 708: Karasulak, north-west of Ishim, western Siberia) and *Saxicola indica* (Blyth, J. As. S. Beng. xvi. 1847, p. 129: India) as occurring in eastern Africa, but not *Saxicola varietaga* (Gmelin, S. G. Reise durch. Russl. iii. 1774, p. 105, pl. 20, fig. 3: Shemakha, Azerbaijan, west of Baku, Caspian Sea, south Russia). Bates, Ibis, 1937, p. 812, retains *Saxicola torquata indica* for the bird breeding in Siberia and migrating to India. Bates therefore infers that this race does not visit

Africa or Arabia during the non-breeding season, and the evidence before us supports this. In the Bull. B. O. C. lv. 1935, p. 158, Bates separates *S. maura* and *S. indica* on size, *i. e.*, wings in the former being 70–76 mm. and in the latter 65–74 mm., and not on the amount of white in the tail, but in Ibis, 1937, p. 812, states that *S. maura* is the bird with much white in the tail, which he thought was *S. varietaga*, and considers Siberian breeding birds as being *S. indica*.

Ticehurst, Ibis, 1938, p. 338, having examined specimens around the type-locality of *S. maura*, gives wing-measurements of *S. maura* as 67–72.5 mm. and *S. indica* as 65–73 mm., and states that they may be kept separate on a slight difference in size and that *S. maura* has less white at base of tail than *S. indica*, but admits that all specimens are not separable. He further says, "When Pallas called half the lateral tail white, it must, I think, have been an impression of a well-marked specimen and not an accurate measurement," and further, "so not only could Pallas not have had this bird (*S. variegata*) from the Ishim, but would surely have not called half the lateral tail white, as most of this is white with only a terminal black band."

Pallas's description is perfectly clear, "half lateral tail white," and we therefore have no right to suggest that he had any any other bird, and must accept this as a fact. We must also accept that he observed birds with half the lateral tail white along the Ishim River on 6–7 May, 1771, and presumably on those two days only, but does not say that they were breeding there. It is therefore an indisputable fact that Pallas saw and obtained Stonechats with half lateral tail white on the Ishim River 169 years ago, and therefore either such a Stonechat had a distribution as far east as the Ishim River in those days or Pallas saw and obtained birds which were accidentally out of their normal line of movement. Neumann, J. f. O. 1906, p. 295, is quite emphatic that the bird with white in the tail is Pallas's *Saxicola maura* and that *Saxicola varietaga* is a synonym of it. Meinertzhagen, Ibis, 1922, p. 22, and Nicoll, Bds. of Egypt, i. 1930, p. 286, correctly gives *Saxicola maura* as having the basal half of all the outer tail-feathers white, and gives distribution as central

and southern Urals, Astrachan, northern Caucasus to southwest Persia.

The specimens mentioned and examined by the various writers from the Ishim River area as having little or no white in the tail are certainly not Pallas's *S. maura*, which is the bird described a year later by Gmelin as *S. varietaga*, and Bates, in his re-arrangement of the specimens in the British Museum collection, has correctly placed *S. varietaga* as a synonym of *S. maura*.

It may be said that because this "half the lateral tail white" bird has not since been taken on the Ishim River *S. maura* is an indeterminate name, but as we know that such a bird is found at least as far north as the Ural River region this name cannot be dismissed in this way. As we have shown that the birds with but little white at the base of the tail examined from the Ishim River area since Pallas's time are not *S. maura*, and as the wing-measurements given by Bates and Ticehurst show a complete overlap, and the tail character is variable individually, we would submit that all are *S. indica*, the present day breeding range of which is into western Siberia, as stated by Grote, O. M. 1928, p. 178.

Dementier, Syst. Av. Ross. 1935, p. 254, is therefore correct in uniting the western and eastern Siberian birds under one name, but as *S. indica*, not as *S. maura*.

The distribution is as follows :—

*SAXICOLA TORQUATA MAURA* (Pallas).

Central and southern Ural Mts., Ural River Valley (formerly to Ishim River Valley) to Caucasus ; in non-breeding season to western Arabia, Egypt, eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and British Somaliland.

*SAXICOLA TORQUATA INDICA* (Blyth).

Western and eastern Siberia ; in non-breeding season to India.

*SAXICOLA TORQUATA ARMENICA* Stegmann (Compt. Rend. de l'Acad. Sci. U.R.S.S. iii. no. 1, 1935, p. 47 : Adschafana, Kurdistan).

Eastern Asia Minor, Iran, Iraq, and Syrian Desert ; in non-breeding season to Arabia, and Egypt to the Sudan.

It may eventually be found that there is an overlap in distribution in western Siberia between *Saxicola maura* and *Saxicola indica*. If this is so, then *S. indica* would remain as a race of *S. torquata* and *S. maura* become a species with *S. armenica* as a race.

(7) On the Distribution of the Races of *Cossypha heuglini* Hartlaub, and the Status of *Cossypha intercedens* (Cabanis).

Slater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 470, recognizes three races of *Cossypha heuglini*, and places *Cossypha intercedens* as a race of *Cossypha semirufa* (Rüppell), N. Wirbelt. Vög. 1840, p. 81: Abyssinia. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxxvii. 1932, p. 378, has correctly pointed out that *Cossypha heuglini euronota* Friedmann, wing given as 83 mm. and tail 79 mm. (adult female), is a synonym of *Cossypha heuglini intermedia* (Cabanis), and is generally correct in stating that males are greyer on the mantle and females browner, but this is not a constant character, males being also brown. Several authors have brought *Cossypha heuglini subrufescens* Bocage as far east as Nyasaland, and Vincent, Ibis, 1935, p. 495, considers even his coastal specimens from northern Portuguese East Africa to be near this race.

We consider that *Cossypha intercedens* is correctly placed as a race of *Cossypha semirufa*, as it is merely a larger example of *C. s. donaldsoni*, and the known distribution shows an overlap with *C. h. heuglini*, as we find them both occurring at Nairobi, although elsewhere their nearest points of distribution appear to be in Kenya Colony, Laikipia and Aberdares, some 45 miles apart; and in Tanganyika Territory, Loliondo and Longido, 70–75 miles apart, and Lolkissale and Esimingor, 55–60 miles apart. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 241, also states that there is an overlap in distribution, and treats *C. intercedens* as a race of *C. semirufa*. The races we are able to recognize are as follows:—

COSSYPHA HEUGLINI HEUGLINI Hartl.

*Cossypha heuglini* Hartlaub, J. f. O. 1886, p. 36: Wau, Bahr-el-Ghazal, south-western Sudan; of which *Cossypha*

*heuglini occidentalis* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1909, p. 108 : Lufuku River, south-west Lake Tanganyika, south-eastern Belgian Congo, is a synonym. Central tail-feathers olivaceous. Wing, males, 92–111 mm. ; tail 84–96 mm. ; females, wing 85–97 mm. ; tail 77–86 mm. (Forty-two measured).

*Distribution.*—Southern and western Abyssinia to Ubangi-Shari area French Equatorial Africa, through Belgian Congo to Bechuanaland, Southern Rhodesia, Tanganyika Territory, Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa and southern Portuguese East Africa at head-waters of Buzi River ; but not coastal area of Kenya Colony, Tanganyika Territory, and northern Portuguese East Africa, and is apparently not found in the localities where *C. s. intercedens* occurs, except at Nairobi.

COSSYPHA HEUGLINI INTERMEDIA (Cab.).

*Bessonornis intermedia* Cabanis, J. f. O. 1868, p. 412 : coastal district of Kenya Colony ; of which *Cossypha heuglini euronota* Friedmann, Occ. Pap. Boston Soc. N. H. v. 1930, p. 327 : Lumbo, Mozambique, northern Portuguese East Africa, is a synonym.

Similar to *C. h. heuglini*, but rather smaller. Wing, males, 81–97 mm. ; tail 76–85 mm. ; females, wing 86–87 mm. ; tail 71–78 mm. (Thirteen measured.)

*Distribution.*—Coastal areas of Italian Somaliland, Kenya Colony, Tanganyika Territory, and northern Portuguese East Africa from the Juba River to about 16° S. lat., and as far west as Amani in Tanganyika Territory and Nhauela in northern Portuguese East Africa.

N.B.—*C. h. heuglini* occurs at Mocuba and 50 miles south-east of Milange in northern Portuguese East Africa.

COSSYPHA HEUGLINI SUBRUFESCENS Boc.

*Cossypha subrufescens* Bocage, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 436 : Caconda, Benguella, Angola.

Central tail-feathers dark and bronzy, not olivaceous. Wing, males, 90–103 mm. ; tail 90–103 mm. ; females, wing 84–96 mm. ; tail 78–86 mm. (Ten measured.)

*Distribution.*—Angola to Portuguese Congo.

The characters and distribution of *C. s. intercedens* is as follows :—

*COSSYPHA SEMIRUFA INTERCEDENS* (Cab.).

*Bessonornis intercedens* Cabanis, J. f. O. 1878, pp. 205, 219 :  
Kitui, Ukamba, Kenya Colony.

Size as in *C. h. intermedia*, but colour above usually rather darker and central tail-feathers much darker and blacker than *C. h. subrufescens*, and clearly distinguishable from *C. h. heuglini* and *C. h. intermedia*. Wing, males, 86–95 mm. ; tail 76–84 mm. ; females, wing 85–89 mm. ; tail 67–73 mm. (Seventeen measured.)

*Distribution.*—Kenya Colony at Embu south-east of Mt. Kenya, Aberdares, Escarpment, Nairobi, Kitui and Chyulu Hills ; Tanganyika Territory at Longido, Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru, Monduli, Esimingor, and north and south Paré Hills.

N.B.—At Nairobi there is an apparent overlap in distribution with *C. h. heuglini*. The specimen of *Cossypha s. intercedens* in the British Museum collection (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1902.9.2.35) was collected at Nairobi Swamp.

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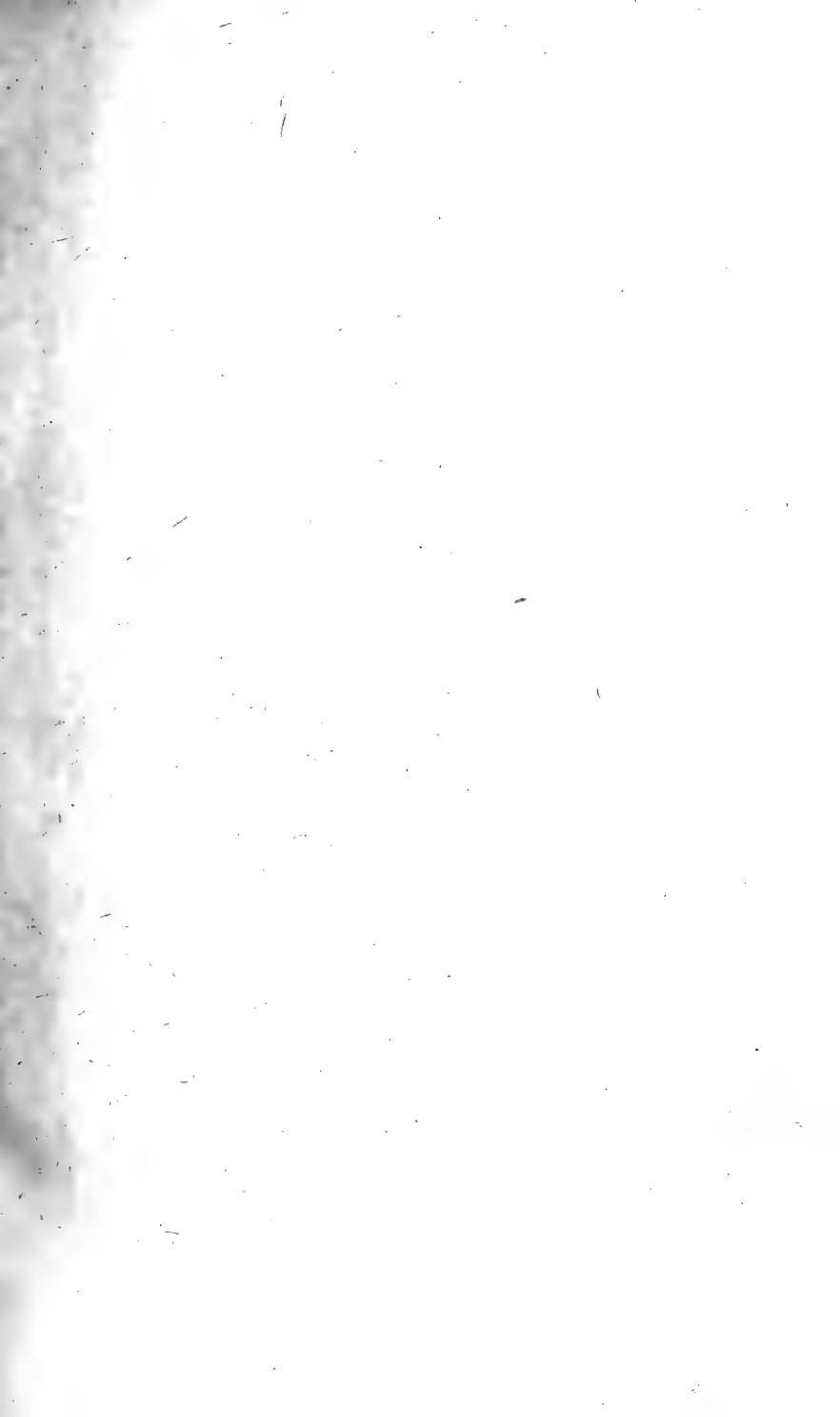
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#### NOTICES.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club, held on Saturday, October 12, 1940, it was decided to hold the monthly meetings of the Club on Saturday afternoons if possible. Members will be notified in due course when and where such meetings will take place.

Members who wish to make scientific communications at meetings of the Club must give notice to the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' Dr. Carmichael Low, Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7 ; if possible this should be done at least ten days beforehand, in order that the item may be included in the printed Agenda. All manuscript for publication in the 'Bulletin' must be given to the Editor before or at the meeting at which the communication is made.







# BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

**No. CCCCXXXV.**

THE four-hundred-and-thirtieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, December 7, 1940, at 2.30 P.M.

*Chairman* : DR. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

*Members present* :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; T. H. NEWMAN ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; B. W. TUCKER.

*Guests* :—Miss L. P. GRANT ; Miss B. N. SOLLY ; Professor Count K. WODZICKI.

Members, 11 ; Guests, 3 ; Total, 14.

**Owing to the war conditions at present prevailing no meeting of the Club took place in November.**

The CHAIRMAN welcomed Count K. Wodzicki, a guest at the Club, and said how glad the members were to have him with them to-day.

Count Wodzicki, a distinguished Polish Ornithologist, is well known to many of the Members of the Club, and some present to-day would remember the happy time spent at Rouen at the International Ornithological Congress in May 1938. The Count also took part in the Meeting of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, a subject he is specially interested in, which was held in Rouen just before the Congress.

Count WODZICKI, in reply to the Chairman's welcome, said he was very pleased indeed to be present at a Meeting

[December 20, 1940.]

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of the British Ornithologists' Club. The times and outlook in Europe for Ornithology, and especially for the part dealing with the preservation of birds, were in abeyance for the present he feared, but we must look forward to new ideas and arrangements when the war was over and final victory had been won.

As there were no exhibits a general discussion took place. The members present expressed the hope that further meetings of the Club should be held when possible, and next February (1941) was suggested as a suitable date.

### Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following four notes :—

#### (1) On the Resident Races of the Stonechat in Eastern Africa.

Slater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 468, recognizes four races. Vincent, Ibis, 1935, p. 493, has added a fifth, i. e., *Saxicola torquata robusta*. Bowen, Proc. Acad. Sci. Philad. lxxxiii. 1931, p. 8, describes a race from Angola, *Saxicola torquata stonei*, which he says occurs as far east as Nyasaland. Meinertzhagen has reviewed the whole group in Ibis, 1922, p. 20, and recognizes five resident races in Eastern Africa, and places *Pratincola emmae* Hartlaub, J. f. O. 1890, p. 152 : Uganda, Ankole, south-western Uganda, as a synonym of *S. t. axillaris*.

We can recognize five races as follows, which do not differ in size :—

#### SAXICOLA TORQUATA ALBOFASCIATA Rüppell.

*Saxicola albofasciata* Rüppell, Syst. Uebers, 1845, p. 39 : Simen Province, northern Abyssinia.

Male black and white ; female has under wing-coverts and axillaries dusky, with buff or tawny edges.

*Distribution*.—Abyssinia as far south as the south-eastern Sudan.

#### SAXICOLA TORQUATA ROBUSTA (Tristram).

*Pratincola robusta* Tristram, Ibis, 1870, p. 497 : Natal, South Africa ; of which *Saxicola torquata stonei* Bowen, Proc.

Acad. Sci. Philad. lxxxiii. 1931, p. 8 : Villa General Machado, Angola, is a synonym, as we can see no characters by which it can be separated, and specimens in the British Museum collection show that Angola and Natal specimens overlap in wing-measurements, *i. e.*, Angola, three males, 67–71 mm. ; Bowen gives males, 67–68.5 mm. and females 66–69 mm. ; Natal, seven males, 67–75 mm. ; seven females, 69–71 mm. ; Zululand, seven males, 69–74 mm., four females, 67–72 mm. ; Bowen gives Natal, two males, 70–73 mm., one female, 68 mm.

Male below, except chin and throat dark chestnut, centre of belly and under tail-coverts white, washed with chestnut, under wing-coverts and axillaries black with white edges. The female has the under wing-coverts and axillaries white or buffy with dusky bases.

*Distribution.*—Cape Province, except western areas, and Natal to Angola, southern Belgian Congo, Nyasaland, and northern Portuguese East Africa.

#### SAXICOLA TORQUATA AXILLARIS (Shelley).

*Pratincola axillaris* Shelley, P. Z. S. 1884, p. 556 : Mt. Kilimanjaro, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory, of which *Pratincola emmae* Hartlaub, is a synonym.

Male has the chestnut below confined to a patch on the central chest ; and black of throat extends slightly further down than in the male of *Saxicola torquata robusta* ; rest or underparts white, or sometimes a chestnut wash down flanks ; under wing-coverts and axillaries as in *S. t. robusta*. The female is generally darker and more warmly coloured than the female of *S. t. robusta*.

*Distribution.*—Kenya Colony, Uganda, and Tanganyika Territory, except eastern area from Uluguru Mts. to Mpapwa.

#### SAXICOLA TORQUATA JEBELMARRÆ Lynes.

*Saxicola torquata jebelmarræ* Lynes, Bull. B. O. C. xli. 1920, p. 27 : Jebel Marra, Darfur, western Sudan.

Male very similar to the male of *Saxicola torquata robusta*, but rather less chestnut below, white of belly extending further towards breast. The female is also very similar to the female

of *Saxicola torquata robusta*, but is generally paler below, especially the flanks and belly to under tail-coverts.

*Distribution.*—Western Sudan.

SAXICOLA TORQUATA PROMISCUA Hartert.

*Saxicola torquata promiscua* Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xlii. 1922, p. 51 : Uluguru Mts., eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Male indistinguishable from that of *Saxicola torquata axillaris*. The female differs from the female of *S. t. axillaris* in being usually rather greyer above, paler below except the chest ; and chin to throat distinctly lighter.

*Distribution.*—The Uluguru Mts., through Kilosa to Mpapwa.

In the original description of *Pratincola emmae*, Hartlaub gives the type locality as "Ruganda" ? and Meinertzhagen, Ibis, 1922, p. 26, gives Ruganda ; also Ankole in S.W. Uganda. The type-specimen, dated July 15, was collected by Emin Pasha on July 15, 1889, on his journey with Stanley from Lake Albert Edward via Ankole, Karagwe, Usindja, and Usambiro, etc., to Bagamoyo (see Stuhlmann, 'Die Tagebuecher von Emin Pascha,' iv. 1927, p. 343) ; and the locality Ruganda is in Ankole, south-western Uganda, and is doubtless the place called Ruhánda on the map in Exped. Emin Pascha 1890–1892, in Deutsch, Ostaf. i. Mit Emin Pascha in Herz von Afrika, 1893 (1894).

(2) On the Races of *Erythropygia leucophrys* (Vieill.) occurring in Eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 482, recognizes four races as occurring in eastern Africa. Grote, 'Bateleur', ii. 1930, p. 14, describes a new race from Iringa, south central Tanganyika Territory, as *Erythropygia leucoptera sclateri*.

Grote compares this race with *E. leucoptera brunneiceps* Reichenow, giving wing as 72 mm., and states that the three specimens upon which this race is based had been named *E. zambesiana* Sharpe ; and that, as a result of Sclater's revision of *E. leucophrys* in the Bull. B. O. C. xlix. 1929, p. 62, and the examination by Sclater of these three specimens, they (these three specimens) represent an undescribed form. Presumably as a race of *E. leucophrys*, and yet he places it as a race of *E. leucoptera*. Lynes, J. f. O., Sonderheft, 1934, p. 140, examined the

type, and places it as a race of *E. leucophrys*. As we are unable, owing to prevailing war conditions, to examine the type, which is in Berlin, we accept that Grote had intended to attach this race to *E. leucophrys*, and not to *E. leucoptera*.

An examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that the characters given to the races do not hold good. Birds in fresh plumage are clearer and brighter in colour, and worn birds are darker and duller, and there is some individual variation. The amount of black on the ends of the tail-feathers is not a diagnostic character

Wing-measurements give southern Sudan, male 67 mm. (one measured), female 61 mm. (one measured); Uganda, male 64–71 mm. (nine measured), female 61–67 mm. (four measured); eastern Tanganyika Territory, male 66–71 mm. (two measured), female 69 mm. (one measured); eastern Kenya Colony, male 65 mm. (two measured); north-eastern Belgian Congo male 66–70 mm. (two measured), female 60 mm. (one measured). There is therefore no difference in measurements, and as we can see no difference in colour, we are only able to recognize one race in eastern Africa :—

*ERYTHROPYGGIA LEUCOPHRYS ZAMBESIANA* Sharpe.

*Erythropygia zambesiana* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1882, p. 588, pl. 45, fig. 2: Tete, Rivi River, River Shiré, Southern Nyasaland; of which all the other described races, including *E. l. sclateri*, are synonyms.

Wing 61–72 mm.

*Distribution*.—Southern Sudan to Portuguese Congo, south through Kenya Colony and Northern Rhodesia to the Zambesi.

(3) On the Races and Distribution of *Pogonocichla stellata* (Vieill.) in eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 486, recognizes five races as occurring in eastern Africa; casts some doubt on the validity of *P. s. johnstoni* Shelley, and places *P. intensa* Sharpe as a species. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 243, recognizes *P. elgonensis* (O. Grant) as a species, places *P. ruwenzorii* (O. Grant), *P. keniensis* Mearns, and *P. orientalis* (Fisch. & Reichw.) as races of *P. cucullata* Blyth, and considers *P. intensa* Sharpe and *P. guttifer* Reichw. to be synonyms, though he alters some of these decisions in Nov. Zool. xxxvii,

1932, p. 375. Gyldenstolpe, K. Vet. Akad. Handl. 3, 1, no. 3, 1924, p. 155, is of opinion that *P. intensa* is possibly a discoloured example of *P. ruwenzorii*.

As regards *Tarsiger cucullata* Blyth, Ibis, 1867, p. 16, for which both Africa and India are given as localities, the two Gould specimens are in the British Museum collection (Brit. Mus. Reg. nos. 1867-3.16-90 & 91), the latter being the type. Both these specimens agree perfectly with the South African *Pogonocichla stellata stellata*, and in view of this, and that Sharpe has already placed it as a synonym of *P. s. stellata* (Cat. Bds. B. M. v. 1879, p. 261), Oberholser's (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxviii. 1905, p. 897) adoption of Blyth's *Tarsiger cucullata* for the Kilimanjaro race cannot be accepted.

The races we are able to recognize in Eastern Africa are :—

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA GUTTIFER (Reichw. & Neum.).

*Tarsiger guttifer* Reichenow & Neumann, O. M. 1875, p. 76 : Kifiniko, Mt. Kilimanjaro, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory; of which *Pogonochicla cucullata keniensis* Mearns, Smiths. Misc. Coll. lvi. no. 20, 1911, p. 9 : Mt. Kenya, is a synonym.

Mantle : golden olive ; secondaries grey. Wing 75-92 mm. (Sixty specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Southern Sudan to central and south-western Kenya Colony and north-eastern Tanganyika Territory from Mt. Kilimanjaro westwards to Longido, Ketumbeine, Monduli, Esimingor and Mbulu.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA ORIENTALIS (Fisch. & Reichw.).

*Tarsiger orientalis* Fischer & Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 57 : Pangani, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory ; of which *Pogonocichla johnstoni* Shelley, Ibis, 1893, p. 18 : Milanji, Nyasaland ; *Tarsiger olivaceus* Reichenow, O. M. viii. 1900, p. 100 : Ukinga, south-western Tanganyika Territory ; *Tarsiger johnstoni montanus* Reichenow, O. M. 1906, p. 172 : Usambara, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory ; and *Pogonocichla cucullata helleri* Mearns, Smiths. Misc. Coll. lxi. no. 20, 1913, p. 1 : Mt. Mbololo, are synonyms.

Mantle olive-green ; secondaries edged with olive. Wing 72-87 mm. (One-hundred and five specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Nyasaland, and northern Portuguese East Africa through southern and central Tanganyika Territory to



north-eastern Tanganyika Territory from north Paré Hills and 70 miles south of Arusha to the coast, and south-eastern Kenya Colony at Taita Hills.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA INTENSA Sharpe.

*Pogonocichla intensa* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xi. 1901, p. 67 : Entebbe, southern Uganda.

Mantle deeper coloured than any other race and below golden orange. Wing 76 mm. (only the type examined).

*Distribution*.—Entebbe, southern Uganda.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA RUWENZORII (O. Grant).

*Tarsiger ruwenzorii* O. Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 33 : Mubuka Valley, south-east Ruwenzori, western Uganda ; of which *Tarsiger eurydesmus* Reichenow, O. M. xvi. 1908, p. 48 : Rugege Forest, is a synonym.

Mantle golden-olive ; but mantle and head less dark than *P. s. guttifer*. Wing 73–83 mm. (Twenty-four specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Eastern Belgian Congo and western Uganda from Ruwenzori to Lake Kivu.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA ELGONENSIS (O. Grant).

*Tarsiger elgonensis* O. Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxvii. 1911, p. 56 : Mt. Elgon, Uganda—Kenya Colony boundary.

Yellow on tail confined to the base of the feathers. Wing 82–84 mm. (Two specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Mt. Elgon, Uganda-Kenya Colony boundary.

POGONOCICHLA STELLATA MACARTHURI v. Som.

*Pogonocichla stellata macarthuri* van Someren, J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. xiv. 1939, p. 83 : Chyulu Range, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

Purer green above and paler yellow below. Wing 76–86 mm. (None examined.)

*Distribution*.—Chyulu Hills, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

It is a generally accepted fact that the spotted young moult into an intermediate green dress, but apparently this is not constantly the case, as there are in the British Museum a male and a female which show both spotted and adult dress,

but no sign of the green dress. The male is *P. s. guttifer* from Longido, Moreau collection no. 3476, taken on October 28, 1935, and the female is also *P. s. guttifer* from Narossura, south-western Kenya Colony, Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1916.12.1.603, taken on November 4, 1912.

(4) On the Races of the Black Redstart occurring in Eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 490, recognizes two races as occurring in eastern Africa, and remarks in a footnote that records from the Sudan are based on females. He suggests that *Phœnicurus ochruros gibraltariensis* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 1, ii. 1789, p. 297 : Gibraltar, may also occur.

Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's Bds. Egypt, i. 1930, p. 291, considers that female specimens from the Sudan in the British Museum collection belong to *Phœnicurus ochruros phœnicuroides*. Our examination of the series of Black Redstarts in the British Museum collection shows that there is no evidence of *P. o. gibraltariensis* occurring in eastern Africa, and we can therefore rule out that race. There are in the British Museum series six females from eastern Africa. There are also twelve males of *P. o. phœnicuroides* from eastern Africa, but no males of *P. o. ochruros*, a fact that is of considerable significance.

A careful comparison of females from at or near the breeding areas of *P. o. ochruros* and *P. o. phœnicuroides* shows that the former, though brown in colour when compared with the females of *P. o. gibraltariensis*, have a distinct sooty tone, whereas the females of *P. o. phœnicuroides* are distinctly browner. On comparing the six females from eastern Africa with the above, we find that there is no question that they agree with the females of *P. ochruros phœnicuroides*, and not with the females of *P. o. ochruros*.

The evidence therefore shows that only one race is so far known from eastern Africa, i. e., *Phœnicurus ochruros phœnicuroides*.

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NOTICE.

The date of the next meeting of the Club will be announced to Members by post-card in due course.

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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

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### No. CCCCXXXVI.

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THE four-hundred-and-thirty-first Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, February 15, 1941, at 2.15 P.M.

*Chairman* : DR. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

*Members present* :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Miss M. G. BEST ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; T. H. NEWMAN ; D. SETH-SMITH ; B. W. TUCKER.

*Guest of the Club*.—Capt. ALAN LONDON.

*Guests*—J. BERRY ; Miss L. P. GRANT ; Miss P. M. THOMAS. Members, 10 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Guests, 3 ; Total, 14.

Owing to the war conditions at present prevailing no meeting of the Club took place in January.

### Personalia.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter from Mr. Gregory M. Mathews to the Club from Australia. The writer, who is at present engaged in cataloguing his collection of books, which he presented to the Library at Canberra, asked to be remembered to the Members of the Club, and sent his good wishes for 1941.

### Parrots of Australia.

Captain ALAN LONDON, F.R.C.S., Australian Army Medical Corps, gave a very interesting talk on the Parrots of Australia. It is hoped to publish a full account of this later.

## Two new races of Flycatcher-Warbler from Eastern Africa.

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following descriptions and the types for exhibition :—

### ***Seicercus ruficapilla ochrogularis*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Similar to *Seicercus ruficapilla johnstoni* W. L. Sclater, but differs in having the chin to throat, sides of head and superciliary stripe yellow washed with saffron and not greenish lemon-yellow.

*Distribution.*—Mountain forest of Kungwe Mt., 6000–8000 feet, east shore of Lake Tanganyika, Kigoma District, Tanganyika Territory.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male adult. Forest on Kungwe Mt., 6500 feet, August 22, 1940, collected by Charles Abdallah for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5291. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1940.11.1.1.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 57, culmen from base 13, tarsus 20, tail 44 mm.

*Remarks.*—Two other adult males agree with the type, and have wing measurements of 57 and 58 mm.

### ***Seicercus umbrovirens fuggles-couchmani*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Similar to *Seicercus umbrovirens mackenziana* Sharpe, but differs from that race in having the chin to chest suffused with brown, not whitish.

*Distribution.*—Uluguru Mts., Morogoro District, eastern Tanganyika Territory.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male adult. Tchenzema, Uluguru Mts., eastern Tanganyika Territory, October 10, 1937, collected by N. R. Fuggles-Couchman. Collector's no. 37–22. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1938.7.3.8.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 60.5, culmen from base 15, tarsus 21, tail 50 mm.

*Remarks.*—Two other adult females agree with the type and have wing measurements of 54 and 56 mm. Named in honour of Mr. N. R. Fuggles-Couchman,

### New Race of Flycatcher from Eastern Africa.

Mr. MOREAU also sent the following :—

#### *Diaphorophya ansorgei kungwensis*, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—Differs from all other described forms of the species in the absence of green on the upper parts (both sexes), and in the total absence of a frontal band in the male. From *D. a. ansorgei* Hartert (the male of which is unknown), it is at once distinguished by the frontal band of the female being deep red-brown instead of yellow.

The male has the entire crown, nape and ear-coverts blackish with a greenish-blue gloss; the mantle, back and wings paler and less glossy; the entire tail and tail-coverts glossy dark blue.

The female has the upper parts slate-grey with a slight blue-green gloss; an olive-green wash on mantle and tips of the lower rump feathers; narrow and broken red-brown frontal band, tail glossy blue, not so bright as in the male.

In both sexes the colour of the underparts is extremely rich; and in the female the strong red-brown extends from the base of the bill to the lower breast.

*Distribution.*—Known only from the mountain forests of Kungwe Mt., at 6900–8000 feet, on the east shore of Lake Tanganyika.

*Type.*—Male, forest above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt., 7000 feet, August 4, 1940, collected by Salimu Asmani (for R. E. Moreau). Collector's no. 5261.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 61, tail 31 mm.

*Remarks.*—Two males are available, but only one female, which measures: wing 60, tail 32 mm. I am indebted to Dr. V. G. L. van Someren and Dr. J. P. Chapin for comparing my birds with material of the other races.

### New Races of Swamp- and Bracken-Warblers from Eastern Africa.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED described and exhibited the following two new races :—

#### *Bradypterus baboecala sudanensis*, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—Similar to *Bradypterus baboecala abyssinica* (Blundell & Lovat), but smaller.

*Distribution.*—Bahr-el-Ajab (Lake No) to west of Tonga, White Nile, southern Sudan.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male adult. Lat. 90° 30' N., Long. 30° 40' E., White Nile, southern Sudan, February 27, 1914, collected by Abel Chapman and H. Lynes. Brit. Mus Reg. no. 1919.12.17.419.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 53, culmen from base 17, tarsus 19, tail 62 mm.

*Remarks.*—Wings of nine specimens measure 50–54 mm. against 55–60 mm. in eight specimens of *B. b. abyssinica*.

***Sathrocercus cinnamomeus macdonaldi*, subsp. nov. ✓**

*Description.*—Generally darker and richer coloured than *Sathrocercus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Rüppell); above dark chestnut-brown; below deep tawny-brown; throat and centre of breast to belly white or whitewashed with tawny-brown.

*Distribution.*—Wallega area of Western Abyssinia.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Not sexed. Gummaro stream, three miles west of Goré, Wallega area, Western Abyssinia, December 7, 1917, collected by Ödön Kovác. Collector's no. 3977. British Museum Reg. no. 1938.5.18.43.

*Measurements of Type.*—Wing 60, culmen from base 17, tarsus 23, tail 67 mm.

*Remarks.*—Another adult unsexed has the wing 60 mm. A young bird collected at the Gummaro stream on August 20, 1918, collector's no. 4061, has the upper parts dark chestnut as in the adult, and is much darker and richer coloured than the young bird of *S. c. cinnamomeus*.

Named in honour of Mr. J. D. Macdonald, who was largely responsible for these Kovác birds being acquired for the national collection.

**Notes on Eastern African Birds.**

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following five notes :—

(1) A new Genus of African Swamp-Warbler (*Calamonastides*).

On p. 92 of the Bull. B. O. C. lx. 1940, under "Remarks," we stated that *Chloropeta natalensis* and *Chloropeta similis* are forest dwellers.

Mr. Moreau has informed us that this statement is not correct, and that both these species inhabit bracken and moorland and never occur in the shade of the forest. Colonel Cave and Mr. Macdonald record on their labels that *C. natalensis* occurs in forest edge and *C. similis* in forest strips. Selater, Bds. S. Afr. ii. 1901, p. 246, states that *C. natalensis* occurs in thick jungle and low bush, where it runs along the branches of trees, and in Ibis, 1911, p. 422, *C. natalensis* is recorded as inhabiting long grass and reeds bordering streams, and has much the habits of a Sedge-Warbler. Jackson, Bds. Kenya and Uganda, ii. 1938, pp. 915 and 916, gives low-lying damp places and valleys where there are tall grasses, reeds and dense undergrowth, swamps and marshy glades for both *C. natalensis* and *C. similis*, and papyrus swamps and reed beds for *C. gracilirostris*. Our own notes, collected from various sources, give dense nettlebeds, bracken and bush herbage, usually in swampy wooded localities for *C. natalensis* and *C. similis*.

It would thus appear that *C. natalensis* and *C. similis* are not forest species, nor are they entirely confined to swamp; whereas *C. gracilirostris* is restricted to papyrus swamp and reed beds.

(2) On the Races of the Whitethroat occurring in Eastern Africa.

Selater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 494, recognizes two races as occurring in Eastern Africa.

Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. lv. 1935, p. 177, has rightly extended *Sylvia communis icterops* Ménériés to Western Nyasaland. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 233, records only *S. c. communis*. In 1928 Stresemann (J. f. O. 1928, p. 378) named the Chinese Turkestan bird as *Sylvia communis rubicola*, giving size as the character. Hartert recognized this race in Vög. pal. Fauna, 1934, p. 274, and it is used by Ludlow and Kinneer in Ibis, 1933, p. 469, but Meinertzhagen, Nicolls' Bds. Egypt, i. 1930, p. 219, places it as a synonym of *S. c. icterops*. We have examined birds from both the type-locality of *S. c. icterops* and *S. c. rubicola*, and there is no doubt that they can be separated on colour, but not on size, and both these races can be distinguished from *S. c. communis*

when the series is laid out, though an occasional individual does show the character of the other race, *i. e.* a February unsexed specimen from Accra (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1895.5.1.316) is rather grey, and matches very well *S. c. icterops*; as does an April male from Yugo-Slavia (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1936.12.15.33); two May males from Greece (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1908.12.10.15 and 16) are rather buffy, and match very well *S. c. rubicola*; as does a July female from Yugo-Slavia (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1934.11.20.132).

It is, however, unlikely that birds from these localities can be anything else but *S. c. communis*.

A May female from North-West Iran (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1907.12.21.219) is rather buffy, and matches very well *S. c. rubicola*, but it is unlikely to be anything else but *S. c. icterops*.

On comparing very carefully birds in their winter quarters, we are able to recognize all three races as occurring in eastern Africa, the characters and general distribution of which are as follows:—

#### SYLVIA COMMUNIS COMMUNIS Latham.

*Sylvia communis* Latham, Gen. Syn. Suppl. i. 1787, p. 287: England.

Above brown. Wing 65–78 mm. (One hundred and thirty-three specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Europe, Siberia and north Africa, from Morocco to Tunis, in non-breeding season to western and eastern Africa as far south as Damaraland, Southern Rhodesia, western Nyasaland (Mzimba, April 4, 1935), and Tanganyika Territory; also Southern Arabia.

#### SYLVIA COMMUNIS ICTEROPS Ménétriés.

*Sylvia icterops* Ménétriés, Cat. rais. Caucase, 1832, p. 34: Talysch, Caspian Sea.

Darker, greyer above. Wing 68–79 mm. (Fifty specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—The Caucasus, Asia Minor, Palestine and Iran; in non-breeding season through Arabia and Egypt to eastern Africa from Eritrea, Abyssinia, British Somaliland, Tanganyika Territory and western Nyasaland (Lilongwe, March 12, 1935).



*SYLVIA COMMUNIS RUBICOLA* Stresemann.

*Sylvia communis rubicola* Stresemann, J. f. O. 1928, p. 378 : Kuldja, western Chinese Turkestan.

Above buffier or buffy ashy, not brown as in *S. c. communis* or greyer as in *S. c. icterops*. Wing 67–78 mm. (Seventy-four specimens examined.)

*Distribution.*—Russian and Chinese Turkestan; in non-breeding season through Kashmir, Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, Rajputana and Arabia, to north-eastern and eastern Africa from the Sudan, Uganda and central Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory, also north-eastern Angola and western Nyasaland (Nyika Plateau, December 26, 1937).

It should be remarked that there is a considerable difference in tone of colour between autumn birds of *S. c. communis* from Europe and Africa. It would appear that the brown coloration is very quickly affected by climatic conditions and exposure to sun and weathering when moving from its breeding to its winter quarters.

(3) On the type-locality of *Agrobates galactotes minor* (Cabanis), Mus. Hein. i. 1850, p. 39.

Cabanis gives Abyssinia, but as this race does not occur in Abyssinia proper, but only in Eritrea, which was part of Abyssinia in 1850, we consider the type-locality should be restricted to Eritrea.

(4) On the type-locality of *Acrocephalus bæticatus bæticatus* (Vieillot), N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xi. 1817, p. 195.

Vieillot founded this name on L'Isabelle of Levaillant, Ois. d'Afr. iii. 1802, pl. 121, fig. 2. Levaillant at first thought that this was the female of his La Caqueteuse (pl. 121, fig. 1), and it can therefore be safely presumed that he found both in the same localities and habitat. We can therefore accept the locality "marais d'Anteniquoi," *i. e.*, Knysna, as the type-locality of *Acrocephalus bæticatus bæticatus* (Vieillot).

(5) On *Saxicola maura* (Pallas), 1773, and *Saxicola variegata* (Gmelin), 1774.

On p. 10 of the Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1940, we quote Ticehurst, Ibis, 1938, p. 341, as having stated that "*S. maura* has less white at the base of the tail than *S. indica*,"

This should be reversed, as Ticehurst stated that *S. indica* has "less amount of white in the base of the tail" than *S. maura*. We regret this mis-quotation, though it does not affect the main issue.

### Records of Ringed Redwings.

Dr. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON, Chairman of the Bird-ringing Committee, said that Miss Leach had brought to his notice three records of Redwings ringed in England, being subsequently recovered in Italy the season after they had been caught in this country. Records of Redwings are very few, and the fact that three should show almost identical details points to the occurrence not being entirely fortuitous.

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PURCHASED  
NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W.7, on Saturday, April 26, 1941, at 2.30 p.m., in conjunction with a Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union. This will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.30 p.m.

At the meeting a film by Mr. W. E. Higham and slides will be shown.

Members intending to be present must notify the Secretary of the Union (not the Secretary of the Club) as soon as possible after receiving the usual post card which is being sent out by the Union.

7<sup>th</sup> JUN 1941  
PURCHASED

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

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**No. CCCXXXVII.**

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THE four-hundred-and-thirty-second Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, April 26, 1941, at 2.30 P.M., in conjunction with a luncheon of the British Ornithologists' Union, in place of the usual Annual Dinner in March.

Dr. PERCY R. LOWE, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the luncheon, and Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON, Chairman of the Club, during the subsequent proceedings.

*Members of the Union present* :—J. CHEAR ; Col. H. H. V. CHRISTIE ; Major W. M. CONGREVE ; A. H. EVANS ; E. J. HOSKING ; Mrs. H. M. RAIT KERR ; Mrs. F. E. LEMON ; E. S. MAY ; Lt.-Col. W. A. PAYN ; Major H. M. SALMON ; the Rev. L. C. SARGENT.

*Members of the Club present* :—Miss C. ACLAND ; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Miss M. G. BEST ; A. EZRA ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; Capt. COLLINGWOOD INGRAM ; Dr. K. JORDAN ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; Dr. P. R. LOWE ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; T. H. NEWMAN ; B. B. OSMASTON ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; Col. R. SPARROW ; B. W. TUCKER ; Mrs. H. M. BOYD WATT ; H. WHISTLER ; H. F. WITHERBY.

*Guest of the Club* :—W. E. HIGHAM.

[May 22, 1941.]

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VOL. LXI,

*Guests* :—W. ARNOLD ; Miss E. BEST ; Miss C. E. CROMPTON ; Miss E. GODMAN ; Miss L. P. GRANT ; Mrs. E. J. HOSKING ; Miss A. JORDAN ; Miss H. JORDAN ; Mrs. F. W. KENNARD ; Miss A. S. LEMON ; Capt. E. M. EVANS LOMBE ; D. H. MEAVES ; W. H. PERRETT ; Miss J. SARGENT ; Mrs. A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON ; Mrs. H. F. WITHERBY ; Miss E. WRIGHTSON.

Members of the Union, 11 ; Members of the Club, 25 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Guests, 17. Total, 54.

**Owing to the war conditions at present prevailing, no meeting of the Club took place in March.**

### **Hungarian Bird Film.**

Mr. WALTER E. HIGHAM showed a film in colour which he, assisted by Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith, had made in Hungary during the summer of 1939. In presenting the film Mr. Higham said that it had been made with a special purpose. There was a predominant idea in this and other countries that Hungary was a place in which the main interest was the shooting of birds in large numbers ; this was not the case, and was a matter of concern to Hungarian ornithologists. The film had been made in the great bird reserves in Hungary to demonstrate the work being done in bird preservation in that country. He and Miss Barclay-Smith had travelled over 2500 miles in Hungary, a great deal of it at night, and had made the entire film in three weeks. Every assistance had been given by the Hungarian Government, and the help given by the Royal Hungarian Institute of Ornithology and its members—in particular Dr. Vonocsy Schenk, Dr. Kleiner, and Dr. Warga—had been invaluable ; without their assistance it would have been quite impossible to obtain records of so many species.

The film opened with a view of Budapest looking across the Danube to the Royal Palace, taken in the early morning, and then changed to the plains of the Hortobagy with the herds of pigs, large-horned cattle, and mares with their foals. A close-up of a Swallow's nest, on the wall of the famous

Czarda on the Hortobagy, the birds flying backwards and forwards to the nest and feeding their young, was taken without any hide, the birds being absolutely fearless.

The next scene was the little village of Dinnyes on Lake Valence, one of the largest bird reserves in Hungary. Views of the lake and waterways through the thick reed-beds led to a colony of Black Terns, where the most excellent close-ups of these birds alighting at the nest and brooding the eggs were followed by slow-motion pictures of them in flight. The next subject was the Little Bittern, which showed the cock and hen changing over and brooding and feeding the young. At one point the hen gave a youngster a fish too large to swallow, took it back, digested it further, and then regurgitated it a second time, this time the youngster being able to take it, though with great difficulty. The Moustached Warbler at nest was next shown, this being the first time this bird has ever been filmed.

One of the features of Lake Valence is the immense number of frogs, whose incessant croaking sounds like a distant roar, especially at night. The film showed close-ups of these frogs, some actually croaking, and showing the transparent balloons which blow out at each side of the mouth during this process.

There then followed a varied series of scenes from the Spoonbill colony, and some slow-motion shots of these birds in flight. These were followed by flight pictures of the Purple Heron, and also scenes from the nest of this bird. This section of the film closed with studies of two Storks' nests and slow-motion pictures of the birds' flight, which, as Mr. Higham remarked, gave him more pleasure than any subject he had ever filmed. The movements of the primaries and details of flight Mr. Higham secured were certainly of exceptionally high standard.

The next section of the film opened with species taken in the neighbourhood of Budapest and on the Puszta. A Golden Oriole's nest situated on an outer branch of a young oak tree gave an exceptional opportunity for obtaining excellent results of this bird; cock and hen together at the nest were secured,

both feeding young and removing excreta. The bright red colour of the beaks and throats of the young birds was particularly noticeable in the brilliant sunlight. A shot, though taken at 100 yards, of a Bee-eater on a branch of a tree showed clearly and in detail the beautiful colouring of this bird, and a series of scenes of Hoopoes showed the cock at a nesting-hole in a tree-trunk, and a pair quarrelling with another pair for the possession of a nesting-box. These were followed by shots of the Tawny Pipit and nest, and Collared Flycatcher, male and female, at a nesting-box. A Marsh-Harrier in the reed-beds in a backwater of the Danube proved an extremely difficult subject, but records were secured of the parent bird visiting the nest, and of the youngsters devouring their food.

The scene then changed to Lake Balaton, and showed the Great White Heron and one young, the others having already flown. As this was the only nest recorded in the whole of Hungary in 1939, the courtesy of the Hungarian ornithologists in allowing it to be filmed by an Englishman is particularly to be appreciated. It was also of great good fortune that this record was secured at all, for the day previous there had been a cloud-burst over the lake, and immediately after the film had been taken there was a violent thunderstorm.

The final portion of the film was taken in the neighbourhood of Szeged, near the borders of Yugo-Slavia. Outside this town are a series of large artificial fish-ponds, covering several miles. The fish are mostly carp and other coarse fish, which are caught in large nets, weighted at the corners, which are flung out into the water; this procedure was shown in the film, and the enormous number of fish so caught demonstrated. Adjoining the fish-ponds are large salt-marshes, with shallow pools, in which a wealth of bird-life abounds. Here the Black-winged Stilt, Kentish Plover, and Avocet nest, and excellent results of all these birds were secured, the close-ups being particularly beautiful. A few Ruffs and Reeves appeared when the Avocet was being filmed, and by turning his camera Mr. Higham was able to include them also.

The film closed with a scene of the setting sun, and a flock of sheep wandering slowly across the marshes towards the

water-well, so typical of Hungary, outlined against the wonderful colouring of the sky.

In addition, Mr. Higham also showed some excellent studies of Golden Plover, Kingfisher, and Sheld-Duck, taken in England, in which the colour results could be described as perfect, the delicate markings of the Golden Plover and the scene of the Sheld-Duck reflected in a pool being outstandingly good.

In proposing a vote of thanks, the Chairman remarked that Mr. Higham had certainly shown what a real close-up meant, and had also proved that colour-photography had definitely "arrived." In thanking Mr. Higham he would like to couple the name of Miss Barclay-Smith, and would also like to mention the Royal Hungarian Institute of Ornithology; several members of the B. O. U. were honorary members of that Institute, and though now separated by the clouds of war, he had no doubt that the cordial relations which had always existed between British ornithologists and the Institute in the past would continue in the future when peace once more prevailed.

### Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Lieut. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following six notes:—

#### (1) On the Correct Name of the Kikuyu Ashy Flycatcher.

Mr. R. E. Moreau, in a letter to us dated December 28, 1940, has raised the question of the name of this race, and asks whether *Muscicapa cinereola* Finsch & Hartlaub, 1870, should not be used.

*Muscicapa cinereola* Finsch & Hartlaub, Vög. Ostaf. in Van der Decken's Reisen, iv. 1870, p. 302, was described from Usaramo, Dar-es-Salaam District, eastern Tanganyika Territory, and *Alseonax caerulea kikuyuensis* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. 1921, p. 102, was described from Kyambu, south-central Kenya Colony.

As the recognized distribution of the Kikuyu Ashy Flycatcher is from south-central Kenya Colony, south-west to Angola and Damaraland, and south to eastern Southern Rhodesia

and Portuguese East Africa as far south as Inhambane, we agree that the Kikuyu Ashy Flycatcher must bear the name *Alseonax cinereus cinereola* (Finsch & Hartlaub), of which *Alseonax cærulescens kikuyuensis* van Someren is a synonym.

(2) On *Saxicola maura* (Pallas), 1773, and *Saxicola variegata* (Gmelin), 1774.

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1940, p. 9, and correction in Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 29, we raised the question of these names, and the late Dr. Ticehurst has added a note in 'The Ibis,' 1941, p. 182.

In view of the apparently divergent constructions placed on Pallas's description, we have again critically examined the evidence. In reply to a query we put to Dr. Ticehurst, we now realize that *Saxicola torquata indica* is confined to India, breeding in the N.W. Himalayas and wintering farther south, and does not occur anywhere in Siberia, and thus the distribution given in Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 469, is not in accordance with present knowledge. Dr. Ticehurst and Dementiev, Syst. Av. Ross. 1935 (L'Oiseau, v. 1935, p. 438), are in agreement that *Saxicola torquata maura* breeds in Western Siberia from the Ural Mts. to the Yenisei River, but apparently are not in agreement that *S. t. indica* is a synonym of *S. t. maura* as placed by Dementiev.

Bates was therefore right in ruling that *S. t. indica* is not a migrant to Arabia or Africa.

Pallas, Reisen, ii. 1773, p. 428, says that on the Karussun, a tributary of the Ishim, on May 6 and 7, 1771, near a settlement (Karasulsk), he found "a beautiful species of Flycatcher with black head, back, and tail and fire-yellow breast (*Muscicapa maura*)"\*; that it was very plentiful, and its pleasing song was to be heard everywhere.

In his further description in Appendix No. 17 is the mention of white in the tail.

Dr. Ticehurst's measurement of the white in the tail, 11-17mm., does not show beyond the upper tail-coverts in birds we have examined, and the measurement of 21 mm. is only just beyond the ends of the coverts.

\* This is the original description and first reference, which has priority over *Motacilla maura*, Appendix No. 17, p. 708.



This does not appear to us to give an "impression" of a half-white tail, as such an impression would surely be the amount of white visible between the tips of the upper tail-coverts and the black ends of the tail-feathers.

An "impression" is that of the eye, and it is not quite fair to compare this with actual measurements.

If Pallas had an "impression" at all, it was when he saw the birds first, and states that they had "black" tails.

His description of white in the tail on p. 708 is not, we think, an impression, but what he must have found when he was describing a specimen in the hand.

To sum up, the evidence is that Pallas's first description is that of a black-tailed bird, but in his second description he describes the bird as having "half lateral tail white," which is a bird not having white showing beyond the tips of the upper tail-coverts, and agrees with the series examined by the late Dr. Ticehurst from around the type-locality of *Saxicola torquata maura*.

We therefore agree that *Saxicola torquata maura* (Pallas) and *Saxicola torquata variegata* (Gmelin) are not synonymous.

It is not quite clear where *S. t. maura* spends the winter, and we have not yet seen a specimen of it from Eastern Africa. Dr. Ticehurst has suggested to us that it winters in Iraq, Iran, and occasionally in India.

The races we have knowledge of in Eastern Africa are :—

**SAXICOLA TORQUATA VARIEGATA (S. G. Gmelin)\*.**

*Distribution.*—Lower Ural River, perhaps as far north as Uralsk, Caucasus, Caspian Sea area to Aral Sea; in non-breeding season to western Arabia, Egypt, eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and British Somaliland.

**SAXICOLA TORQUATA ARMENICA Stegmann.**

*Distribution.*—Eastern Asia Minor, Iran, Iraq, and Syrian

\* Gmelin has corrected his name *Parus varietaga* (Reise durch Russl. iii. 1774, p. 105) to *Parus variegata* on fig. 3, pl. 20, and as this correction was in the same publication, and under the same date, it can be accepted. His description of the bird is: tail white, tip black, ochre-coloured borders. Migrant from northern Iran south-west to Mecca.

Desert ; in non-breeding season to Arabia and Egypt to the Sudan.

- (3) On *Pogonocichla intensa* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xi. 1901, p. 67.

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1940, p. 21, we recognized this as a good race, giving the distribution as Entebbe, southern Uganda. Gyldenstolpe, K. Vet.-Akad. Handl. 3, i. no. 3, 1924, p. 155, and Sclater, Jackson's Bds. Kenya & Uganda, ii. 1938, p. 1007, cast considerable doubt on the locality of this bird, and are of opinion that the colour has been changed by outside agency. We have recently received a letter from Captain C. R. S. Pitman, dated at Entebbe, January 15, 1941, in which he states that he can assure us that this type was not collected at Entebbe, and not nearer to Entebbe than Mt. Elgon, Ruwenzori, or the Kigezi Highlands, that it is a high-altitude forest species, and that he has come across it in western Kigezi (south-western Uganda) and in the Cherangani Forest east of Mt. Elgon at 8500 feet. We have re-examined the type and agree that it must have been treated in some way that has darkened its general colour. It is to be noticed that the bill has a very dry appearance with fine cracks in it, an appearance that is commensurate with its having been immersed in some liquid.

As Entebbe cannot be included in the range of this species, and therefore cannot be the type-locality of *P. intensa*, the question arises as to where Doggett obtained this specimen. Sharpe, Ibis, 1902, p. 97, says that Doggett collected at Mau, Baringo, Suk, Nandi, Elgon, Busoga, Unyoro, Toro, Ankole, islands at north end of Lake Victoria, Mt. Ruwenzori, Semliki Valley, and the forest on the border of the Belgian Congo. As this type does not agree with *P. stellata ruwenzori*, we can rule out western Uganda, and we agree with Sclater that in general characters it is similar to the Kenya Colony bird. In the amount of black at the end of the tail-feathers it agrees well with specimens from Mau in the British Museum collection. As Mau was one of the places visited by Doggett, we propose to fix this place as the type-locality of *Pogonocichla intensa* Sharpe. *P. intensa* thus becomes a synonym of *P. s. guttifer*.

(4) On the Type-locality of *Sylvia curruca blythi* Ticehurst & Whistler.

In 'The Ibis,' 1933, p. 556, Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and Mr. H. Whistler proposed this name as a *nomen novum* and designated a type from Cawnpore, India.

It is clear that they proposed *Sylvia curruca blythi* for *Sylvia curruca affinis* Hartert, NOT *Sylvia affinis* Blyth, basing it on Hartert's description in Vög. pal. Fauna, i. 1910, p. 589, no. 888.

As a *nomen novum* is not a *species* or *subspecies novum*, no type can be designated, and the type-locality must follow that given by the author of the description on which this name is founded.

Hartert gives as the first locality "breeding in Siberia"; and, therefore, Siberia, and not Cawnpore, India, must be accepted as the type-locality of *Sylvia curruca blythi* Ticehurst & Whistler.

In the Pract. Handb. Brit. Bds. ii. 1938, p. 90, Siberia is given as the type-locality.

We would invite attention to Franz Poche's opinion at the top of p. 47 under Opinion 65 in Special Publication No. XII., "The Geological Survey of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, 1932."

(5) On the Species of the Genus *Calamœceter*.

Dr. Bannerman's excellent review in 'The Ibis,' 1937, p. 294, has cleared up the situation between the "large" and "small" forms, and placed them on a very sound basis; but we propose to carry the matter a step further.

An examination of the good series of fifteen specimens from Tanganyika Territory, Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, and thirty-four from southern Portuguese East Africa, Bechuanaland, and Nyasaland, shows that the characters given by Neumann for *C. zuluensis*, i. e., first primary rather narrow, lores white, and white continued over eye, are not constant; and as we can see no other character by which they can be separated, we consider *C. zuluensis* Neumann must become a synonym of *C. leptorhynchus* Reichenow. We have been unable to examine specimens from either the Tana River mouth or from Zululand, but Neumann has included the

British Museum specimen from Inhambane in his *C. zuluensis*, and it would appear unlikely that birds from north-eastern Tanganyika Territory differ from those at the mouth of the Tana River. As it is now known, and we have examined the specimens, that *C. nilotica* Neumann has a distribution from the Sudan through Uganda to north-eastern Northern Rhodesia, we propose to treat *C. foxi* Sclater as a species, as it lies within the area of *C. nilotica*, there being two specimens of *C. foxi* in the British Museum collection, a male from Lake Maraye and a female from Lake Mutanda, south-western Uganda.

On p. 297 Bannerman states that the difference between *Calamæctor nilotica* and *C. rufescens* is very fine, but our examination shows that the former is distinctly grey below, and the latter distinctly buffy.

Benson's statement (Ibis, 1940, p. 619) that it does not appear that two groups, a "large" and a "small," can be separated, is liable to be misleading. In his review Bannerman gives only *C. g. zuluensis* as occurring in Nyasaland, so that there is no question of a "large" and a "small" group occurring in the area covered by Benson's paper.

Pakenham (Bull. B. O. C. lviii. 1938, p. 102) is of opinion that *C. l. leptorhynchus* and *C. l. macrorhyncha* (Jackson) are inseparable, but an examination shows that, although they are very similar above, the latter race is rather more dusky below.

We also consider that *C. gracilirostris* Hartlaub and *C. rufescens* Sharpe & Bouvier are conspecific, and that *C. cunenensis* Hartert should be included as a race in the "large" group.

Our proposed grouping for the "large" bird of the mainland of Africa would be :—

<i>Calamæctor gracilirostris</i>	<i>gracilirostris</i>	Hartlaub,
"	"	<i>rufescens</i> Sharpe & Bouvier,
"	"	<i>chadensis</i> Alexander,
"	"	<i>nilotica</i> Neumann,
"	"	<i>parvus</i> Fischer & Reichenow,
"	"	<i>ansorgei</i> Hartert,
"	"	<i>cunenensis</i> Hartert.

As stated above, *C. foxi* (male, wing 85 mm. ; female, wing 83 mm.) is to be kept as a species, and the "small" group changed only by *C. g. zuluensis* becoming a synonym of *C. l. leptorhynchus*.

(6) On the Races of the Black-breasted Bush-Warbler.

Sclater (Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 523) recognizes ten races under *Apalis flavida* (Strickland). Neumann (J. f. O. 1906, p. 278) and Zedlitz (J. f. O. 1916, p. 91) have reviewed this group, but these authors have recognized one species (*Apalis flavida*) and its races, the former listing eight races and the latter nine. Friedmann (Bull. 153, U.S. Nat. Mus. 1937, p. 176) recognizes five races in Eastern Africa, placing them all under *Apalis flavida*. Granvik (Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, p. 92) has reviewed this group, but recognizes only one species with six races. Roberts (Bds. S. Afr. 1940, p. 262) recognizes three races in South Africa under *Apalis flavida*.

Van Someren (Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, pp. 221, 222, and Nov. Zool. xxxvii. 1932, p. 367) is the only author who has considered that there are two species of this group: but he does not do more than discuss the races in Eastern Africa, and has decided that *Apalis flavocincta* (Sharpe) should be treated as a species. We do not consider that his no. 1229 can be *A. flavida golzi* (Fisch. & Reichw.), as this is described as having yellow ends to all except the central tail-feathers, and specimens from around the type-locality (Great Arusha) bear this out, whereas van Someren's specimens from Mombasa, Dar-es-Salaam, Dodoma, and Morogoro have the tail-feathers only tipped with yellow; nor do we consider his no. 1230 to be *A. flavida æquatorialis* Neumann, as this is compared with *A. golzi*, and, therefore, presumably has yellow ends to the tail-feathers, not merely tips, and the type-locality is near Mau. We therefore consider that his specimens under no. 1230 from South Ankole and Entebbe must be examples of *A. caniceps*, which we know occurs at Mpumu in southern Uganda. Van Someren is undoubtedly correct in considering that these birds should be divided into two groups, but the evidence before us does not support his separation of

*A. flavocincta* from *A. flavida*, as both have broad yellow ends to the tail-feathers.

Our examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that the two groups with their races can be divided as follows :—

- A. Tail rather longer, 42–62 mm. broad yellow or whitish ends to all except central tail-feathers.
- B. Tail rather shorter, 31–55 mm., yellow or whitish tips to all except central tail-feathers.

A (1). *APALIS FLAVIDA FLAVIDA* (Strickl.).

*Drymoica flavida* Strickland, Contr. Orn. 1852, p. 148 : Damaraland.

Male with fair amount of black on chest, sometimes forming a band ; chin and sometimes upper part of throat white ; occiput usually green ; broad ends to all except central tail-feathers yellow. Wing 48 to 54 mm. Tail 45 to 54 mm. (Ten specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Damaraland to Bechuanaland.

A (2). *APALIS FLAVIDA FLAVOCINCTA* (Sharpe).

*Euprinodes flavocincta* Sharpe, J. f. O. 1882, p. 346 : Athi River, south-central Kenya Colony ; of which *Apalis æquatorialis*, J. f. O. 1900, p. 307 : Angata-Anyuk, near Mau, Kenya Colony, is a synonym.

Male with much less black on chest, more confined to a spot ; chin and throat white ; occiput and towards crown of head green ; above duller darker green than *A. f. flavida*, and chest-band mixed olivaceous and yellow. Wing 47 to 57 mm. Tail 42 to 60 mm. (Twenty-two specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—South-western Uganda to southern, central and eastern Kenya Colony at Msara, Lamu, and Manda Island. Van Someren records this race from the Chyulu Hills, south-western Kenya Colony, but did not obtain any specimens. It is possibly *A. f. golzi*, as this race occurs at the Taita Hills.

A (3). *APALIS FLAVIDA GOLZI* (Fisch. & Reichw.).

*Euprinodes golzi* Fischer & Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 182 : Great Arusha, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Similar to *A. f. flavocincta*, but forehead to occiput grey, sometimes with a trace of green on occiput; breast-spot usually larger. Wing 46 to 55 mm. Tail 45 to 55 mm. (Twenty-six specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—South-eastern Kenya Colony at Taita Hills, and north-eastern Tanganyika Territory at Mkomasi, South Paré Hills, Mbulu, Monduli, Kilimanjaro, and Ketumbeine to central and western Tanganyika Territory at Mkalama, Iringa, and Kigoma.

A (4). *APALIS FLAVIDA VIRIDICEPS* Hawker.

*Apalis viridiceps* Hawker, Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1898, p. 55: Sheik Wufly, British Somaliland; of which *Apalis flavida neumanni* Zedlitz, J. f. O. 1916, p. 89: Afgoi, lower Webi Shebeli, Italian Somaliland, is a synonym.

No black on chest in male; chest-band yellow and green; grey confined to forehead; above duller olivaceous-green; ends of tail-feathers almost white or faintly tinged with yellow. Wing 47 to 53 mm. Tail 52 to 62 mm. (Eleven specimens examined, including the type.)

*Distribution*.—British Somaliland to Italian Somaliland at Afgoi, lower Webi Shebeli.

A (5). *APALIS FLAVIDA MALENSIS* Neum.

*Apalis malensis* Neumann, O. M. 1905, p. 78: Shambala River, Bazala, south-western Abyssinia.

Similar to *A. f. viridiceps*, but brighter green above and ends of tail-feathers pale yellow. Wing 46 to 53 mm. Tail 42 to 62 mm. (Ten specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—South-western Abyssinia to eastern Uagnda at Karamoja and northern Colony as far south as Lodermeru and near Nginyong, 30 miles N.W. of Baringo.

The localities Maraquet and Marsabit given by van Someren under no. 1227 in Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 221, are within the range of this race.

B (1). *APALIS CANICEPS CANICEPS* (Cass.).

*Camaroptera caniceps* Cassin, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. ii. 1859, p. 38: Camma River, Gabon; of which *Tricholais flavotorquata* Hartlaub, P. Z. S. 1880, p. 624: Majungo,

Lake Albert, and *Apalis uamensis* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1921, p. 264: Bosum, eastern Cameroon, are synonyms. No black on chest, or merely a faint indication; forehead to occiput grey; chin and throat white; tail green with narrow pale yellow or whitish tips. Wing 48 to 55 mm. Tail 31 to 44 mm. (Seventeen specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Cameroon to southern Sudan, Uganda, and western Kenya Colony at Kisumu.

B (2). APALIS CANICEPS FLORISUGA (Reichw.).

*Euprinodes florisuga* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1898, p. 314: eastern Cape Province.

No black on chest; grey confined to forehead and front part of crown; tail-tips yellow. Wing 46 to 53 mm. Tail 47 to 55 mm. (Seven specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Eastern Cape Province and Natal.

B (3). APALIS CANICEPS NEGLECTA (Alex.).

*Chlorodyta neglecta* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. x. 1900, p. 17: near Zumbo, northern Portuguese East Africa; of which *Apalis niassæ* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1921, p. 264: Tukuyu, south-western Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym.

Male has black on chest, yellow chest-band less bright than in *A. c. florisuga*; occiput and hinder part of crown green. Wing 46 to 55 mm. Tail 39 to 54 mm. (Fifty-three specimens examined, including the type.)

*Distribution*.—Zululand to the Transvaal, the Rhodesias, Nyasaland, Portuguese East Africa, and southern Belgian Congo to north Angola.

B (4) APALIS CANICEPS TENERRIMA Grote.

*Apalis flavida tenerrima* Grote, O. M. 1935, p. 119: Mikindani, south-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Similar to *A. c. neglecta*, but forehead to occiput grey. Wing 45 to 50 mm. Tail 39 to 45 mm. (Ten specimens examined.)

*Distribution*.—Eastern areas of Tanganyika Territory and Kenya Colony from Mikindani to Mombasa and inland to Dodoma, Uluguru Mts., and Korogwe. Zanzibar Island.



*Summary.*—The group (A), with broad ends to the tail-feathers, has a distribution from south-west to north-east, and in its north-eastern area (*A. f. viridiceps*) the black on the chest in the male is lost and the chest-band is mixed yellow and green. The group (B), with tips to the tail-feathers, has a distribution from south-east to north-west, and at its two extremes (*A. c. caniceps* and *A. c. florisuga*) the black on the chest of the male is also lost, though the breast-band remains yellow. These two groups overlap in distribution in the case of the races *A. c. caniceps* and *A. f. flavocincta* in southern Uganda and western Kenya Colony, and may be found to do so elsewhere. Although the tail measurements of these groups show a substantial overlap, the races that occur in close proximity to each other do show that this character is a useful one for identification, and supports van Someren's views, i. e., *A. f. flavocincta*, tail 42 to 60 mm., and *A. c. caniceps*, tail 31 to 44 mm.; also *A. f. golzi*, tail 45 to 55 mm., and *A. c. tenerrima*, tail 39 to 45 mm. Moreau in a letter to us dated May 2, 1934, from Amani, says that the *Apalis flavida* group is found in very dry thorn-bush, and that the other group (*Apalis caniceps*) is found in more or less evergreen lowland forest; see also Moreau, *Ibis*, 1939, p. 307.

### **New Races of Pink-footed Puff-back and Brown-chested Alethe and a new Species of Bush-Warbler from Eastern Africa.**

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the three following descriptions of two new races and one new species from Eastern Africa:—

(1) ***Dryoscopus angolensis kungwensis***, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—Upper parts as in *D. a. nandensis* and *D. a. adolfi-friederici* (i. e., with head slate, not black), but with crown and hind-neck still greyer; back and wings with practically no olive wash at all. The grey on the underparts is not confined to the flanks, but extends throughout, darker on the flanks, and paling to greyish-white on the throat and vent.

*Distribution.*—Known only from evergreen forest at 3000 ft. at Nganja, Kungwe Mt., western Tanganyika Territory.

*Type*.—Breeding male, Nganja, Kungwe Mt. ; collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau on August 27, 1940. Collector's number 5250.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing 87, culmen 18, tail 71 mm.

*Remarks*.—An unexpected occurrence, for the species had not been recorded between Angola on one side and north-eastern Belgian Congo and Uganda on the other. I am much indebted to Dr. van Someren for comparing my specimen with the other East African forms, and to Dr. J. P. Chapin for verifying this description in the light of the material at his disposal.

(2) *Alethe poliocephala kungwensis*, subsp. nov.

*Description*.—Distinguished from other forms of the species by having the forehead, crown, and nape dusky olive, not ashy or blackish. It is also the largest, greatly exceeding in size the geographically nearest form, *A. p. carruthersi*.

*Distribution*.—Known only from the mountain forests of Kungwe Mt. at 6900–8000 ft., western Tanganyika Territory.

*Type*.—Male, forest above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt., 6900 ft., August 13, 1940 ; collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's number 5252.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing 101, tail 68 mm.

*Remarks*.—It is remarkable that no *Alethe* of this species has been recorded from the Kivu highlands, and hence *A. p. kungwensis* is very isolated. I am greatly indebted to Dr. van Someren for comparing my specimens with material of *A. p. carruthersi* and *A. p. akeleyæ*. From the former he notes that the Kungwe birds, apart from being much larger, are "quite different in tone and shade"; and *A. p. akeleyæ*, he notes, lacks any tinge of greenish on the head, has the eye-stripe more distinct, the lores less black, the mantle, coverts, and rump less rufous-chestnut, and the wings and tail less dark. Dr. J. P. Chapin has also kindly reviewed the description of *A. p. kungwensis* in the light of the material at his disposal. Two other males, wings 100, 96, females 97, 96, 94 mm. Tails 66, 64, 65, 60, 61 mm. respectively. The wing measurements

compare with those of *A. p. carruthersi*, males 85 to 88 mm., females 80 to 85 mm.; *A. p. akeleyæ*, males 94 to 98 mm. Jackson & Sclater, Bds. Kenya & Ug. 1938, p. 994), females down to 90 (van Someren *in litt.*); *A. p. poliocephala*, males 87 to 95, females 86 to 91 mm. (Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. iv. 1936, p. 419).

(3) ***Apalis argentea***, sp. nov.

*Description*.—Crown, forehead, sides of head to below eye, mantle, wing-coverts, and rump dark grey, with a slight olive wash. Remiges sepia, all except the outer four primaries with narrow silvery edges. Underparts pale silvery-grey, nearly white on the throat and centre of the belly, darkening to blue-grey on the flanks and sides of the breast. Under wing-coverts pale silvery-grey. Tail: outermost three pairs pure white, next pair white with a narrow sooty outer edging, not extending to the tip, nor inwards quite to the shaft, next pair with a narrow white tip extending about 5 mm. up the shaft, middle pair all sooty-brown. (The pattern of the tail is shown more clearly in the second specimen, the tail of which is imperfect but is less worn than the type.)

The tail is exceptionally steeply graduated on the outside; the innermost pair is 49 mm. long and the tips of the next four pairs all lie within 10 mm. of this, while the outermost feathers are only 25 mm. long, 15 mm. shorter than their neighbours.

*Distribution*.—Kungwe Mt., western Tanganyika Territory.

*Type*.—A male in worn plumage, but with somewhat enlarged testes; mountain forest above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt., Tanganyika Territory; collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau, August 3, 1940. Collector's number 5254.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing 49, tail 49 mm.

*Remarks*.—Thanks are due to Dr. V. G. L. van Someren and to Dr. J. P. Chapin for examining this specimen for me. The new species differs from other members of the genus in the relatively more abrupt gradation of its outer tail-feathers. It would be interesting to discover its female.

Another male measures: wing 49, tail 49 mm.

**A new Species of Flycatcher from Northern Rhodesia.**

Mr. C. M. N. WHITE sent the following description :—

***Batis kathleenæ*, sp. nov.**

*Description.*—A species of *Batis* in which the female closely resembles the male in plumage, thereby differing from all other forms of *Batis* except *B. diops* of the Kivu-Ruwenzori region, which has a female exactly like the male.

*Male.*—Crown and whole upper surface grey, with very slight white flecking on the hind neck and lower back ; chin, throat, and sides of neck white ; a broad glossy black breast-band ; remainder of under surface white. Lores, ear-coverts, supra- and suborbital region black, this being slightly extended behind the eye. Wing blackish edged with greyish-white, median coverts with broad white tips forming a bar. Under wing-coverts and axillaries white. Tail black with tiny white tips.

*Female.*—Like male, but differing as follows :—Median wing-coverts edged with light rufous ; sides of breast below breast-band washed with pale orange-fawn.

*Immature female.*—Differs from adult in having back, but not crown, olive brownish-grey, much as in *B. capensis* ; lesser wing-coverts olive-brown, wing externally edged with buffy, throat shaded with buff, black breast-band less glossy and slightly mixed with pale orange, which colour is more pronounced on sides of breast.

*Measurements.*—Wing 61–65 mm. in four adults.

*Distribution.*—Evergreen areas on the Lunga and Mudwanyama Rivers near the Mwinilunga Boma, N. Rhodesia.

*Type.*—Female adult, Mwinilunga, Northern Rhodesia, January 12, 1940 ; collected by C. M. N. White. At present in author's own collection.

*Remarks.*—This striking new *Batis* is a bird of the evergreen forest areas. The appearance of the immature on the upper side clearly links it with *B. capensis*. I think the wisest course is to give it specific rank until the genus can be studied as a whole, when, perhaps, it will be found that several forest species can be treated as conspecific. The only

other *Batis* known from N. Rhodesia is the ubiquitous *B. molitor*, a very different bird.

I am indebted to Dr. Austin Roberts for notes on *B. diops* which show that the new form is considerably different from that species.

Named in honour of my sister, to whom I am much indebted for assistance in the working out of my Mwinilunga birds.

### Notes on African Birds.

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following note :—

The correct Status of *Chloropeta similis* Richmond.

Mr. J. D. Macdonald in the Bull. B. O. C. lx. 1940, p. 82, and myself in Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxxiii. fasc. 1, 1939, p. 8, have both overlooked the fact that Granvik, J. f. O. Sonderh. 1923, p. 126, has already noted that this species has twelve tail-feathers as against ten in *Chloropeta natalensis massaica* (Fisch. & Reichw.).

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### NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, June 7, 1941, at 2.30 p.m. This will be preceded by a luncheon at 1.30 p.m.

### AGENDA.

- (1) The Chairman, Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, will give his Annual Address.
- (2) Capt. C. H. B. Grant will exhibit, on behalf of Mr. R. E. Moreau, two new races from Eastern Africa.
- (3) Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Lieut. C. W. Mackworth-Praed will exhibit a new species and two new races from Eastern Africa and Angola.

7 JUN 1941  
**PURCHASED**

10.11.1941  
PURCHASED

BULLETIN  
OF THE  
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

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**No. CCCCXXXVIII.**

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THE four-hundred-and-thirty-third Meeting of the Club, the last for the Session, was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, June 7, 1941, at 2.30 P.M.

*Chairman* : Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

*Members present* :—H. P. O. CLEAVE ; A. EZRA ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. CAR-MICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; Sir P. MANSON-BAHR ; T. H. NEWMAN ; D. SETH-SMITH ; B. W. TUCKER.

*Guest* :—Mrs. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members, 12 ; Guest, 1. Total, 13.

Owing to the war conditions at present prevailing no meeting of the Club took place in May.

**CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.**

**Review of the Past Year.**

(NOVEMBER 1, 1939, to OCTOBER 31, 1940.)

Dr. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON said : I must again apologise for the delay in submitting my Address : it is owing to conditions of these times that I am presenting it at the end of the session instead of near the beginning. In order not to

[June 30, 1941.]

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encroach upon the field of the next address, I must confine my annual review of events to the year which ended on October 31, 1940. During that period ornithology lost by death a number of distinguished students, including :— George Latimer Bates, Robert Mitchell Betham, Arthur Lennox Butler, James Henry Fleming, Henrik Grönvold, Francis Charles Robert Jourdain, George Marples, and Emma Louisa Turner.

The activities of British ornithologists have necessarily been much restricted by war conditions. Apart from the fact that many are engaged in military service or emergency work, circumstances have been unfavourable even at home, and it has been impossible to go abroad. News from other European countries is scant or absent, and on this occasion I have not sought information from other continents. I am therefore confining myself in this part of my address to mention of publications, and I have restricted the following selection (in making which I have had kind assistance from Mr. N. B. Kinnear) to books in the English language.

*Systematic and Regional.*

‘ Check-List of Birds of the World ’, vol. iv. by J. L. Peters.

‘ The Handbook of British Birds ’, vol. iv. edited by H. F. Witherby.

‘ The Status and Distribution of Wild Geese and Wild Duck in Scotland ’ (International Wildfowl Inquiry, vol. ii.), by J. Berry.

‘ The Birds of South Africa ’, by A. Roberts.

‘ Life Histories of North American Birds ’, Part XIII. by A. C. Bent.

‘ Check List of the Birds of the West Indies ’, by J. Bond.

*Field Studies, Ecology and Behaviour.*

‘ Publications of the British Trust for Ornithology ’, vol. i. (collected papers).

‘ Courtship and Display amongst Birds ’, by C. R. Stonor.

‘ A Waterhen’s Worlds ’, by H. Eliot Howard.

‘ The Truth about the Cuckoo ’, by E. Chance.

‘ Watching Birds ’, by J. Fisher,



*Bibliographical, Historical and Personal.*

‘ A Bibliography of Birds ’, by R. M. Strong.

‘ The Squire of Walton Hall ’, by P. Gosse.

(Under this head may also be mentioned a paper by A. H. Chisholm, ‘ The Story of John Gilbert ’, ‘ Emu ’, vol. xxxix. p. 156.)

‘ Island Years ’, by F. Fraser Darling.

*General Work (ornithological in part).*

‘ Adaptive Coloration in Animals ’, by H. B. Cott.

**Some Remarks on the Present Status of Ornithology.**

Dr. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON continued :—In an address of this kind some remarks on the present position of our branch of science in relation to zoology in general, and indeed to biology, may not be out of place. Approaching ornithology from the biological angle, therefore, the question is what contributions can the study of birds make to the understanding of wider problems presented by animate nature as a whole ?

It must be admitted that birds have not been very highly regarded as objects of study by zoologists, especially by those with interests which lie mainly in the laboratory. Zoologists have tended to be content with knowledge of a representative type of the class, and not to concern themselves much with differences within the group. The reason for this is understandable. Compared with other groups there is little diversity among birds. The high degree of specialization for flight has determined the main lines of their anatomy and physiology, and little departure from the general pattern seems to have been possible : this applies even to birds which have lost the power of flight. Thus there is nothing among birds equivalent to the diversity among mammals, such as between elephants and bats, whales and kangaroos ; or among reptiles, as between—say—snakes and turtles, not to mention the wonderful array of extinct orders, including the pterodactyls. Even the fossil record does not greatly increase the range of diversity among birds, although revealing a few ancestral features of much interest.

## SYSTEMATIC ORNITHOLOGY.

Ornithologists are therefore concerned with relatively small differences. This is reflected in the difficulty which has been experienced in finding a satisfactory basis of classification in fundamental morphological characters. With a few important exceptions, such as the different types of arrangement in the bones of the palate, the most notable divergences occur in the more plastic adaptive characters—the shape of the wings and tail, the form of the beak and feet, and the coloration of the plumage. Even these divergences are strictly limited in range by conformity of the general structure with the standard pattern governed by the requirements of flight.

Thus, in the Linnean stage of describing and classifying forms, ornithology did not contribute a great deal to general biology. More recently the tendency has been to carry the process still further by studying minute and superficial differences, and by subdividing forms into subspecies or geographical races. It might have been thought that this would have been even less fruitful of results of wide significance. In my view this is not the case, and an increasingly exact knowledge of subspecific races and of their geographical distribution—the combination is essential—is likely to throw valuable light on various general questions.

No systematist myself, I read publications in that field with an eye to generalities rather than to details. Many such works yield nothing immediately from this point of view, but must be regarded rather as necessary accumulations of data which will serve as raw material for further work. Others present some kind of synthesis. A regional study may be of great interest if it relates the conditions of the country to the bird-life found there, having regard to habits and ecological requirements. Or a group monograph, dealing with a single family or even genus, may be most valuable if it includes all the different kinds of information.

## THE WILLOW-WARBLERS.

By way of example I would say something about a recent work in this second category, more especially as it gives me

the opportunity of paying a tribute to a distinguished member whose loss we have lately had to mourn. I refer to 'A Systematic Review of the Genus *Phylloscopus* (Willow-Warblers or Leaf-Warblers)' by the late Dr. C. B. Ticehurst (London, 1938). This is an account of a single genus, including—by his determination—thirty species and comprising in all sixty-seven separable forms. The book, a model of its kind, consists mainly of detailed descriptions of plumage and other characteristics, showing mostly minute and often dubious and unstable differences between forms, and of lists of record localities. Yet a general picture of much interest emerges.

We have here a group of thirty related species with its headquarters, and perhaps also its origin, in the mountains bordering the Tibetan plateau from Kashmir to Kansu. No fewer than nineteen of the species are found there, eight of them confined to the region, six of them extending into Eastern Asia, and five into Western Asia—three of these last extending also into Europe and in one case with a footing in North Africa as well. Of the other eleven species, six are found in Eastern Asia, including one strangely isolated in the East Indies (with subspecies in Flores and Timor), one in Western Asia, two mainly in Europe (one of these also in North Africa), and two widely distributed in Asia and Europe. It will be noted that only two of the species are practically non-Asiatic.

So much for breeding ranges. Migration takes various species southwards into Africa or Southern Asia, notably India, Indo-China and the East Indies. There are interesting cases, however, where migration takes less obvious directions. Thus the typical form of *Phylloscopus borealis* has a breeding range extending westwards from Northern Asia as far as Finmark, but in winter it is not found nearer to the latter than Siam. On the other hand, *P. trochilus* extends eastwards from Europe to Eastern Siberia, and the form breeding in the latter (*P. t. yakutensis*) is known in winter only from East Africa. These are two remarkable journeys: moreover, they cross each other at right angles.

When subspecies are considered, further points appear. Some species are divisible, others are not. There are in some

cases areas in which the subspecific form is unstable, showing intergradations. There are a couple of instances in which two forms of the same species inhabit the same area without intergradation—behaving in fact as species—*P. trochiloides* in Outer Mongolia and *P. collybita* in the Caucasus. A study of the distribution suggests that in such cases the two forms have met as a result of spread from different directions after having become differentiated in separate areas.

Another point exemplified by subspecies in this group is that species show parallel variations in corresponding parts of the area they jointly inhabit. These resemblances between local forms of different species increase the difficulties of the systematist, but are of great interest as suggesting some correlation between racial characters and geographical factors.

I am not, of course, suggesting that any great or novel biological ideas arise directly from this picture. My point is merely that much matter for further inquiry bearing on general problems may be found in a purely systematic study of a single genus of birds presenting a very small amount of divergence one from another.

#### ECOLOGY.

In any event, ornithology does not consist solely of systematics. Much of it is concerned with other lines of study and with the living bird rather than with museum specimens. The chief aspects are ecology and behaviour, and I wish to say a little about each of these.

Ecology considers the bird in relation to its environment, and here I think we escape to some extent from the comparative lack of diversity found in the morphological field. Birds exploit a great variety of environments, and do so in many different ways.

As a general thesis (if I may be allowed to recall some elementary points) a species, to be successful, must make some particular ecological niche its own—although a few seem exceptionally successful by reason of adaptability to a wide range of opportunities. The numbers of a species which a given environment can support must depend, firstly, on the availability of the kind of food the bird is able to use and,

secondly, on the availability in or near the feeding ground of suitable opportunities for reproduction. Limiting factors are the struggle against predatory enemies and competition with rival species having similar requirements. This competition, however, is lessened by every difference in mode of life between the potential rivals. Thus, although two species may use a common source of food each may be restricted in its particular mode of access : part of the supply may be available by one method, and part by another. One species may catch insects on the ground, another in the air ; one may hunt by day, another by night. Again, two species competing for the same food supply may each be limited by scarcity of the nesting sites which they respectively need—and conversely if they are alike in nesting habits but differ in food requirements. The task of ecology is to define these various factors. Account has also to be taken of seasonal changes in the environment itself and in the requirements of the birds as between breeding and non-breeding phases—and here, of course, migration plays a part.

Avian ecology has made great strides in recent years, but a rich field is still before it. It is a field which is open both to intensive studies of limited scope and to co-operative work by large numbers of observers. Along both these lines one welcomes the growing use of more exact methods by which factors are measured and birds are counted. In this way much observation previously lacking direction, and tending to be merely anecdotal in its records, is yielding definite and quantitative data of undoubted value on questions of biological interest.

#### BEHAVIOUR.

The study of bird behaviour has always been attractive and offers a wide variety of phenomena, with many differences between species. There is the behaviour of the bird in seeking its food, in avoiding its enemies, and in associating with its fellows. There is its behaviour in respect of migration. There is its sexual behaviour, its parental behaviour and the behaviour of its young. These different aspects of behaviour provide examples for psychological study which are of the highest interest.

In this field, also, ornithologists are active, and there have been advances in the methods used. Courtship performances have attracted special attention, and are now more often described in suitably objective terms which avoid the introduction of false implications. Studies of behaviour relating to territory have also been important. Further, in various studies of bird behaviour there has been a growing resort to experiment, with the fresh possibilities which this opens up.

#### OTHER ASPECTS.

There are other lines of ornithological study which I have not mentioned. There are, for instance, physiological problems, notably in relation to the role of hormones ; the dynamics of bird flight ; and the genetic aspect—in which it seems to me that the fertile hybridization, and indeed multiple crossing, found among Ducks offers an experimental field of some promise.

#### THE GALAPAGOS FINCHES.

Clearly, the richest results will accrue when the different methods of study are combined. A recent noteworthy effort in this direction has been the work of David Lack on that remarkable group—object of interest from Darwin onwards—the Finches (*Geospizinae*) of the Galapagos Islands. As only a preliminary account is yet available ('Nature', September 7, 1940), and as some of the theoretical questions arising are controversial, I shall merely mention a few points—some long known and others new.

This subfamily, with something approaching a monopoly of the islands so far as land birds are concerned, has evolved a number of genera adapted to a wide variety of modes of life. Morphological diversity is relatively slight except in adaptive characters such as the form of beak, but ecological diversity is wide. The species of the typical genus mostly have finch-like beaks and feed on seeds, although one has a long thin beak for feeding in flowers. In other genera there are species with flattened beaks, eating either leaves or insects ; a species which has evolved in the direction of a Woodpecker in both

habits and beak ; and another which resembles a Warbler in these respects. Breeding behaviour, on the other hand, is similar throughout.

Within the genera, related species are not usually separated by habitat, nesting site, breeding season or other ecological factors. The chief morphological differences are in body size and in relative size of beak, this latter character having apparently no adaptive significance except as an important factor in specific recognition—a point on which Mr. Lack has made interesting observations and experiments. Yet two or more such species may be found together. Subspecies on the different islands show non-adaptive differentiation, without parallel trends of variation among forms of the respective species.

Questions which arise include that of the parts played in the evolution of the genera and species by such factors as temporary isolation on separate islands, absence of other food competitors and of predatory enemies, and hybridization. Perhaps the genetic experiments which are being undertaken with captive birds may help to decide between the different views that have been held on this subject. One cannot leave the group without mentioning the unique habit, shown by *Cactospiza pallida*, of holding a small twig or spine lengthwise in its beak and probing insects out of cracks in trees, then dropping this tool to seize the insect as it emerges.

#### CONCLUSION.

One of my predecessors in this Chair made it the thesis of an address that ornithologists must bring to their aid the full *armamentarium* of science. I have not refreshed my memory of Dr. Lowe's words, but his point was that every method of investigation will yield something if used on our material. Anatomical and physiological, genetical and statistical, ecological and psychological methods all have their application in the study of birds. While fully agreeing, I should like also to express the converse, namely, that ornithology has much to contribute in many aspects of biological science. It is my belief that our study is showing many healthy developments in that direction.

**A new Race of the Pigmy White-browed Robin-Chat  
and a new Race of the Mountain Greenbul from  
Tanganyika Territory.**

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following descriptions and the types for exhibition :—

***Cossypha polioptera kungwensis*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Similar to *Cossypha polioptera polioptera* Reichenow, but differs in having the top of the head more olivaceous ; the more or less concealed white eyebrow tipped with grey instead of black ; stripe behind eye grey instead of black ; tail-feathers darker and greyer, but washed and edged with chestnut.

*Distribution.*—Forests of Kungwe Mt. (7900 feet), Kigoma district, western Tanganyika Territory.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male adult. Ujamba forest, Kungwe Mt., 7900 feet. Kigoma district, western Tanganyika Territory, August 8, 1940 ; collected by Salim Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5263. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1941.11.1.2.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 75 ; tail 54 mm.

*Remarks.*—Four females measure wing 69–75 ; tail 47–54 mm. Dr. van Someren has very kindly examined these specimens and compared them with material in the Nairobi Museum.

***Arizelocichla tephrolæma kungwensis*, subsp. nov.**

*Description.*—Very similar to *Arizelocichla tephrolæma fusciceps* (Shelley), but has the sides of the face, lores and throat pale grey, and the white round the eye ill-defined.

*Soft parts.*—Bill, upper mandible blackish ; lower whitish brown.

*Distribution.*—Forests of Kungwe Mt., Kigoma district, western Tanganyika Territory.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male ?, female adult. Kungwe Mt. (6900 feet), Kigoma district, western Tanganyika Territory, August 30, 1940 ; collected by Salim Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5256. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1941.11.1.3.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 94 ; culmen from base 17 ; tail 85 ; tarsus 24 mm.



*Remarks.*—I am indebted to Dr. V. G. L. van Someren for comparing my specimens with Kenya and Uganda forms, and to Mr. C. W. Benson and Dr. Austin Roberts for sending me *A. t. fusciceps* for comparison.

Another sexed as a male has the wing 90 and the tail 88 mm.

**A new Alethe from Tanganyika Territory; a new Race of Sparrow Lark from the Sudan; and a new Race of Yellow-bellied Eremomela from Angola.**

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Lieut. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED described and exhibited the following new species and two new races :—

***Alethe lowei*, sp. nov.**

*Description.*—Size and general characters similar to *Alethe montana* Reichenow; above dark olivaceous brown, including wings, tail and ear-coverts; concealed white eyebrow tipped with pale brown; a small white spot below eye; below dull brown, including under wing and under tail-coverts; centre of belly white.

*Distribution.*—Njombe area, southern Tanganyika Territory.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Female adult, 8 miles south of Njombe (6600 feet), southern Tanganyika Territory, December 3, 1931; collected by Admiral H. Lynes. Collector's number no. 2207. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.5.10.269.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 69; culmen from base 16; tail 54; tarsus 28 mm.

*Remarks.*—The type-specimen is the only one we have seen; but it differs markedly from *Alethe montana*, although it is nearer to this species than to any other *Alethe*.

On the label Admiral Lynes records that a pair was seen by Lowe, and they both looked alike in dress. In J. f. O. 1934, Sond. p. 82, this specimen is recorded as *Sheppardia cyornithopsis (bangsi)*. Named in honour of Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe who shot the type.

The superficial resemblance of this bird to *Sheppardia sharpei sharpei* should be noted, but the shorter and fewer rictal bristles, broader and longer first primary, and stouter and darker coloured feet agree with *Alethe montana*.

**Eremopterix leucopareia cavei**, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—Similar to *Eremopterix leucopareia leucopareia* (Fischer & Reichenow) but bill considerably stouter, and has the chin to lower neck pale vinous brown.

*Distribution.*—Ataporopos Hills, south-eastern Sudan.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Female adult. Nata-parapoth, Ataporopos Hills, Eastern District, Equatoria, Sudan, March 15, 1940; collected by Colonel F. O. Cave. Collector's no. 1323. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1940.4.6.5.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 77; exposed part of culmen 11, depth of bill at base 7; tail 43; tarsus 19 mm.

*Remarks.*—The type is the only specimen sent by Colonel Cave, and it is unfortunate that it is a female. It differs so markedly in the bill from *Eremopterix leucopareia leucopareia* that we consider this new race should be brought to the notice of ornithologists now. The known distribution of *Eremopterix leucopareia leucopareia* does not extend north of Kenya Colony. Named in honour of Colonel F. O. Cave.

**Eremomela griseoflava lundæ**, subsp. nov.

*Description.*—General characters, size and whole head and below similar to *Eremomela griseoflava polioxantha* Sharpe, but is distinguished by having the mantle and rump olive-green.

*Distribution.*—Lunda District, Angola.

*Type.*—In the British Museum. Male adult, Missão de Luz, Lunda District, Angola, lat. 10° 30' S., long. 20° 45' E., January 1931; collected by Admiral Lynes. Collector's no. 2658. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1931.12.21.85.

*Measurements of type.*—Wing 58; exposed part of culmen 10; tail 30; tarsus 19 mm.

*Remarks.*—The type is the only specimen examined, but it differs markedly as described from all other races. It cannot be *Eremomela griseoflava puellula* Grote, O. M. 1929, p. 75: Catumbella, Benguella, which is described as differing only in size from *Eremomela griseoflava perimacha* Oberholser. The type is the specimen recorded by Lynes in *Ibis*, 1934, p. 46, under *Eremomela griseoflava polioxantha*. His other specimen from Huambo, which is presumably in the Congo Museum at

Tervueren, and the two specimens from Villa General Machado recorded by Bowen in Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. lxxxiii. 1931, p. 287, may belong to this new bird. Huambo is some 300 miles and Villa General Machado some 180 miles west of Missão de Luz, and the former locality is only about 100 miles east of Catumbella.

### Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Lieut. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following six notes :—

- (1) On *Apalis alticola* (Shelley), Bull. B. O. C. viii. 1899, p. 35 : Fife, north-eastern Northern Rhodesia, and *Apalis brunneiceps* (Reichenow) O. M. 1900, p. 122 : Rupira, Rungwe, south-western Tanganyika Territory.

The type of *Apalis alticola* (Shelley) has a rufous-brown head, sides of face and malar stripe to ear-coverts, and it is so described by Shelley. There is no collector's date on this specimen, but it must have been collected at Fife, between July and September, 1898 (see Ibis, 1899, p. 364). The British Museum has no other specimens from the Fife area, but has a series from the Masuku and Mafinga Mts., in northern Nyasaland, approximately 65 miles from Fife and Njombe in south-central Tanganyika Territory, approximately 220 miles from Fife, and approximately 110 miles from Rungwe, which is itself about half-way between Fife and Njombe. These two series agree exactly, but do not agree with the Fife bird, as they have the head and face blackish-brown and the malar stripe to ear-coverts darker and, in some specimens, practically black. A single specimen from Kambove, south-eastern Belgian Congo, over 400 miles from Fife, has the malar stripe to ear-coverts more uniform in colour with the rest of the head.

A critical examination of the type of *A. alticola* shows that some discoloration, foxing, has occurred on the feathers of the mantle ; but even though this may have occurred on the head before the specimen was described, we do not think it would have spread evenly over these parts, and would show a difference in tone between the malar stripe to ear-coverts and the rest of the head, but this is not so. The difference is so

striking that we are of opinion the northern Nyasaland to Njombe birds should be placed under *Apalis alticola brunneiceps* (Reichw.). Reichenow did not compare his description with *A. alticola* or any other species. A series is required from the Fife area to show whether the rufous-brown head is a constant character.

(2) On the Status of *Eremomela flavicrissalis* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 481 : Shebeli, southern Abyssinia ; and the Distribution of *Eremomela griseoflava* Heuglin in Eastern Africa.

Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 224, is undoubtedly correct in considering *E. flavicrissalis* Sharpe as a species and not as a race of *E. griseoflava* Heuglin. The distribution of this bird is : British Somaliland to southern Italian Somaliland and north-eastern and eastern Kenya Colony as far south as the Northern Guaso Nyiro and Tana River.

The distribution of the eastern African races of *Eremomela griseoflava* is as follows :—

EREMOMELA GRISEOFLAVA GRISEOFLAVA Heuglin.

*Eremomela griseoflava* Heuglin, J. f. O. 1862, p. 40 : Bogosland, Eritrea ; of which *Eremomela crawfurdi* S. Clarke, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1911, p. 43 : Loita, south-western Kenya Colony ; *Eremomela flaviventris karamojensis* Stoneham, Bull. B. O. C. xlv. 1925, p. 78 : Northern Karamoja, north-western Kenya Colony ; and *Eremomela griseoflava archeri* W. Selater, Bull. B. O. C. xlvi. 1927, p. 14 : Baras, British Somaliland, are synonyms; as we can see no character for their separation.

Above mouse-grey, below chin to upper belly grey, lower belly pale yellow.

*Distribution*.—Sudan from the Red Sea Province to south-eastern areas, Eritrea, Abyssinia and British Somaliland to south-western Kenya Colony.

EREMOMELA GRISEOFLAVA POLIOXANTHA Sharpe.

*Eremomela polioxantha* Sharpe, Cat. Bds. B. M. vii. 1883, p. 160 : Swaziland, South Africa.

Above darker ; below darker grey, yellow darker.

*Distribution*.—Eastern Transvaal, eastern Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and southern Belgian Congo to Nyasaland and south central Tanganyika Territory.

**EREMOMELA GRISEOFLAVA ABDOMINALIS** Reichw.

*Eremomela flaviventris abdominalis* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 635 : Igonda, Tabora District, central Tanganyika Territory.

Above paler than *E. g. griseoflava*.

*Distribution*.—West central to north-eastern Tanganyika Territory from the Tabora District to Longido.

**EREMOMELA GRISEOFLAVA ALEXANDERI** ScL. & Praed.

*Eremomela griseoflava alexanderi* W. Selater & Mackworth-Praed, Ibis, 1918, p. 673 : Bara, Kordofan, Sudan.

Generally much paler, above pale mouse-brown ; below more creamy or pale brownish white, belly very pale yellow.

*Distribution*.—Lake Chad area to Kordofan, Sudan.

(3) On the Distribution of *Eremomela scotops* Sund. in Eastern Africa.

**EREMOMELA SCOTOPS SCOTOPS** Sund.

*Eremomela scotops* Sundevall, Cefv. K. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Förh. vii. 1850, p. 103 : Mohapoani, Bechuanaland.

Head green, mantle and rump grey ; chin to chest yellow, breast and belly white.

*Distribution*.—Transvaal, Bechuanaland and southern Rhodesia to southern Nyasaland, northern Portuguese East Africa and south-western Tanganyika Territory at the Songea District.

**EREMOMELA SCOTOPS CITRINICEPS** (Reichw.).

*Tricholais citriniceps* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1882, p. 210 ; Kakoma, Tabora District, west central Tanganyika Territory ; of which *Eremomela scotops kikuyuensis* van Someren, J. E. A. & U. N. H. Soc. no. 37, 1931, p. 3 : Nairobi, is a synonym, as we can see no character by which it can be distinguished.

Grey of mantle extending on to occiput.

*Distribution*.—Eastern Belgian Congo to Uganda, Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory as far south as the Iringa District, but not the northern coastal area.

EREMOMELA SCOTOPS OCCIPITALIS (Fisch. & Reichw.).

*Tricholais occipitalis* Fischer & Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 181 : Pangani, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Similar to *E. s. citriniceps*, but breast to belly pale yellow.

*Distribution*.—Eastern Tanganyika Territory from Tanga to Kilosa.

(4) On the Distribution of *Camaroptera brachyura* (Vieillot) in Eastern Africa.

CAMAROPTERA BRACHYURA PILEATA Reichw.

*Camaroptera pileata* Reichenow, J. f. O. 1891, p. 66 : Zanzibar Island ; of which *Camaroptera pileata littoralis* Grote, O. M. 1911, p. 163 : Mikandani, south-eastern Tanganyika Territory, is a synonym, not of *C. b. bororensis* Gunning & Roberts as given in footnote Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 542.

Below white with a silky appearance.

*Distribution*.—Coastal area of Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory. Zanzibar and Mafia Islands.

CAMAROPTERA BRACHYURA BORORENSIS Gunn. & Rob.

*Camaroptera brachyura bororensis* Gunning & Roberts, Ann. Trans. Mus. iii. 1911, p. 117 : Ngamwe, Boror, Quelimane Province, northern Portuguese East Africa.

Below buffy-white.

*Distribution*.—Eastern Southern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa from Inhambane to the Lurio River and southern Nyasaland.

CAMAROPTERA BRACHYURA FUGGLES-COUCHMANI Mor.

*Camaroptera brachyura fuggles-couchmani* Moreau, Bull. B. O. C. lx. 1939, p. 15 : Kibungo Forest, Uluguru Mts., eastern Tanganyika.

Similar to *C. b. bororensis*, but flanks more or less olivaceous.

*Distribution*.—East central Tanganyika Territory to northern Nyasaland as far south as Kota-kota.

NOTE.—This species shows no evidence of having seasonal plumages.

(5) On the Distribution and Seasonal Changes of *Camaroptera brevicaudata* (Cretzschmar) in Eastern Africa.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 543, recognizes three races as occurring in Eastern Africa. Lynes, Ibis, 1925, p. 100, states that the breeding dress of *C. b. brevicaudata* is assumed in May and June in the western Sudan. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxxvii. 1932, p. 371, is of opinion that birds from Marsabit, Karamoja, Ankole to Busoga and the highlands of Kenya Colony are different races, and places coastal birds from Vanga to the lower Juba River under *C. b. erlangeri* but makes no mention of seasonal changes of plumage.

Benson, Ibis, 1940, p. 629, states that this colour difference is age, certainly not sexual or seasonal.

Our examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that seasonal changes of plumage are marked in the most northern and most southern races; that this is not so clear in the central areas and does not occur in the western race, a fact which Bates, Ibis, 1927, p. 39, has already noted. The type-locality of *C. b. erlangeri* is Solole, about 180 miles up the Juba River, as this is the first locality given by Reichenow. *Orthotomus chrysocnemus* Lichtenstein, Nom. Av. Mus. Zool. Berol. 1854, p. 33, is a *nomen nudum* and has already been sunk in the synonymy of *Camaroptera brevicaudata* by Sharpe, Cat. Bds. B. M. vii. 1883, p. 168, and therefore should not have been used by Zedlitz in J. f. O. 1911, p. 339.

We are able to recognize six races in Eastern Africa as follows:—

CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA BREVICAUDATA (Cretz.).

*Sylvia brevicaudata* Cretzschmar, Atlas zu der Reise, Vög. 1831, p. 53, pl. 35, fig. b: Kordofan, central Sudan.

June to September, breeding dress, above grey, below pale grey, centre of belly whitish; October to May, non-breeding dress, above pale brown, below much paler, in some white with buffy chest and flanks. Wing 50–61 mm. The young bird is paler than the adult in non-breeding and has some yellow on the chest and belly.

*Distribution.*—Senegal and Portuguese Guinea to the Sudan from Darfur to Kordofan and south to White Nile at Lake No and to north-western Abyssinia north of Lake Tana.

## CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA TINCTA (Cass.).

*Syncopta tincta* Cassin, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1855, p. 325 : Moonda River, Gabon, of which *Camaroptera brevicaudata aschana* Granvik, Rev. Zool. Bot. xxv. 1934, p. 101 : Mt. Elgon, is a synonym.

Much darker grey both above and below than *C. b. brevicaudata*. No seasonal change. Wing 49–61 mm. The young bird has some yellow on the chest and belly.

*Distribution*.—Sierra Leone and Gabon to Uganda (but not north-western area), and south to the southern Belgian Congo.

## CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA GRISEIGULA Sharpe.

*Camaroptera griseigula* Sharpe, Ibis, 1892, p. 158 : Voi River, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

Similar to *C. b. abessinica*, but breeding dress is assumed between December–May, and non-breeding dress is only slightly browner above than the breeding dress and the base of the lower mandible is seldom brown, but usually remains black. Wing 49–61 mm. The young bird is more mottled and dusky on the chest than the young bird of *C. b. abessinica* and does not always have yellow on the chest and belly.

*Distribution*.—Kenya Colony except north-eastern and coastal areas to northern Tanganyika Territory as far east as Voi and Mt. Kilimanjaro, and as far south as Mbulu and Lossogonoi.

## CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA ABESSINICA Zedl.

*Camaroptera griseoviridis abessinica* Zedlitz, J. f. O. 1911, p. 338 : Harrar, eastern Abyssinia.

May to September, breeding dress, darker grey above than *C. b. brevicaudata*, but not so dark as *C. b. tincta* ; October to April, non-breeding dress, is only slightly browner above. Wing 50–61 mm. The young is darker above than the young bird of *C. b. brevicaudata* and has some yellow on the chest and belly.

*Distribution*.—Red Sea Province of the Sudan, Eritrea, Abyssinia (except north-western area north of Lake Tana), the



Somalilands, southern Sudan, north-western Uganda to north-eastern Kenya Colony as far west as Baringo Post, Kito on Kerio River 60 miles north-west of Baringo Post and the Wei wei River.

CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA NOOMEI Gunn. & Rob.

*Camaroptera griseoviridis noomei* Gunning & Roberts, Ann. Trans. Mus. iii. 1911, p. 117 : Pongola River, tributary of the Limpopo, northern Transvaal.

November to May, breeding dress, very similar to *C. b. griseigula* but below breast to belly with a wash of buff ; June to October, non-breeding dress, above pale brown, below buff. Wing 49–56 mm. The young bird is similar to the adult in non-breeding dress, but has a slight olive wash on the mantle and a faint wash of yellow on the throat.

*Distribution.*—Northern Transvaal to Northern Rhodesia, southern Portuguese East Africa and Nyasaland near Fort Johnston and as far north as Kota-kota.

CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA ERLANGERI Reichw.

*Camaroptera erlangeri* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 617 : Solole, about 180 miles up Juba River, southern Italian Somaliland, of which *Camaroptera brevicaudata albiventris* Granvik, Rev. Zool. Bot. xxv. 1934, p. 101 : Manda Island, eastern Kenya Colony, is a synonym.

December to May, breeding dress, above rather darker grey than *C. b. brevicaudata*, below white or creamy white with a silky appearance and in some a grey tinge on throat, sides of face and flanks ; June to November, non-breeding dress, above very slightly browner and base of lower mandible pale horn. Wing 50–58 mm. The young bird is browner above than the adult ; green of scapulars and wings duller and washed with brown ; lower mandible wholly pale horn ; no yellow on chest and belly.

*Distribution.*—Coastal area Italian Somaliland and Kenya Colony from lower Juba River and Manda Island to Tanganyika Territory from north-eastern area between coast and Amani and Handeni, south and west to Mpapwa, the Kigoma District and the Iringa District.

NOTE.—In this species we find the change in the breeding seasons occurring about the line of the equator, *i. e.*, north of the equator May to September and south of the equator October to April.

(6) On the Status of *Cisticola chiniana mocuba* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 174 :—

In proposing this name Vincent states in his heading “ A change in nomenclature to replace *C. c. procera* ” and says, further, “ This series . . . has proved conclusively that Tete is on the extreme boundary of the range of the new race, that the most convenient type-locality for the birds which range eastwards from southern Nyasaland to the coast of Mozambique is Mocuba and that the birds from Tete are intermediate between this race and the sandy-coloured *C. c. frater* (*frater* > *mocuba*). It is obvious that for the race originally known as *procera* this new type will have to be registered.”

It should be noted that there is no description.

In the above quotation he gives (*frater* > *mocuba*) and in the *Ibis*, 1935, p. 711, places the Tete specimens under *Cisticola chiniana frater* > *mocuba*, which clearly shows that his intention was to drop *C. procera* out of literature altogether and to replace it by (substitute for it) his *C. c. mocuba*.

A published name can only be rejected if it is not correctly bi-nomially or tri-nomially introduced, if it is indeterminate, or is pre-occupied. An examination of the introduction of *Cisticola procera* Peters, J. f. O. 1868, p. 132 : Tete, Zambesi River, Portuguese East Africa, shows that it has been correctly introduced into literature and that it is not indeterminate, as it has a clear description, a definite type-locality and, moreover, the type is in the Berlin Museum and could have been examined. It is not so far as we know pre-occupied. It is therefore clear that *C. procera* cannot be cast out of literature, and Vincent had two channels open to him, either to accept it for the race from Tete to Mozambique, as has Lynes, *Ibis* Suppl. ‘ Review of the Genus *Cisticola* ’, 1930, p. 257, or to place it with the southern race when *C. frater* would have become a synonym of it.

*Cisticola chiniana mocuba* Vincent is not a new racial name, but a substitute one for *Cisticola procera* Peters and thus automatically becomes a synonym of it and cannot be extracted and used elsewhere ; not even if the Mozambique bird should hereafter be found to be separable from the Tete bird.

The type, co-type and type-locality designated by Vincent have no standing.

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#### NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held in October. Members will be notified of the place and time when the notices and agenda for the Annual General Meeting are sent out.

10 JUL 1941

PURCHASED



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