



A new Race of Grass Warbler from Northern Rhodesia

BY

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The Warbler *Cisticola galactotes* ranges from South Africa to Ethiopia and West Africa, but has appeared to be absent from Angola and the contiguous south west Belgian Congo and north west Northern Rhodesia.

In the Belgian Congo the most south western recorded localities in the literature are Tenke and the upper Lufira river (LYNES); and Kadia, Kabalo and Kansenia (SCHOUTEDEN). The record from the Lunga river, Mwinilunga, Northern Rhodesia (Ibis: 1946; 95.) is in fact referable to *C. pipiens* and not to *C. galactotes*.

There are however specimens of *C. galactotes* from the Kashiji river, Balovale, N. W. Northern Rhodesia whose racial identity has remained unsettled. It is now possible to show that they differ widely from nominate *C. galactotes* to which they had been tentatively assigned. Moreover the type of variation which they exhibit is that which is characteristic of so many Angola races of *Cisticola*, viz dark colouration with strong red and black or grey pigments. It seems then that this may be the western population of *C. galactotes* which has remained so long undiscovered, and that it should be sought for in the south western Belgian Congo and Angola. I name it as a tribute to Dr H. SCHOUTEDEN.

Cisticola galactotes schoutedeni subsp. nov.

Adult, breeding (Wet season) dress : differs from nominate *galactotes* or *C. g. luapula* in much darker chestnut headtop which is not plain but has distinct dark mottling; black feather centres of mantle larger and more pronounced; their margins reduced and duller and greyer; tail without mirrors; under side greyer, colder and less buffy than *galactotes* or *luapula*.

Size larger; 2 males have wings 68 against 59-65, tail 59-60 against 48-52, bill from skull 16 against 13,5-14,5 mm. in *C. g. galactotes* and *C. g. luapula*.

Type: in my collection, Kashiji river, Balovale, N. W. Northern Rhodesia, 6 October, 1943. Breeding male.

Only known as yet from the type locality.

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