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NOTES ON *PARISOMA BÖHMI*  
WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE

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IN the collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy there are six specimens of *Parisoma böhmi*, two from the plains of the Guaso Nyiro River, Kenya Colony, and four from British Somaliland. The last four are noticeably different from the first two: they have more tawny fulvous on the abdomen, flanks, and sides; the black pectoral band is much less solid, less well defined; the gray of the upper parts is washed with earth-brown.

Reichenow (Journ. f. Ornith., XXX, 1882, p. 209, pl. 2, fig. 2) described *böhmi* from Seke, Ugogo, Tanganyika Territory. As his description fits the specimens from Kenya Colony, the latter birds evidently are of the typical form, and the Somaliland race is without a name. This I propose to call

***Parisoma böhmi somalicum* subsp. nov.**

*Type*, adult male, M. C. Z., no. 234,932, collected at Sok Soda, British Somaliland, 22 February, 1899, by E. Lort Phillips.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Parisoma böhmi böhmi*, but with the upper parts washed with earth-brown (not pure gray as in *böhmi*); the pectoral band more 'spotty' in appearance, less continuous and less well defined; the abdomen, flanks, sides and under tail-coverts more deeply tinged with tawny fulvous.

*Measurements of type.*—wing, 59; tail, 58.5; culmen from base, 10 mm.

Through the courtesy of Dr. James P. Chapin I have had the opportunity of examining eight specimens of typical *böhmi* from Kenya Colony, in the American Museum of Natural History. The sexes are alike in plumage in the typical form, and, although I have seen no female examples of *somalicum*, I assume that they are similar in the latter form as well.

Reichenow's plate (*loc. cit.*) is somewhat misleading in its coloration, inasmuch as the interscapulars are slightly brownish, although in the description no mention is made of any brownish color anywhere on the upper parts, and the fulvous on the abdomen and flanks is represented as richer and more extensive than in any of the specimens examined.

The difference between the Somaliland and Kenya Colony specimens was first called to my attention by Mr. Outram Bangs when he was re-arranging the tit-babblers in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. After having noted the differences I found that van Someren (*Novitates Zoologicae*, XXIX, 1922, p. 205, wrote of this bird as follows: "I am certain that the Somali birds will have to be recognized as a race of this species [*böhmi*]. If birds in fresh condition are compared, it will be noticed that Somali birds are not so pure grey above and the breast-band is less distinct and not so black, due to the fact that the feathers forming the band are greyer black and have pale tips."

The two races are similar in size, the measurements being as follows:—

*böhmi*: wing, 57.5-62.5; tail, 57-66.5; culmen from base, 9-10.5 mm.  
*somalicum*: wing, 58-61; tail, 60.5-66.0; culmen from base, 9.5-10.5 mm.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

*Parisoma böhmi böhmi* (Kenya Colony),—Waso, 2 males (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); Barsaloi, 2 males, 3 females (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); Lemek, 1 female (Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.); Guaso Nyiro, 2 females (Mus. Comp. Zoöl.).

*Parisoma böhmi somalicum* (British Somaliland),—Sok Soda, 3 males (Mus. Comp. Zoöl.); Guttan, 1 male (Mus. Comp. Zoöl.).