

THE TWO RACES OF *SAXICOLA OENANTHE*.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

WHEN preparing my paper 'On the Wheatears (*Saxicola*) occurring in North America' (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXIII, No. 1220, p. 473-481) in which I have demonstrated the existence in this hemisphere of two forms, viz., *Saxicola oenanthe* in Alaska and *Saxicola oenanthe leucorhoa* in Greenland, I wrote to my friend Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe for the wing measurement of certain African specimens in the British Museum. The answer came too late to be incorporated in the paper quoted, but the facts contained in it are so interesting that I take this means of publishing them and thus further strengthen the claims of the two races for recognition.

The measurements kindly sent by Dr. Sharpe, for which I hereby extend my cordial thanks, are as follows:

*Saxicola oenanthe*.

1 ♂ Ashi Kisa, Interior of British East Africa. Lord Delamere coll. . . . .	Wing 94 mm.
6 ♂♂ Ashi Kisa, Interior of British East Africa. Lord Delamere coll. . . . .	" 97-99 "
1 ♀ Ashi Kisa, Interior of British East Africa. Lord Delamere coll. . . . .	" 94 "
5 ♂♂ British East Africa, F. J. Jackson coll. . . . .	" 95-97 "
2 ♀♀ British East Africa, F. J. Jackson coll. . . . .	" 90-97 "
Total 16 specimens from East Africa . . . . .	" 90-99 "
Average . . . . .	" 94.5 "

*Saxicola oenanthe leucorhoa*.

1 ad. Gambia, West Africa . . . . .	Wing 104. mm.
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These figures, it will be seen, fully substantiate my contention that there are two races, one with the wing normally not exceeding 100 mm., and one with the wing normally not shorter than 100 mm., and that the latter is confined to the extreme west of Europe.

and Africa migrating in summer to Greenland and adjacent countries to breed. In the paper quoted I stated "that out of a total of 122 typical *Saxicola ænanthe* only 5 have the wing 100 or 101 mm., while of 45 *Saxicola leucorhoa* none measure less than 100 mm. In other words, only 4 per cent of the small race exceed 99 mm., while none of the larger are below 100. In the whole series of 165 birds, consequently, only 3 per cent of the specimens are intermediate." This statement can now be modified to the effect that of a total of 138 typical *S. ænanthe* only 3.6 per cent of the small race exceed 99 mm., while of 46 specimens of the larger race none are below 100 mm., and that consequently out of the whole series of 182 birds only 2.75 per cent are intermediate.

It is also interesting to note that the average of the extremes of Dr. Sharpe's measurements of the small race, viz., 94.5 mm., is identical with the average of the 65 specimens measured by me as shown in the diagram (*op. cit.*, p. 481) and that the West African specimen of the larger race is identical with the average of 28 specimens as shown in the same diagram. There is consequently every reason to conclude that the results deducible from the diagram in question are founded in Nature.

It is then pretty safe to say, that the short-winged *Saxicola ænanthe* in Alaska goes to India in winter, and that the long-winged *S. ænanthe leucorhoa* from Greenland winters in West Africa.