

A SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS COMMONLY CALLED
ANORTHURA.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THE group of birds that among others includes the common European Wren and the American Winter Wren is apparently well worthy of generic segregation. To this genus, when recognized in nomenclature, the name *Anorthura* has been applied, although quite erroneously, as has been shown by Professor Newton,¹ and still more recently by Mr. Howe.² The term *Anorthura* is a strict equivalent of *Troglodytes*, as the following quotation conclusively proves:

"I have thought it expedient to substitute a new name [*Anorthura*] for this genus, instead of the received one, *Troglodytes*, which is taken from a false notion that the Wrens live in caverns, as the ancient people named *Troglodyta*, are recorded to have done."³

That this state of affairs should have remained so long unnoticed is due probably to the overlooking of the original description which occurs on page 6, instead of page 570 as apparently always quoted. Even Mr. Howe gives only the latter.

In seeking a name for the short-tailed wrens thus bereft of their commonly accepted designation, Mr. Howe arrives at the conclusion that they must be called *Troglodytes*, and the group now known by that name must pass as *Hylemathrous*; his reasons for which may be ascertained by consulting his note.⁴ This, however, does not seem to be the best way out of the difficulty. While Vieillot proposed the generic term *Troglodytes*⁵ evidently for all the wrens then known, he actually included but three species, — *Troglodytes aëdon* Vieillot, *Motacilla fulva* Gmelin (= *Trog-*

¹ Dictionary of Birds, 1896, p. 1051.

² Auk, XIX, 1902, p. 89.

³ Rennie, Montagu's Ornith. Dict. Brit. Birds, ed. 2, 1831, p. 6.

⁴ Auk, XIX, 1902, pp. 89, 90.

⁵ Hist. Nat. Ois. Am. Sept., II, 1807, p. 52.

lodytes furvus auct.¹) and *Troglodytes arundinaceus* Vieillot (= *Thryothorus ludovicianus* auct.), the European wren being mentioned in only the most incidental manner; and since we are not so much concerned with what he intended as with what he actually did, it follows that one of the three species he treats must be considered the type of the genus. Vieillot himself soon afterward removed *Troglodytes arundinaceus* to form the type of *Thryothorus*,² leaving two congeneric forms, the first of which, *aëdon*, has more and better claims to be treated as the type of *Troglodytes*.

Although with this view of the matter the name *Hylemathrous* Maximilian³ is of course untenable, it may not be out of place to mention that it can in no case enter into the equation, for it is a name of character exactly similar to *Anorthura*, and is a pure synonym of *Thryothorus*, not of *Troglodytes*! It is proposed in the following fashion: "Vieillot belegt diese Familie mit der Benennung Binsenspringer (*Tryothorus*) [err. typ.], die aber nicht vollkommen auf die Lebensart der von mir beobachteten Vögel passt, da ich sie nur in dichten Gebüsch und nicht am Wasser gesehen habe. Man könnte sie eher *Hylemathrous* (der im Busche ruft) nennen."⁴

Maximilian furthermore does not mention the name except in this one place, preferring after all to use *Thryothorus* of Vieillot. Aside from the four species which he here formally refers to *Thryothorus* and which, by the way, now belong to as many different genera, he adds in his general discussion of the genus: "Hierhin gehören noch mehrere andere Vögel, z. B. *Troglodytes furvus*, *aëdon* Vieill., *Sylvia caroliniana* Wilson [= *Thryothorus ludovicianus* auct.], welche zum Theil auf der Gränze zwischen *Troglodytes* und *Thryothorus* stehen."⁵

With *aëdon* the type of *Troglodytes*, and *Anorthura* a synonym, the short-tailed wrens of Europe and America are left without a generic name, for *Elachura* Oates, instituted for *Troglodytes punctatus* Blyth (*nec* Brehm), is apparently entitled to separation.

¹ The description and accompanying notes all point to this identification, so that "*fulva*" is evidently a typographical error or *lapsus calami* for "*furva*."

² Analyse, 1816, p. 45.

³ Beiträg. Naturg. Bras., III, 1830, p. 742.

⁴ Maximilian, Beiträg. Naturg. Bras., III, 1830, pp. 741, 742.

⁵ Maximilian, *l. c.*, p. 741.

Olbiorchilus,¹ gen. nov.

Troglodytes CUVIER, 1817, nec VIELLOT, 1807.

Anorthura AUCT., nec RENNIE, 1831.

Type, *Motacilla troglodytes* Linnæus.

Range. — Asia, excepting the southeastern corner, and central and western Siberia; Europe; extreme northwestern Africa; and nearly all of North America.

Olbiorchilus fumigatus fumigatus (*Temminck*).

Troglodytes fumigatus TEMMINCK, Man. d' Ornith. III, 1835, p. 161.

Troglodytes fucatus BREHM, Naumannia, 1855, p. 285.

Type locality. — Japan.

Geographical distribution. — Japan.

Olbiorchilus fumigatus kurilensis (*Stejneger*).

Troglodytes fumigatus kurilensis STEJNEGER, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XI, 1889, p. 548.

Type locality. — Shiashkotan Island, Kuril Islands.

Geographical distribution. — Kuril Islands, Japan.

Closely allied to true *fumigatus*, but a recognizable race.

Olbiorchilus fumigatus dauricus (*Dybowski & Taczanowski*).

Troglodytes dauricus DYBOWSKI & TACZANOWSKI, Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, IX, 1884, p. 155.

Type locality. — Dauria, southern Siberia.

Geographical distribution. — Northeastern Asia, from northern China to Mongolia and eastern Siberia.

Appears to be distinguishable from true *fumigatus* by larger size, and less rufescent color on the upper surface. Although its range can not be fully worked out from the scanty material available, this form probably represents *fumigatus* on the mainland of Asia, thus restricting the latter to the islands of Japan.

Olbiorchilus fumigatus nipalensis (*Blyth*).

Troglodytes nipalensis BLYTH, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, XIV, pt. 2, 1845, p. 589 (ex Hodgson MS.).

¹ ὄλβιο, felix; ὄρχιλος, regulus.

Troglodytes subhemalichanus HODGSON, in Gray's Zool. Misc., 1844, p. 82.

Type locality. — Nepal.

Geographical distribution. — Himalaya Mountains, from southern Cashmere to Sikkim; northeast to southern Shen See, China.

This is apparently but a subspecies of *fumigatus*, though a well-marked one.

***Olbiorchilus fumigatus neglectus* (Brooks).**

Troglodytes neglectus BROOKS, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, 1872, p. 328.

Type locality. — Cashmere.

Geographical distribution. — Cashmere to Gilgit, Central Asia.

***Olbiorchilus pallescens* (Ridgway).**

Anorthura pallescens RIDGWAY, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. VI, 1883, p. 93 (ex Stejneger MS.).

Type locality. — Bering Island, Commander Islands.

Geographical distribution. — Commander Islands, North Pacific Ocean.

***Olbiorchilus meligerus* (Oberholser).**

Anorthura meligera OBERHOLSER, Auk, XVII, 1900, p. 25.

Type locality. — Attu Island, Alaska.

Geographical distribution. — Western Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

***Olbiorchilus alascensis* (Baird).**

Troglodytes alascensis BAIRD, Trans. Chicago Acad. Sci. I, pt. ii, 1869, p. 315, pl. xxx, fig. 3.

Type Locality. — Saint George Island, Pribilof Islands.

Geographical distribution. — Pribilof and eastern Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

***Olbiorchilus hiemalis hiemalis* (Vieillot).**

Troglodytes hiemalis VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. XXXIV, 1819, p. 514.

Troglodytes parvulus var. *americanus* NAUMANN, Naturg. Vög. Deutschl., III, 1823, p. 724 (table).

Type locality. — Nova Scotia.

Geographical distribution. — Eastern North America; breeding southward to the northern part of the United States, and along the Alleghany Mountains to North Carolina.

Olbiorchilus hiemalis helleri (*Osgood*).

Anorthura hiemalis helleri OSGOOD, Auk, XVIII, 1901, p. 181.

Type locality. — English Bay, near Kadiak, Kadiak Island, Alaska.

Geographical distribution. — Kadiak Island, Alaska.

Apparently inclining slightly toward *alascensis*, though not sufficiently intermediate to indicate subspecific relationship.

Olbiorchilus hiemalis pacificus (*Baird*).

Troglodytes hyemalis var. *pacificus* BAIRD, Rev. Amer. Birds, I, 1864, p. 145.

Type locality. — Simiahmoo, Washington, U. S. A.

Geographical distribution. — Pacific coast region of North America, from southern Alaska to southern California, and east to the Rocky Mountains; in winter south to western Mexico.

Olbiorchilus troglodytes troglodytes (*Linnaeus*).

Motacilla troglodytes LINNÆUS, Syst. Nat. I, 1758, p. 188.

Troglodytes europea VIEILLOT, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. XXXIV, 1819, p. 511.

Troglodytes punctatus BREHM, Naturg. Europ. Vögel, I, 1823, p. 318.

Troglodytes parvulus KOCH, Syst. baiern. Zool. I, 1816, p. 161.

Troglodytes vulgaris FLEMING, Brit. Anim. 1828, p. 73.

Troglodytes regulus MEYER, Zusätze Taschenb. deutschl. Vög., 1822, p. 96.

Troglodytes domesticus BREHM, Handb. Vög. Deutschl. 1831, p. 454 (nec Wilson).

Troglodytes sylvestris BREHM, Handb. Vög. Deutschl. 1831, p. 455.

Anorthura communis RENNIE, in Montagu's Orn. Dict. 2nd ed. 1831, p. 570.

Troglodytes tenuirostris BREHM, Vogelfang, 1855, p. 238.

Troglodytes naumanni BREHM, Vogelfang, 1855, p. 238.

Troglodytes verus BURMEISTER, Syst. Uebers. Thier. Bras. III, 1856, p. 137 (*nomen nudum*).

Troglodytes linnei MALM, Göteb. u. Bohusl. Fauna, 1877, p. 169.

Troglodytes hirtensis SEEBOHM, Zoologist, 1884, p. 333.

Type locality. — Europe.

Geographical distribution. — Nearly the whole of Europe; extreme northern Africa, west of Egypt; northern Palestine and Asia Minor to Persia.

Specimens from St. Kilda, which form the basis of Mr. Seebohm's *hirtensis* we have not seen, but they are apparently the same as

birds from the British Isles.¹ There is a surprisingly small amount of geographical variation in this species, considering its extensive range.

Olbiorchilus troglodytes bergensis (Stejneger).

Troglodytes parvulus bergensis, STEJNEGER, Zeitschr. Gesam. Orn. I, 1884, pp. 9, 10.

Type locality.—Bergen, Norway.

Geographical distribution.—Norway and probably Sweden.

This race is closely allied to true *troglodytes*, though apparently separable on the *average* characters of more distinct dark barring on back and rump and duller, less rufescent color of the upper parts. The type is extreme in these respects, and is by no means equalled by any of the several other specimens examined.

Olbiorchilus troglodytes borealis (Fischer).

Troglodytes borealis FISCHER, Journ. f. Orn. 1861, p. 14, pl. i.

Type locality.—Faeroe Islands.

Geographical distribution.—The Faeroe Islands and Iceland.

This form is so closely connected with true *troglodytes*, by individual variation of both color and markings, that notwithstanding its island home, a trinomial better expresses its relationship. There seems to be no difference in size.

Olbiorchilus troglodytes pallidus (Hume).

Troglodytes pallidus HUME, Stray Feathers, 1875, p. 219, note.

Type locality.—Kashgar, Eastern Turkestan.

Geographical distribution.—Western part of eastern Turkestan, with probably the adjoining region of central Asia.

A perfectly good form, though apparently but subspecifically distinct from true *troglodytes*.

Elachura Oates.

Elachura OATES, Faun. Brit. India, I, 1889, p. 339.

Type.—*Troglodytes punctatus* Blyth.

Range.—Cachar and vicinity of Darjeeling, northeastern India.

¹ Cf. Dresser, Ibis, 1886, p. 43.

Elachura formosa (Walden).

Troglodytes punctatus BLYTH, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, XIV, 1845, pt. 2, p. 589 (*nec* Brehm).

Troglodytes formosus WALDEN, Ibis, 1874, p. 91.

Type locality.—Darjeeling, India.

Geographical distribution.—Neighborhood of Darjeeling, northeastern India.

The name *punctata* is untenable for this bird, being preoccupied by *Troglodytes punctatus* Brehm,¹ a synonym of *Olbiorchilus troglodytes*. Dr. Sharpe long ago called attention to this fact,² but the term *punctata* unfortunately has been adopted by some later writers.

Elachura haplonota Baker.

Elachura haplonota BAKER, Ibis, 1892, p. 62, pl. ii.

Type locality.—Hungrum Peak, North Cachar Hills, India.

Geographical distribution.—North Cachar Hills, northeastern India.

Seemingly a very distinct species.

A SUMMER COLONY AT ANTICOSTI.

BY JOSEPH SCHMITT, M. D.

Plate VII.

ANTICOSTI ISLAND, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where I have lived for some years as medical doctor in the service of the proprietor, Mr. Henri Menier, offers for study many very interesting subjects of natural history. In respect to birds, I will now call attention to a summer colony of sea-birds, which, while not having the importance of several famous bird rocks, as those at Percé, nevertheless deserves special mention. Here in a bay is Gull Cliff, facing northeast, which, from May until September is the resort

¹ Naturg. Europ. Vögel, I, 1823, p. 318.

² Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., VI, 1881, p. 279.