

THE RACES OF THE BARE-THROATED FRANCOLIN,
PTERNISTES CRANCHI.

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RECENTLY, while identifying specimens of *Pternistes cranchi* from the Belgian Congo, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya, it became apparent that there was a great deal of misunderstanding regarding the different races, especially *Pternistes cranchi intercedens* (Reichenow) to which most authors have referred specimens from the vicinity of Lake Victoria. True *intercedens* is from farther south in Tanganyika and the assumption that it ranges to Lake Victoria does not seem justified.

Besides the typical race, type locality lower Congo Valley, the following have been named:

(a) *P. c. harterti* (Reichenow), type locality Usumbura, at north end of Lake Tanganyika. This is a very distinctively marked bird, having wide blackish or reddish black, instead of chestnut, edges to the feathers of the breast. Its range is confined to a very small area, the Rusisi Valley, at the north end of Lake Tanganyika.

(b) *P. c. bohmi* (Reichenow), type locality Igonda, Tanganyika Territory. This also is a very distinct race. The feathers of the foreneck, chest, breast, and belly have very wide black shaft stripes. The breast and belly are white, practically unvermiculated, with broad chestnut edges separated from the white by a definite black streak. This gives to the breast the appearance of being made up of streaks of black, white, and chestnut. In this respect it very much resembles the breast of *Pternistes rufopictus*.

(c) *P. c. intercedens* (Reichenow), type locality Lake Rukwa, Tanganyika Territory. As Reichenow says in his description, this race is a transitional form between *P. c. cranchi* and *P. c. bohmi*. He differentiates it from typical *cranchi* by stating that the black shaft stripes on the crop are heavier, and the breast feathers are largely white almost without any gray vermiculations. Regarding

the first part of this statement, since typical *P. cranchi* has no shaft stripes, it would seem that Reichenow used for comparison birds from Uganda or northern Tanganyika, which have narrow dark shaft streaks. He mentions also as belonging to the race *intercedens* (although not exactly agreeing with the type) some specimens referred to by Sharpe from Nyasaland (*Ibis* 1906, p. 507). Sharpe compares these Nyasaland birds with specimens from the Ruwenzori region, and says the former "have blacker longitudinal streaks on the foreneck and chest, while the breast feathers in particular are whiter with scarcely any vermiculations." This is essentially the same as the statement made by Reichenow in comparing *intercedens* with *cranchi*. Therefore, birds from Uganda cannot be *intercedens*, as many authors have classified them but must be either *cranchi* or some other race.

I have not been able to study any specimens of *P. c. intercedens* from near the type locality or from Nyasaland, but have had two specimens from Tabora, Tanganyika, which I have called *intercedens*. These specimens are practically intermediate between *P. c. cranchi* and *P. c. bohmi*. They correspond to the description, having shaft streaks heavier than specimens from Uganda and the Lake Victoria region, but not nearly so heavy as in true *bohmi*. The breast feathers also are only very slightly vermiculated with gray.

This leaves the birds from about the west, east and south shores of Lake Victoria without a name, since specimens from these regions agree with each other but differ from typical *cranchi*. This race, therefore, may be known as

***Pternistes cranchi nyanzae* subsp. nov.**

Type from Fort Ternan, Nyando Valley, Kisumu, Kenya Colony, altitude 6000'. No. 6193, adult male in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History. Collected in November, 1901 by Sir Frederick J. Jackson.

Characters.—Nearest to *P. c. cranchi* but differs by having narrow black shaft streaks on the feathers of the foreneck, chest, and upper breast. These streaks are practically confined to the shafts. On the average slightly darker and more brownish (less grayish) on the upper parts. General appearance of the underparts more streaked. Light background of feathers of the underparts more grayish, less white, forming less of a contrast with the gray vermiculations.

Differs from *P. c. intercedens* and *P. c. bohmi* by the much narrower shaft streaks on the feathers of the underparts; and by the feathers of the breast and belly being *heavily* vermiculated.

Differs from *P. c. harterti* in having chestnut, not blackish, edgings to the feathers of the breast; by having all the underparts heavily vermiculated; and by having narrow dark shaft streaks to the feathers of the fore-neck, chest and upper breast.

Description.—Lores and superciliary stripe black. Feathers on the sides of the face (except ear-coverts which are brown) black narrowly margined with white. Top of the head and nape mummy brown. Feathers of the back of the neck finely mottled with dark gray and white and with dark shaft streaks. Rest of upper parts mummy brown, with darker brown shaft streaks. Quills brown, outer webs of the inner secondaries finely mottled with black. Foreneck, chest, and upper breast finely mottled dull white and dark gray, each feather with a narrow dark shaft streak. Lower breast and belly like the chest but each feather with wide chestnut margins. Anal region dull brownish finely mottled with white. Under tail coverts dull brown mottled with black. Tail mummy brown. Wing (flat) 196, tail 90 culmen (exposed) 29, tarsus 66, middle toe (with claw) 51 mm.

Range.—Country adjacent to the east, south and west shores of Lake Victoria Nyanza.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Pternistes cranchi cranchi.—BELGIAN CONGO: Boma 1 ♂³; Matadi, Lower Congo 1 ♀³; Kasai Dist. Luluabourg 1 ♀, 1 ♂³; Prov. Katanga, Tanganyika Dist. 1 ♀¹; Haut Luapula Dist. 2 ♀, 6 ♂¹. ANGOLA: Ndalla Tando 1 ♀.¹

Pternistes cranchi harterti.—LAKE TANGANYIKA: Uvira, 1 ♂³; Rusisi Valley 1 ♂, 1 ♀.³

Pternistes cranchi bohmi.—TANGANYIKA: nr. Singidda 1 ♀³; nr. Itigi 1 ♀, 1 ♂⁴; Saranda 1 ♀.⁴

Pternistes cranchi intercedens.—TANGANYIKA: Tabora 1 ♂, 1 ♀⁴; Kigoma 1 ♂ im.¹

Pternistes cranchi nyanzae.—KENYA: Nyando Valley 2 ♂, 1 ♀.¹ UGANDA: Lake Mutanda 1 ♂, 1 ♀²; Lower Rutshuru Valley 1 ♂³; Toro 1 ♂¹; Kisolo 4 ♂, 3 ♀²; Ankole 4 ♂, 2 ♀.¹ TANGANYIKA: Mwanza 4 ♂; 4 ♀¹; Muroga Range 1 ♂, 1 ♀³; Grunette River 1 ♂, 1 ♀³; Nyanza, E. shore Lake Tanganyika 1 ♂³ (not typical).

¹ Specimens in Conover Collection, Field Museum, Chicago.

² Specimens in Field Museum, Chicago.

³ Specimens in American Museum, New York.

⁴ Specimens in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge.

Key to the races of *Pternistes cranchi*.

- A. Feathers of the breast widely edged with chestnut.
 - a. Feathers of the breast and belly heavily vermiculated
 - a'. No shaft stripes to the feathers of the foreneck, chest and upper breast.....*P. c. cranchi*
 - b'. Very narrow dark shaft stripes to the feathers of the foreneck, chest and upper breast.....*P. c. nyanzae*
 - b. Feathers of the breast and belly not heavily vermiculated
 - c'. Very broad shaft stripes to the feathers of the underparts, breast and belly practically unvermiculated...*P. c. bohmi*
 - d'. Shaft stripes to feathers of the underparts narrower, breast and belly slightly vermiculated.....*P. c. intercedens*
- B. Feathers of the breast widely edged with blackish or reddish black
P. c. harterti

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