

**The Genus *Cuculus* in North America.**<sup>1</sup>—While engaged in field work in St. Lawrence Island, Bering Sea, during the summer of 1930, Mr. H. B. Collins of the Division of Anthropology of the United States National Museum, obtained a collection of birds gathered by an Eskimo collector at Gambell, in the northwestern part of the island. Among the birds thus obtained is a female example of *Cuculus canorus*. The species had been recorded previously only once in North America—by William Palmer ('Auk,' 1894, p. 325), who collected a male, identified as *Cuculus canorus telephonus*, on St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, July 4, 1890. The receipt of the St. Lawrence Island bird has provided an opportunity for re-examining the St. Paul Island bird as well as for identifying the former specimen. Our conclusions, as given below, are based on a study of a series of Asiatic specimens in the United States National Museum.

The bird collected by William Palmer is not, as has been thought (and stated in the 1910 A. O. U. Check-List), the Asiatic Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus telephonus* Heine, but the Himalayan Cuckoo, *Cuculus optatus* Gould. Dr. Stejneger has examined the specimen with us and agrees with the present identification. The bird brought back by Collins from St. Lawrence Island is an example of *Cuculus canorus*, not however of the Japanese *telephonus*, but of the Indian race *bakeri* Hartert. It might have been expected that if any race of *canorus* were to wander over to St. Lawrence Island it would be *telephonus*, the form geographically nearest to the island, but the present bird is clearly referable to *bakeri*, which differs from *telephonus* in its darker dorsal coloration and in the heavier, dark ventral bars.

It may be noted that the breeding ranges of *telephonus* and *bakeri* are not yet satisfactorily mapped out. Hartert and Stuart Baker both restrict *bakeri* to India, the Khasia Hills, etc., while the Himalayas and northward are supposed to be inhabited by *telephonus*. However, Rothschild (Nov. Zool., vol. 33, 1926, p. 236) has recorded specimens of *bakeri* from Yunnan, and the United States National Museum has a number of specimens of this race from the mountains of northwest Yunnan and western Szechwan. Lönnberg (Ibis, 1924, p. 318) and Bangs and Peters (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 68, 1928, p. 331) consider birds from Kansu and eastern Tibet as *bakeri*. It would seem, therefore, that *bakeri* is the breeding form of *Cuculus canorus* in the mountains of Burma, northwest Yunnan, western Szechwan, Kansu, and eastern Tibet.

The study of the two accidental occurrences of Asiatic cuckoos in Alaska, has led us to believe that in the new edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' they should stand as follows:

1. *Cuculus optatus* Gould should replace *Cuculus canorus telephonus* Heine; and
2. *Cuculus canorus bakeri* Hartert should be added.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN AND J. H. RILEY.

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