

## GENERAL NOTES

## A new wren from the State of Washington.—

*Thryomanes bewickii hurleyi*, new subspecies

## YAKIMA WREN

*Type*.—Adult ♂, No. 373010, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection); Parker, Yakima County, Washington; John B. Hurley, collector; March 28, 1943.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar to *Thryomanes bewickii calophonus*, but larger and coloration distinctly more dusky—olive brown rather than the Prout's brown of *calophonus* or the cinamon brown of *ariboreus*; feet, tarsi, and bill heavier and more bulky than in any of the other northwestern races of *Thryomanes*, even the large *ariboreus*.

*Measurements*.—Adult male (type): wing, 52.5 mm.; tail, 52.5; exposed culmen, 15.5; tarsus, 20.5; middle toe without claw, 13. Average of four adult males from the type locality: wing, 53.8; tail, 52.3; exposed culmen, 15.6; tarsus, 21.1; middle toe without claw, 13.6.

*Geographic distribution*.—Known only from a very limited area within the riparian belt along the Yakima River on the Yakima Indian Reservation, near Parker, Yakima County, Washington, where it breeds and is probably resident in the dense willow, rose, and cottonwood thickets.

*Discussion*.—The most interesting fact about this well-marked new wren is its isolation from its relatives, its heavier and stronger bill, tarsi, and feet, and its extreme duskiness in coloration. The four specimens available, adult males from the type locality, all agree in size and color. In comparison with *calophonus* and *ariboreus*, found west of the Cascade Mountains, *hurleyi*, besides averaging larger, has no trace of the reddish tinge found in these two races. In comparison with the small, pale grayish *atrestus*, east of the Cascades in southern Oregon, the difference of *hurleyi* in greater size and dusky coloration is very pronounced.

Forty-six skins of *Thryomanes* from the U. S. National Museum, and sixty from the writer's private collection, a total of 106, were used in this study.

In slight recognition of the good work on the distribution and nesting habits of birds accomplished by John B. Hurley in eastern Washington, and especially in the Yakima Valley area, the name *Thryomanes bewickii hurleyi* is proposed for this new wren.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon*.

## A hitherto unnamed Glossy Starling from East Africa.—

*Spreo hildebrandti kelloggorum*, new subspecies

*Type*.—No. 95458, Chicago Natural History Museum; adult ♂, Benagi Hill, Zerengeti, Mwanza District, Tanganyika Territory, November 29, 1932; John Payne and Louise Kellogg, collectors.

*Diagnosis*.—Similar to *S. h. hildebrandti* (Cabanis), but at once distinguished from it by the breast being far lighter, almost white, strongly suffused with ochraceous yellow. The under side is thus composed of three different color zones—*viz.*, the dark purple throat, the light ochraceous yellow breast, and the dark cinnamon belly and under tail-coverts. The secondaries are perhaps a trifle more bluish than in *S. h. hildebrandti*, tending slightly toward the blue-green of *S. shelleyi*. This race is somewhat larger than *S. h. hildebrandti*. Wing, ♂, 121–126 mm. as against 115–123 in ♂ of *S. h. hildebrandti*.

*Distribution.*—The highlands west of the Great Rift Valley in southern Kenya Colony and northern Tanganyika Territory—*viz.*, Zerengeti Plain, Loita district, north at least to the Mara River and Sotik.

*Remarks.*—This subspecies is named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg, who made a shooting expedition to the borderlands of Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory in November and December, 1932, from which they returned with a very interesting collection of 135 birdskins of seventy-one species, which they presented to the Chicago Natural History Museum.

My thanks are due to Mr. Rudyerd Boulton for allowing me to describe this fine race and to make use of his notes and measurements of almost all material of *S. hildebrandti* and *S. shelleyi* contained in the U. S. National Museum, American Museum of Natural History, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia—altogether forty-six *hildebrandti* and eighteen *shelleyi*; also the correspondence which he had on this matter with James P. Chapin. I have, however, refrained from giving all measurements, as I do not have the material at my disposal and it seems to me that in some cases the collectors or their native assistants made mistakes in sexing.

In both races of *hildebrandti* and in *shelleyi*, the females seem to have a shorter wing than the males—an average difference of about 4 to 6 mm. Since van Someren most positively declares that he found *hildebrandti* and *shelleyi* breeding side by side in Ukamba and Teita (Nov. Zool., 29: 128, 1922; and *op. cit.*, 38: 314, 1931), I keep *shelleyi* as a distinct species, although with great hesitation and reserve.

It may be useful here to give the distribution of *S. h. hildebrandti*, as this has not been distinctly recorded to date by Reichenow ("Vögel Afrikas") or Sclater ("Systema Avium Aethiopicarum"), while van Someren (*loc. cit.*) records only the distribution in Kenya Colony, not in Tanganyika Territory.

*S. h. hildebrandti* is distributed from the regions south of Kikuyu—*viz.*, Ukamba and Teita, where it meets *S. shelleyi*, to the Kilimanjaro and Usambara, to Kibaya, Burungi, Irangi, and to Usandawi in the west and northern Ugogo in the south, in which countries I observed and collected it in 1893 (*cf.* Jour. für Orn., 48: 280, 1900). Emin collected it as far south as Mpapwa, Usagara. With the exception of the type and paratype of *S. h. kelloggorum*, I have never seen a specimen of any race of *hildebrandti* from the regions west of the Great Rift Valley. I know from Chapin's letter to Boulton that the specimens from Loita and the Mara River are *kelloggorum*. I assume, therefore, that the specimens from Simiu River (G. A. Fischer), that are not in the Berlin Museum, and from Kibrori and Serronea River (Bowen) also belong to this race.—OSCAR NEUMANN, *Chicago Natural History Museum*.

*Oriolus percivali* a valid race of *O. monacha*.—In 1903, Ogilvie-Grant<sup>1</sup> described an oriole from Kikuyu in East Africa which resembled *Oriolus larvatus* and *rolleti* but had wholly black median rectrices instead of greenish ones. He gave it the name of *O. percivali*. Seven years later, Reichenow<sup>2</sup> proposed the name *tanganjicae* for a very similar bird from the mountains northwest of Lake Tanganyika. Although he compared it to *O. nigripennis*, we now know *tanganjicae* to be a synonym of *percivali*.

From that time to the present, doubt has persisted as to the nature of *O. percivali*. It has been treated either as a distinct species or as a mere aberration of the

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 14: 18, 1903.

<sup>2</sup> Orn. Monatsber., 18: 161, 1910.