

*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.

*monacha-larvatus* group. Now Grant and Mackworth-Praed<sup>1</sup> deny any validity to the name *percivali*, since they regard it as based on a color phase of *O. monacha rolleti*.

The situation which led to this erroneous decision is well known, and the more important references bearing upon it are given by Grant and Mackworth-Praed. In the Kikuyu highland, between Nairobi and the base of Mt. Kenya, one finds but few of the 'black-tailed' birds, and many more of the 'green-tailed' sort. There are also a few intermediates, with median rectrices green at the base, shading to black toward their tips.

It may be recalled that in the lowland forests of western Africa the 'black-tailed' *Oriolus nigripennis* and the 'green-tailed' *C. brachyrhynchus* live side by side as perfectly distinct species. It must be understood that the outer rectrices of both types of orioles are broadly tipped with yellow. In eastern Africa, *rolleti* and *percivali* are clearly not separate species, for they intergrade with each other. Neither are they races of the West African birds, for they intergrade only with the *monacha-larvata* group which ranges from South Africa and Angola to Eritrea.

I shall not attempt to decide here whether *rolleti* and *larvatus* are really races of *O. monacha*, and while calling attention to the well-founded objections of Professor Neumann<sup>2</sup> I shall continue to treat *monacha* as a species including those races. Neither shall I attempt to uphold *kikuyuensis* as a race distinct from *rolleti*. My sole aim is to prove the validity of *O. m. percivali*.

In the forest of Mt. Kenya itself, up to 8,500 feet, Colonel Meinertzhagen found only the black-tailed *percivali*, and on Mt. Elgon Dr. Granvik had the same experience. The 'color phase' therefore has definite areas where it certainly predominates, and that alone should justify its recognition as a geographic race. Dr. van Someren's statement that he found only *percivali* in the Kakamega Forest surprises me, for the elevation there is only around 5,000 feet, and *Oriolus brachyrhynchus laetior* seems to be a common bird at Kakamega. Yet one undoubted specimen of *percivali* was collected for Colonel Meinertzhagen at Lerundo in the Kavirondo District, and Sir Frederick Jackson recorded *percivali* from Nandi. On the western edge of the Uganda depression, both the British Museum Ruwenzori Expedition and Rudolf Grauer collected the black-tailed race in the Mpanga Forest at about 5,000 feet. Their green-tailed specimens of *rolleti* came from Mokia, at 3,500 feet, and the vicinity of Kasindi, at a similar elevation.

If the British Museum has but three specimens of *percivali* with median rectrices wholly black, it only goes to show that the birds of the higher forests of Mt. Kenya and Mt. Elgon are poorly represented there. The fact that *Oriolus tanganjicae* was described from a montane area far removed from Kenya Colony ought to have led investigation toward the eastern Congo highlands. Rudolf Grauer, who secured the type of *tanganjicae*, worked systematically in the Kivu District and in the mountains just northwest of Lake Tanganyika. There, in 1907-1908 and in 1910, he collected about twenty-four specimens of *O. m. percivali* for Lord Rothschild and twenty-nine for the Vienna Museum. Above an elevation of 5,000 feet he never obtained any green-tailed birds or intermediates, although he did find *O. m. rolleti* at 3,900 feet just west of Baraka, below the level of mountain forest, and also well to the eastward in Urundi, toward the open Kagera Valley. The record of *rolleti* by Loveridge<sup>3</sup> from Idjwi Island in Lake Kivu was based on black-tailed birds.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 63: 52; 64: 24, 25, 1943.

<sup>2</sup> Journ. f. Orn., 53: 235, 1905.

<sup>3</sup> Peters and Loveridge, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 89: 245, 1942.

In 1933-1935 G. F. de Witte<sup>1</sup> collected twenty-one specimens of *percivali* among and near the Kivu Volcanoes, at localities between 6,200 and 7,000 feet. At Mbwahi, on the mountains southwest of Lake Kivu, Guy Babault secured only *percivali*, as reported by Berlioz.<sup>2</sup> Still more recently, R. E. Moreau<sup>3</sup> states that *percivali* was the only oriole obtained in the Kungwe-Mahare mountain forests, on the eastern side of Lake Tanganyika. It should therefore be clear that not only on Kenya and Elgon, but on the Kivu Volcanoes and on forested highlands on both sides of the Albertine Rift, *Oriolus monacha percivali* is found to the exclusion of any green-tailed form.

My own experience with this oriole in the highlands of the eastern Congo goes back to 1926-1927. Although *percivali* had been obtained in the Mpanga Forest, I never saw it or any other form of the species up on Ruwenzori. I did collect *rolleti* at the Lubilia River, not far from Kasindi. It was not until I had crossed the Semliki Valley and reached Mt. Nyemilima, northwest of Lake Edward, that I found the black-tailed *percivali* again in heavy forest at 8,100 feet. That was on the western scarp of the Albertine Rift, where we may be sure that it ranges southward for a distance of at least 260 miles to the vicinity of Uvira.

Within the Albertine Rift rise the Kivu Volcanoes, with plenty of mountain forest above 6,000 feet. There I found *percivali* common on Mt. Mikenno and Mt. Niragongo, from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, with never a sign of a green-tailed bird.

On the eastern scarp of the Albertine Rift, Grauer and I both collected *percivali* in forests just east of the Rutshuru Plain, at about 5,300 feet. Jackson and Sclater report it from Kigezi, and although there is no record from the Rugege Forest, southeast of Lake Kivu, the black-tailed race certainly extends southward to Kungwe-Mahare. But the Ufipa highland may have only *rolleti*, and we know that to be the only form in Marungu, across the lake.

It has sometimes been suggested that *percivali* might be a highland race of *O. nigripennis*. But there is no suggestion of any such intergradation between these two forms as we know to exist between *percivali* and *O. monacha rolleti*. Many authors have regarded *brachyrhynchus* and *laetior* as races of *O. monacha*. With this I disagree because the juvenal plumages are very different; and I find scant evidence of any intergradation in western Uganda, where *laetior* is a common bird in the heavy forests, and *rolleti* rather uncommon in the savannas.

As for *percivali*, the correct conclusion is perfectly clear. It is a valid race of *Oriolus monacha*, or of *O. larvatus* if Professor Neumann's opinion is correct, and lives in forested highlands above 5,000 feet from Mt. Kenya and Mt. Elgon westward to the Kivu Volcanoes, the highlands west of Lake Edward and Lake Kivu, southward to the vicinity of Uvira and to the Kungwe-Mahare highland east of Lake Tanganyika.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

**Description of a new hybrid warbler.**—On August 30, 1938, I was on Cat Island, Mississippi, nine miles offshore from Gulfport, engaged at the time in a study of the fall migration along the Mississippi gulf coast. Certain specimens of taxonomic interest were taken that day, among them a warbler that I found I was unable to identify. Superficially it resembled a female Redstart, but on closer examination differences were noted that showed clearly that this bird could not be referred to

<sup>1</sup> Schouteden, Expl. Parc. Nat. Albert, Inst. Parcs Nat. Congo Belge, Brussels, fasc. 9: 136, 1938.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. Mus. Paris (2) 8: 492, 1936.

<sup>3</sup> Ibis, 85: 394, 1943.