

**The Red-spotted Bluethroats of northwestern Alaska.**—Recently, through the coöperation of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, the Chicago Natural History Museum (Bishop coll.), and the Chicago Academy of Sciences I have been able to study a more comprehensive series of Alaskan bluethroats than has been the good fortune of earlier investigators. The birds forwarded by these institutions, when added to the material already in the combined collection of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U. S. National Museum, included 16 Alaskan examples, while for comparative material I have had good series from northern Europe, China and Siberia, and wintering birds from northeastern Asia. Lack of material of a number of European and Asiatic races precluded a revision of the species, but the problem of immediate interest—the status of the North American birds—was examined and the following result obtained. In neither size nor color characters is it possible to distinguish Alaskan or, for that matter, northeastern Siberian, birds from typical *suecica* of Scandinavia. It follows therefore that *robusta* cannot be recognized and that the Alaskan birds should be called *Luscinia* (or *Cyanosylvia*) *suecica suecica*. This race apparently ranges across northern Europe and Asia, north of the other subspecies, to northwestern Alaska.

The race *robusta* was described as being darker, more intensively colored, with a larger reddish area on the forehead, and larger (wing 75–80 mm.) than the nominate form.

The wing length of eight Alaskan males varies from 70.1 to 74.1 mm.; that of 12 typical *suecica* from Europe and Asia 69–74 mm.; the tails of the eight Alaskan examples, 49.2–55.2 mm; of 12 Eurasian birds 53–59 mm. Eight Alaskan females have wings of 68.1–71 mm. as compared with 65–74 mm. in European and Asiatic examples.

While convinced that the material examined leaves me no choice but to conclude that *robusta* is not separable from *suecica*, I am not unmindful of the fact that European ornithologists, and especially the Russians who have far better Eurasian material available, do recognize *robusta* as a valid form. No actual topotypes of *robusta* have been available to me in this study.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**The Range of *Francolinus finschi* extended northward.**—Although described by Bocage as long ago as 1881 from a single immature male collected at Caconda in Angola, this francolin has remained a rarity; and very little has been published about its distribution or behavior. Mackworth-Praed (*Ibis*: 122, 1922) regarded it as a valid species, probably allied to *Francolinus levaillantii*, and represented by two specimens at Tring. One of these was an adult male from South Libollo, Angola, obtained by Pemberton. The other bird, however, a young female taken by Ansonge at Katenge in Benguela Province, is really not *finschi*, but the young of *F. harillaubi*.

More recently Rudyerd Boulton tells me that he collected two females of *finschi* at Namba in the Mombolo area of Angola in 1931 for the Carnegie Museum, and that Mrs. J. Bodaly sent one to Boardman Conover from Chitau, Angola, in 1932. In the British Museum, Boulton has also seen one adult with well-developed spurs from between the Cuanza and Luando rivers, collected by E. H. Buxton.

Those appear to have been all that were known until Dr. R. Malbrant of Brazzaville published a note on a "yellow-footed francolin" from the vicinity of Stanley Pool on the Congo River, in the *Bulletin de la Société de Botanique et de Zoologie Congolaises*, Léopoldville: 3 (4), 6, 1940. Dr. Malbrant subsequently sent three skins of this bird to the American Museum of Natural History, and they prove to be