GENERAL NOTES

The Button Quails and Tree Sparrows of the Riu Kiu Islands.—In comparing certain specimens taken on the island of Okinawa in the summer of 1945, I have reached conclusions somewhat at variance with current treatment of two species. I am indebted to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History and of the United States National Museum for making possible these studies.

The Button Quails (*Turnix suscitator*) of the Riu Kiu Islands are generally referred to *blakistoni* of southern China, despite the existence of another race (*rostrata*) in the intervening island of Formosa. It is true that Formosan birds are much darker and grayer above than either Chinese or Riu Kiu specimens; but the latter are not identical with *blakistoni*, and evidently represent an undescribed race, which may be known as

Turnix suscitator okinavensis, subsp. nov.

Type: American Museum of Natural History, no. 544507; male; island of Okinawa, Riu Kiu Islands, April 27, 1904; from the collection of Alan Owston.

Subspecific characters: Resembles *T. s. blakistoni*, but bill distinctly heavier, about as in the birds of central Siam (Deignan, MS.). A relatively brown bird above, but paler than other races examined; I have not, however, seen the pale Indian races (*taigoor, isabellinus*).

Range: Southern and central Riu Kiu Islands.

Specimens from Okinawa appear to be more typical than those from Miyako and south, which show a slight approach to *rostrata* in their larger bills and slightly grayer color above; in color they resemble *blakistoni* closely, but are perhaps a trifle paler.

The Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) of the Riu Kiu Islands was long ago named *saturatus* on the basis of a mounted bird taken by Stimpson. According to Deignan's studies, Stimpson's collecting was done on Okinawa; the type agrees well in bill size with recently taken Okinawa birds, and its darkness is probably due to its having been mounted. Bill size seems to reach a minimum on Okinawa; Japanese birds (especially those from Hokkaido) are larger-billed, as are also the birds of Miyako and south, which I cannot distinguish from *taivanensis* in any way. Small bills are again found in northern China.

Aside from the bill, there appears to be no geographic variation in size, unless perhaps the tail averages relatively longer in Chinese birds. The difference, if any, is slight. My studies do not confirm the claim that Formosan birds are any smaller or shorter-tailed than Japanese.

In color, Okinawan and Formosan birds are paler and grayer (almost purplish) brown on the crown, and also paler on the back and wings, than Japanese birds; the wing-bars are whiter (less buffy), and the edgings of the greater wing-coverts are less ruddy. The sides, flanks, crissum, and rump, on the other hand, are a deeper and more reddish brown than in either Japanese or Chinese birds.

Chinese birds are pale and gray above, agreeing well in color with *taivanensis* and *saturatus* except for their paler and grayer rumps, sides, flanks, etc. Birds from Weihsien seem especially gray.

Specimens from southern Japan (Tanegashima) show some approach to *saturatus*, averaging paler above and browner on the flanks than Hokkaido birds. They are closest to the latter, however. But I cannot agree that Japanese birds are *saturatus;* if Formosan birds are separated solely on bill size, then surely Japanese birds, differing in bill size and in color, must be separated. I have seen no specimens from the Seven Islands of Izu, and do not know the proper names for the Japanese and Chinese birds. Those of the Riu Kiu Islands should stand as:

(1) *Passer montanus saturatus* Stejneger. Kikaigashima, and probably Amami-Oshima, south to Okinawa.

(2) *Passer montanus taivanensis* Hartert. Miyakojima and Ishigaki to Formosa.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.*

Notes on Phylloscopus coronatus ijimae.—Three of these little-known Willow Warblers were taken in the southern part of Okinawa Shima, Riu Kiu Islands, in the fall of 1945. Unfortunately, two were lost subsequently, but in view of the bird's rarity, it seems worth while to place on record the notes that were made on them in the field.

My first specimen, a young bird sexed doubtfully as a female, was shot by G. F. Augustson at Iwa, near the south end of the island, August 10. It was feeding with *Zosterops* in a tree by a native house. In southern Okinawa, trees grow only in such compounds. On picking it up, Augustson told me that he had shot a similar bird at "Bolo Point," the western tip of central Okinawa opposite the Katchin Hanto peninsula, in July (or at least after his arrival on June 4). It is unfortunate that this was not preserved, as July would seem to be exceptionally early for any *Phylloscopus* on Okinawa. I saw no others of this genus until late September.

From September 26 to early October, warblers of this genus were quite common about Momobaru, a hill village south of Kadena. A young *ijimae* (not sexed) and an adult male *borealis* were taken on September 26, and two more adult male *borealis* on the 28th. By October 13 they were scarcer, but a fine adult male *ijimae* was taken that day, and a Crowned Willow Warbler was also seen but not secured. The latter had a distinct median crown-streak, but less conspicuous than its superciliary, and the sides of the crown appeared greenish rather than dark brown, so I judged it to be *ijimae*. Thereafter a few *Phylloscopus* were seen until October 22, apparently all *borealis*.

It seems a bit strange that no *P. b. xanthodryas* were secured on southern Okinawa. Perhaps they prefer the more heavily forested areas farther north.

The three adult male *borealis* taken were, on the basis of color and measurements, *P. b. borealis*. The two September and October *ijimae* were compared with these and found to differ by (1) greener upper parts, with crown and nape grayer (less brownish olive), and clearer white under parts with yellower crissum and under wing-coverts; (2) mandible yellowish, without the dark tip of *borealis*, and bill perhaps a bit broader; (3) tarsi horn-color, darker than the feet, rather than both light horn, as in *borealis;* (4) ninth [next to outermost] primary shorter than fifth; and (5) post-nuptial molt complete, with the remiges and rectrices of the adult fresh, in striking contrast to the worn condition of *borealis*.

The adult male differed from the unsexed immatures in larger size (flattened wing about 66–67 mm., rather than 59–61), and especially in broader remiges and rectrices. In addition, the September immature had the ninth primary shorter than fourth, eighth shorter than sixth, fifth slightly emarginate on outer web, and tail not emarginate; but the August immature, now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, agrees in all these respects with the adult.

Phylloscopus coronatus ijimae is now known as a migrant on Okinawa in late March (Kuroda, Tori 5:85, 1926), August 10, and late September to mid-October, and has probably occurred casually as early as July. I know of no breeding or mid-winter records.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona*