

GENERAL NOTES

The races of the Black-crested Baza.¹—The Black-crested Baza (*Aviceda leuphotes* [Dumont]) is widely distributed in northern Siam from February to August and common in the Malay Peninsula from November to March. It has always been assumed that the more southern birds are the northern birds in winter quarters.

I have recently discovered that the wintering population of the Peninsula differs from the breeding population of northern Siam by its distinctly longer wing tip. Seventeen examples of the former have the distance from the tip of the longest secondary to the tip of the longest primary ranging from 80 to 85 mm., while seven of the latter have this distance from 53 to 72 mm.

An indication of the breeding ground of the Peninsular birds is given by the fact that a summer-taken specimen from northeastern Burma has a wing tip of 82 mm., and two summer-taken specimens from northwestern Assam have this measurement 82 and 87 mm., respectively. On the other hand, two examples from southeastern Siam (December, February) have the wing tips measuring 58 and 73 mm., one from Bas-Laos (January) has it 70 mm., and another from northern Tenasserim (January) has it 70 mm.; these thus give a clew to the winter quarters of the population breeding in northern Siam.

Seven specimens taken between October and March at various localities in Annam, Cochinchina, eastern and southeastern Siam have the wing tip ranging from 79 to 84 mm. I suggest that these represent wintering or migrant individuals of the population breeding in southeastern China, which have been named *melli*, but seem to be racially inseparable from those of the eastern Himalayas.

Although the species has not yet been recorded at all from Yunnan nor from any Chinese locality farther north and west than southern Kweichow, the U. S. National Museum possesses a summer-taken specimen from Szechwan. This differs so markedly from any one of a series of 45 examples from other regions that I consider it representative of an unnamed race, which may be called

***Aviceda leuphotes wolfei*, subsp. nov.**

TYPE.—Subadult female, U. S. National Museum No. 297745, collected on Mount Omei, Szechwan Province, China (at elevation 3,000 feet), on August 29, 1923, by David C. Graham.

DIAGNOSIS.—From all individuals seen of other races, distinguished by having the chestnut bars of the posterior under parts, right to the ends of the longest flank feathers, more or less boldly edged with black, and the intervening buffy-white bars only about half as wide as in examples of other races; these two features combine to render the bird strikingly dark-colored beneath.

REMARKS.—That the characters adduced for the new form are not to be explained by immaturity may be judged from the fact that equaeval birds of other races all agree with each other in being less heavily barred beneath than adults and in having the dark bars posteriorly obsolescent.

I have named the new subspecies in honor of Col. Lloyd Raymond Wolfe, U. S. A. The recognizable races of this cuckoo falcon and their ranges seem to be as follows:

1. *Aviceda leuphotes wolfei* Deignan

RANGE.—Breeding in Szechwan. Winter range unknown.

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2. *Aviceda leuphotes syama* (Hodgson)

Baza Syama Hodgson, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 5: 777, Dec., 1836 (lower region of Nepal).

Baza loophotes burmana W. L. Sclater, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 41: 31, Nov. 30, 1920 (Maliwun, Mergui District, Tenasserim Division, Burma).

Baza loophotes melli Stresemann, Jour. f. Orn., 71: 525, Oct. 15, 1923 (Tsogokwan, Kwangtung Province, China).

RANGE.—Breeding in Kweichow, Kwangsi, Kwangtung, northern Burma, Assam, and the lower slopes of the Himalayas west to Nepal. In winter or on migration known from Annam, Cochinchine, eastern and southeastern Siam, and the Malay Peninsula south to Singapore Island. Birds occurring in Ceylon during the north-east monsoon probably belong here.

3. *Aviceda leuphotes leuphotes* (Dumont)

Falco leuphotes Dumont, Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles, 16: 217, Apr., 1820 (Pondicherry).

RANGE.—Breeding in southern India, southern Burma, northern and eastern Siam, northern Indochine (excepting Tongking), and Hainan. In winter or on migration recorded from northern Tenasserim, southeastern Siam, and Bas-Laos.

The arrangement given above is only tentative. The species may well be only a winter visitor to Pondicherry, and the type of *Falco leuphotes* may be a representative of the Nepalese race, in which case Hodgson's *syama* would become a synonym of *leuphotes*, and the birds with shorter wing tips would require a new name. Moreover, it is by no means certain that the form breeding in northern Siam is really inseparable from that breeding, for instance, in Travancore; in so assuming I have merely followed the judgment of others. It is hoped that the conclusions here drawn will induce students with more material from India at their disposal to confirm, correct, or deny them.

For the loan of specimens and for written information on the birds in their charge, my thanks are due the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.—H. G. DEIGNAN, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Additional light on the races of the Dowitcher.—The discovery of an adult breeding specimen of *Limnodromus griseus* from Fort Chimo, Quebec, in the collection of the United States National Museum, is significant in the study of racial variation in this species. There has been considerable doubt as to the distinctness of a race, *L. g. hendersoni* Rowan, comprising the breeding population of dowitchers in the Prairie Provinces of Canada. One of the chief reasons for this doubt has been that *hendersoni* was originally described as distinct from a group of migrants the breeding grounds of which were unknown. Breeding specimens from the west side of Hudson Bay, although not quite the same as the interior breeding birds, were certainly more like them than like the Atlantic coastal migrants assumed to represent typical *griseus*.

For some unknown reason an almost certainly breeding female specimen (U. S. N. M. 94471), taken by L. M. Turner, on June 10, 1883, at Fort Chimo, Ungava (now part of Quebec), has been overlooked until recently. The specimen matches the extremes of the "eastern type" migrants exactly. It is extremely dark above, with buffy markings reduced to a minimum; heavily spotted below with evenly distributed rounded spots, not elongated laterally, or concentrated in a pectoral band as in *scolopaceus*; belly and under tail-coverts whitish in contrast to the reddish