

## GENERAL NOTES

A new race of bearded bulbul from the Belgian Congo.—When Count Nils Gyldenstolpe (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 43: 131, 1923) described *Trichophorus swainsoni bannermani* from Lesse in the Semliki Valley, he believed that another very similar species with thicker bill, *T. calurus* Cassin, lived in the same area. Subsequent field studies have shown this not to be the case. Most Semliki Valley specimens are strikingly slender-billed; and so—Mr. Hermann Grote kindly informs me—is the type of *Criniger verreauxi ndussumensis* Reichenow, still preserved in the Berlin Museum. The type locality of *ndussumensis* is Kinyawanga, close to the present post of Beni, and within 40 kilometers of Lesse. It was a camp of Dr. F. Stuhlmann, but not situated in the Ndussuma area near Irumu, as Reichenow thought.

The name *bannermani* is thus synonymous with *ndussumensis* Reichenow (Die Vögel Afrikas, 3: 383, 1904), and the thicker-billed birds with rather greenish tails which occupy most of the Upper Congo Forest and many wooded areas in Uganda are in need of a new name. They have long been confused with *ndussumensis*.

Since Emin Pasha is known to have collected such a bird at Bellima in the Uelle District before 1888, I propose to name the race as follows:

***Criniger calurus emini*, new subspecies**

**TYPE:** Adult male, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 296914, Lukolela, middle Congo River, August 16, 1930.

**DIAGNOSIS:** In color and size *emini* is similar to nominate *calurus* of the Lower Congo, Gaboon, and Cameroon, save that tail and upper tail-coverts are less rufous, more washed with green. It differs in much the same way from *C. c. ndussumensis*, and also by its thicker bill.

**MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE:** Wing, 95 mm.; tail, 87; culmen to base, 21; tarsus, 20. Some specimens of *emini* from the Ituri have the tail a little more rufous than those of Uganda or of the region near Lukolela, although their bills are not so slender as in *ndussumensis*.

**RANGE:** From the middle Congo River and Luebo in the Kasai District eastward and northeastward to the Manyema, Ituri, and Uelle districts of the eastern Congo, and to forest patches in Uganda, from Bugoma and Budongo to the base of Mount Elgon.

The range of the slender-billed *ndussumensis* is much more restricted, and includes the forested lowlands in and near the Semliki Valley and on the eastern side of the Rutshuru Valley. In the latter area, Dr. Moriz Sassi writes me, Rudolf Grauer collected two females with small bills for the Vienna Museum. Intergradation between *ndussumensis* and *emini* is evident in specimens taken 46 kilometers south of Irumu and at Angumu, 190 kilometers west of Lake Edward. Moreover, the pronounced variation in thickness of bill at Angumu is paralleled by similar variation among specimens of *C. c. calurus* from forested lowlands in southern Cameroon. An acquaintance of thirty-eight years with this common white-bearded bulbul, its behavior, and its voice, convinces me that neither the shape of the bill nor the color of the tail is a specific character.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

A new stone sparrow from Persia.—It might be useful to have the description of this new sparrow available before the final reports of my 1940 Iran collections can be published. I therefore describe it as:

**Gymnoris xanthocollis occidentalis, new subspecies**

**TYPE:** Adult male; Abulhassan, near Sar i Dasht in Bakhtiari, western Persia; April 28, 1940; W. Koelz, collector. (Type on deposit in American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.)

**DIAGNOSIS:** Similar to *G. x. xanthocollis* from India, and *G. x. transfuga* from Sind and Baluchistan, but paler than either, and with a slightly more slender bill.

**MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE:** Wing, 86.0 mm.; tail, 54.0; length of the bill from the skull, 14.0; width of the bill at the level of the nostrils, 5.5.

**RANGE:** Western Persia, from Fars westward into Bakhtiari and Khuzistan. The birds that breed in the neighboring plain of Mesopotamia will probably be found to belong to this new race.

**REMARKS:** The new race represents the end of a westward trend in a general reduction of pigmentation. In *occidentalis* the whole of the upper parts are sandy and the lesser wing-coverts are the color of rust. The eastern populations of India (*xanthocollis*) are much darker, light earth brown above and with chestnut lesser wing-coverts. The coloration of the intervening populations of Baluchistan and Sind (*transfuga*) is exactly intermediate.

The thickness of the bill is the same in *xanthocollis* and *transfuga*; in *occidentalis* the bill is a little more slender. The difference, at the level of the nostrils, amounts to only five per cent of the total length of the bill, but this difference, though small, is appreciable to the eye.—WALTER KOELZ, c/o American Consul, Bombay, India.

**The status of *Synallaxis sclateri* Cabanis.**—After receiving from Dr. A. Döring an "authentic specimen" of *Synallaxis sclateri*, collected near Córdoba, Argentine Rep., Sclater declared this name to be a synonym of his *Synallaxis hudsoni*, which he had described in 1874 (see Sclater, P. Z. S. London, 1879: 461; and Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., 15: 70). Hellmayr (Cat. Birds Americas, 4: 150, 1925) accepted this view without examining the type of *Synallaxis sclateri*, described by Cabanis in 1878 (Jour. f. Orn., 26: 96) and kept in the Berlin Museum (No. B. 15006). Its original label reads: "*Synallaxis sclateri* Doer. N. 5 ♂ Sierra de Cordova. Selten."

Comparison with *hudsoni* undertaken by the writer at once showed *sclateri* to be quite another species; the former differs by its pale yellowish instead of cinnamon gular spot, spiny tail feathers with pale and rigid shafts, pipit-like juvenal plumage and many other points.

The nearest relatives of *sclateri* are *S. anthoides* King (Chile and southern Argentina) and *S. humilis* Cabanis (Perú and western Bolivia). In fact, *sclateri* in some way bridges the wide gap separating the two other species. All three seem to depend on rocky country (whereas *hudsoni* lives in the pampas). Yet they have so many distinctive characters of their own that they all should be kept as separate species. All three have been removed by Hellmayr (1925) from *Synallaxis* and included in the genus *Asthenes*.

Regarding the markings of the upper side, *sclateri* stands between *anthoides* and *humilis*; the contrast between the dark centers of the feathers and their paler margins is far less pronounced in *sclateri* than in *anthoides*, but not nearly as obsolete as in *humilis*. The central rectrices of *sclateri*, dark brownish throughout, are devoid of the pale margins so conspicuous in *anthoides*, and in this respect approach *humilis*. The rusty pattern of the four outer rectrices is of almost the same extent in *sclateri* and *anthoides*, but of a much darker shade in the former; in *humilis* it is as dark as in *sclateri*, but considerably reduced in scope. The tail feathers are acuminate in *anthoides*, less so in *humilis* and bluntest in *sclateri*. Below, *sclateri* resembles