***Œnanthe phillipsi* (Shelley) in Eastern Abyssinia.**—Sclater ('Systema Avium AEthiopicarum,' 1930: 451) gives the known distribution of the Somali Wheatear, *Œnanthe phillipsi* (Shelley), 1885, mountains near Berbera, as "British Somaliland (on the plateau); also recorded from Debbit (interior of Italian Somaliland)." This information would appear to be the present state of our knowledge of the distribution of this distinctive species.

During the course of a journey from Hargeisa, British Somaliland, to Mogadishu, Somalia (Italian Somaliland), in the company of Col. R. Meinertzhagen, I recorded this species from several localities in the southern Ogaden, Abyssinia. On March 5, 1949, I noted it as being quite common on suitable terrain in the upper valley of the Webi Shebeli. It was last noted at about the 300 kilometer mark on the military highway, north of Mogadishu.

This species favors low hills with sparse thorn scrub. It is a singularly undemonstrative species, rather "confiding" for a member of the genus *Œnanthe*, but has all the other "engaging" mannerisms of the group. It perches very freely on and in trees and shrubs as well as on rocks, and does not seem to spend so much time on the ground as some other Wheatears.

The above records are the first for Abyssinian territory.—P. A. CLANCEY, *Cathcart, Glasgow, S. 4., Scotland.*

A Name for the Dark, Western Populations of the Palaearctic Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis* Latham.—The Rev. J. M. McWilliam in his 'Birds of the Firth of Clyde' (Witherby, London, 1936: 52–53) quotes Eliot Howard and others in support of the view that the song of the whitethroat breeding in western Ireland and western Scotland differs appreciably from that of the English bird. McWilliam also draws attention on page 53 to the heavily blotched color of the eggs of western Scottish birds.

I have recently compared extensive material from many parts of the species' range in the western Palaearctic and find that those from western Ireland and western Scotland and Isles differ sufficiently from the typical race to justify their separation under another name. In breeding dress they are slightly but constantly darker on the crowns, napes, and mantles, and have darker wings and tails. In the fresh autumn plumage the upper-parts are more earthen brown in tone, less reddish, than in the typical race from southern England and western European countries; this darkness is also very evident in juvenile birds, of which I have a good series in my collection.

As we must now recognize these extreme western populations of *S. communis* as a new race, it seems desirable to fix more precisely the type locality of *Sylvia communis* Latham (Gen. Syn. Suppl., 1: 287, 1787—*ex* Gen. Syn. II: 428, England). As Latham was for a great many years a medical practitioner in Kent we can perhaps fix the type-locality of his *S. communis* as Kent, south-eastern England.

Sylvia communis cinerea Bechstein, 1803, from Germany, is recognized by many German specialists. It can perhaps be retained to cover the slightly paler and grayer central and eastern European populations, but it should be noted that the color of the birds from the *terra typica* of *S. c. communis* (as designated above) is by no means constant, some birds from south-eastern England being almost as gray as German examples. The darkly colored populations from the extreme west discussed above are, however, separable in all plumages from *S. c. communis* in over 90 per cent of the specimens, and for them I introduce the name,

Sylvia communis jordansi, new subspecies.

This form is named in honor of my friend and colleague, Dr. Adolph von Jordans, Director of the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany.

TYPE: Adult male in breeding plumage; in the Clancey collection. Collected at Darnley, east Renfrewshire, south-western Scotland, on May 8, 1948.

DISTRIBUTION: Only certainly known from districts of western Ireland, the south-western, western, and central districts of Scotland, as well as the Inner Hebrides. ? Outer Hebrides. Winter quarters in Africa are not known.—P. A. CLANCEY, *Cathcart, Glasgow, S. 4., Scotland.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila c. caerulea,* in Sawyer County, Wisconsin.—The afternoon of June 15, 1949, while setting mammal traps along Ghost River where it crosses highway 77 in Sawyer County, I disturbed a female Downy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos pubescens,* which had young in a nearby stub. Her outcries drew an attack by a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The following morning, I collected the male, the skin of which is in the Zoology Department, University of Wisconsin. The testes were 5 millimeters in length. Though the nest was not located, all indications are that the bird was breeding. The presence of this species in latitude 46°+ extends considerably the hitherto known range in the Upper Great Lakes region.—A. W. SCHORGER, *168 N. Prospect Ave., Madison, Wis.*

The Races of *Lanius souzae* Bocage.—In his notes on a new race of Shrike, *Lanius souzae burigi* (Auk, 67: 241–242) which he has kindly allowed me to see before publication, Dr. James P. Chapin wrote that more material from Nyasaland, of which he had only a male available, should be examined and compared with skins from Angola, and that Nyasaland birds do not belong to this new race. The notes which follow supplement those by Chapin.

Due also to Dr. Chapin's kindness I have had the loan of this specimen from Nyasaland and of three males and three females from Angola, all in the American Museum of Natural History. I have also examined the following material in the British Museum: Angola, two females; Kasai, Belgian Congo, one female; Mumbwa, Northern Rhodesia, one male; Elisabethville, Belgian Congo, four females; Nyasaland and Furancungo, Portuguese East Africa, three males, five females; Uvinza district, Tanganyika Territory, one male, one female (these two also examined by Chapin, and identified as *L. s. burigi*).

Comparing the Nyasaland, Furancungo, Elisabethville and Mumbwa birds with the two from Uvinza, there is considerable individual variation within the former series. Several are scarcely separable from the Uvinza male, having just as little rufous on the lower back and little or no vermiculation; nor are they separable from the female, except that this latter is brownish on the crown and back, just as Chapin found in comparing it with a female from Lake Burigi. A female from Nyasaland and another from Elisabethville have the rufous on the posterior flanks just as extensive and bright. Consequently these more southern birds must also be attributed to *L. s. burigi,* at any rate until more material from Burigi or Uvinza, for example, is available. They are separable from those from farther west (Angola and Kasai) in much the same way as in Chapin's diagnosis of *L. s. burigi,* though some specimens are distinctly rufous brown on the lower back and vermiculated, but not so markedly, as in western birds.

The following measurements of wing and tail, in millimeters, illustrate a marked tendency to smallness, especially in wing-length, in the eastern part of the range of the species.