

ON A NEW FORM OF LUSCINIA DAVIDI (OUSTALET)  
FROM THE LI KIANG MTS., YUNNAN, CHINA.

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DURING my studies in the U. S. National Museum in 1925, I had the opportunity of examining a fine series of "*Calliope*" *davidi* Oustalet, consisting of 5 adult males, 1 female and 1 bird in the nestling plumage, which were collected by Dr. J. F. Rock in the Li Kiang Mts., in July 1923. By the courtesy of the authorities of the Museum, I received in exchange one male specimen for the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy. I had the precious specimen with me on my way home, and this gave me the unique opportunity, during my short stop in Paris, to compare the bird directly with the type and topotypes of *L. davidi*, from Ta tsien lu. I found that the Yunnan bird is distinct from the typical bird as might be expected, of course, but could not be ascertained by mere comparison with the figure of the type (in the Nouvelles Archives du Museum, IV<sup>me</sup> serie, T. 3<sup>me</sup>, Paris 1901, pl. 11). I call it

***Luscinia davidi gloriosa***

*Diagnosis:* Male differing from *L. davidi davidi* in having the breast and belly more whitish, less tinged with isabella, chin, throat and chest of a more red and brilliant hue; basal white of the tail more developed.

*Type:* Male adult, Li Kiang Mts., China, May 24, 1923, J. F. Rock, coll. U. S. National Museum, No. 297,006.

*Comparative description:* *L. davidi davidi:* Crown of the head, the whole upper side of the body, and wing coverts of a very dark bluish slate (darker than slate color, Ridgway II ed.); narrow frontal band, sides of the head with the ear coverts, and a broad band which runs from the ear coverts along the sides of the neck and terminates on the sides of the chest, of a deep jet black; sides of the neck, dorsally of the black band, with an ill-defined white patch; chin, throat, and chest bright orange chrome (in the original description, "rouge de Saturne," i.e. minium red; on the plate, the red hue much exaggerated); breast, belly, and under tail coverts strongly tinged with cinnamon buff, only the center of the belly narrowly whitish; flanks and tibia clay color; upper tail coverts black; rectrices black, all excepting the middle pair marked with white basally, the markings most

developed on the 3rd pair; middle pair black all over; 2nd pair with outer web white for about 6/10 from the base, inner web black or marked white just at the base; 3rd pair with outer web white for 7/10, inner web for 6/10, the black tip measuring 11-16 mm.; 4th pair with outer web white for about 1/2, inner web for 1/4; 5th pair white for 1/3 externally and 1/4 or less on the inner web; 6th pair marked only by a white wedge along the shaft at the very base. Wing 69-73; 10th ("first" or "abortive") primary projecting beyond primary coverts for 12-14 mm.; external web notched only on the 7th or 6th (or 4th and 5th) primary and very faintly on the next one, but not at all on the 8th (or 3rd) primary. Described from 5 specimens, Mus. Jardin des Plantes, Paris, all marked Ta tsien lu, Mgr. Biet, without any calendar date, but all freshly molted autumn birds. The type, marked (on the stand; original label not preserved) C.G. 1898, N 337, Ta tsien lu, Mgr. Biet, and another specimen, numbered 336, are mounted. In these the bright color of the chest is rather badly faded through constant exposure to the light, but in the remaining 3 specimens kept in the skin collection, the color is well preserved.

*L. davidi gloriosa*. Flanks cinnamon buff, the feathers rather dark pure gray (neutral gray, Ridgway) basally; breast and belly whitish, faintly tinged with pinkish buff; under tail coverts cinnamon buff, tibials grayish brown; chin, throat, and chest more fiery, between chrome orange and flame scarlet; black band running from the sides of the head to the sides of the chest of a deeper and more glossy hue; basal white of the tail more developed; 1st pair white basally, hidden by the coverts; 2nd and 3rd pair white on both webs for nearly 9/10, the black tip measuring 7-8 mm.; 4th pair white internally for 9/10, externally for 7/10; 5th pair white on the inner web for 7/10, on the outer web for 4/10; 6th pair with white wedge-shaped markings at the base; upper side colored as in *davidi*. Wing 73; proportions and notches of the quills as in *davidi*.

Described from 5 freshly moulted specimens, 4 in the U. S. National Museum, 1 now in the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences, all collected by J. F. Rock, in July, 1923. Exact localities on the labels: Li Kiang Mts.; Muang Hung Ko; between Yulo and Nguluko; and Heshwe, all localities on the Li Kiang Range.

The question of coloration in the female is complicated. In the U. S. National Museum series of Yunnan birds, the bird labelled as female is bluish slate above, pale olive buff below, with particolored tail as in the male. I am sure that it is really a female and not a young male because in *L. calliope* the scarlet throat is already assumed by the male in the first autumn, after the molt from the nestling plumage. Oustalet (l.c.) has described the female of *davidi* as similar to that of *L. calliope*, differing only by being darker above and more buffy beneath; and says that it is olive brown above with uniform olive brown tail. Hartert ("On some rare species of the genus *Larvivora* from China," *Ibis*, 1907, 621-623) describes the female of *davidi* as similar to that of *ruficeps* and generally again as a bird olive brown above with uniformly colored tail. In the 'Vögel der

paläarkt. Fauna,' Hartert quotes only the description by Oustalet. Neither of the authors refers to the proportions and notches of the primaries.

Unfortunately I did not examine the Tring specimens during my visit there. As to the Paris bird, it is darker and more neutral brown above than *calliope*, with less defined eyebrow stripe, and colored more below with buff, but generally much the same as *calliope* from Siberia. Wing proportions: 10th primary projecting beyond primary coverts by 8.5 mm.; outer web notched on the 8th, 7th, 6th (or in reverse order, 3rd, 4th and 5th) and very faintly on the following primary—also totally different from *davidi*, and much the same as in *calliope*; but the 9th primary is equal to the 2nd, whereas in the Siberian specimens of *calliope* the formula is 5, 9, 7 (or 6, 2, 4). Certainly, the form from Ta tsien lu is not *davidi*. It is, however, difficult to say what are the relationships of this bird. I think it is the local resident form of *calliope*, perhaps somewhat ill-defined; among the series of *calliope*, in the Zoological Museum I find 4 birds obtained in eastern Nan shun (exact localities Shi-koo, Shao-tzgan, and Min dan sha) late in spring and in summer, that have the wing formula 4, 9, 3 (or 7, 2, 8), the 9th (2nd) quill shorter than in Siberian birds, and the eyebrow stripes less developed. On migrations this locality is invaded by Siberian birds with more pointed wing.

*Adult female of gloriosa*.—Above bluish slate, lighter than in the male; forehead paler; sides of the neck with an ill-defined white spot as in the male; frenulum, fore part of the eyebrows, and sides of the head olive buff; under side, pale olive buff, chest darker, sides of the chest darker and more olive, throat paler, centre of the belly white; tail particolored, white markings less developed than in the male; middle pair of rectrices black, 2nd pair white on the basal 3/4 of the outer web only; 3rd pair white on both webs for about 3/4; 4th pair white also on both webs for about 2/3; 5th pair white only in the basal 1/4 of the inner web; the 6th marked only by a small white wedged shaped spot at the base.

*Nestling plumage of gloriosa*: Dark grayish olive brown above, indistinctly squamulated by darker edgings of individual feathers; very small light spots on the scapulars only; below lighter and more distinctly squamulated, individual feathers with dirty white centers and sooty brown edges; flanks brown, but little lighter than the back, feathers with lighter centers and sooty brown edgings.

Being uncertain as to the exact systematic position of *davidi*, I prefer to leave it in the rather heterogeneous assemblage which is comprised under *Luscinia* in Hartert's 'Vög. d. paläarkt. Fauna.' Surely, however, it is not a near relative of *calliope*, *pectoralis*, and *tschebaievi*, as already has been pointed out by Hartert (Ibis, 1907, l. c.).