

SUBDIVISION OF THE SPECIES *EMBERIZA RUSTICA*
INTO GEOGRAPHICAL RACES.

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A STUDY of the specimens in the collection of the Zoological Museum, Academy of Sciences, U. S. S. R., has convinced me of the existence of at least two geographical races, i. e. subspecies, of the Rustic Bunting.

1. *Emberiza rustica rustica* Pall.

In Pallas's 'Reise durch verschiedene Provinzen des Ruzsischen Reichs' St.-Pet., 1776, III, p. 698, occurs the following diagnosis: "Magnitudo Schaenicli. Caput nigrum, fasciis tribus longitudinalibus albis, quarum una per medium verticem, laterales supra-oculares; gula quoque alba. Cervix humerique ferruginei; Dorsum passerini coloris. Subtus alba, jugulo punctis testaceis. Rectrices utrinque 2 extimae oblique albae." In the above quoted, original description of Pallas the only reference to the distribution of the species is as follows: "In salicetis Dauriae jam Martio mense frequens." As the Rustic Bunting passes on migration from west to east and vice versa, it follows that the birds on passage met with in Dauria breed in the western portions of their range, and hence it may be assumed that the specimen described by Pallas was a migratory bird with a well marked stripe on the crown. This character would seem to denote a western specimen in which the crown is duller, being brown, not shining black, as in the eastern bird.

Description: Adult male.—Bill generally shorter, weak, with a narrower tip. From tip to anterior margin of nostril 77-84 mm. Wing 74-79 mm. Crown or "cap" brownish black, the feathers always bearing traces of buff on the edges, and tipped with white. Lores and ear coverts also tipped with whitish. On chin between rami of mandible there is very occasionally present a conspicuous tuft of black plumes, in most cases completely lacking. The bay tint of the crown depends upon the state of wear of the feathers,

but may be generally said to be of a more decided tone. Band across chest narrow, about 0.75 cm., its upper border sometimes marked with black, ill defined spots. Scapulars with very narrow median stripes. Bay streaks on flanks relatively not so well marked.

Female not so well distinguished. In most cases the bill is perceptibly weaker, band across chest narrower, markings on flanks fainter.

Juvenal birds are well characterised, being of a more vivid bay.

Range.—Breeding birds from the governments of Pskov, Lenin-grad, Olanets, Volagda and Archangel, as well as from the northern Ural (Telpos-is). This subspecies breeds likewise in the Altai. I having seen breeding birds from north-eastern Altai (divide between Kaizas and Kansas, sources of the Klyk) in the collection of the late P. P. Sushkin. Breeding specimens from the Krasnoyarsk district and the upper course of the Lower Tunguska (in the Kir-ensk district of the Irkutsk got, the Okshi range) are preserved in the Academy collection; specimens of birds on migration from all parts of the breeding range referred to, and also from the Minusinsk district, Nizhneudinsk, Irkutsk, Kultuk on the Baikal and Kulusutaevsk. South of this zone the Rustic Bunting is very seldom met with either on migration, or as a straggler. To such belong specimens from the Crimea, Moscow government, Buzuluk district of Samara gvt., Sterlitamak district of Upa gvt., the neighborhood of Orenburg, Omsk, Turgai province (lake Ak-tasty-kul), Tashkent district and Kulja. The April specimens from the extensive collection of L. M. Shulpin from the Ussuri I could not always identify correctly on account of the moulting of the crown feathers. Apparently birds of the preceding year don a new cap in spring, but whether that is the case with all individuals and relates to both subspecies I am unable to say.

2. *Emberiza rustica latifascia* subsp. nova.

Emberizae rusticae typicae, quae per Europam borealem Sibir-iamque occidentalem nidulat, simillima, sed rostra longiore, validiore, colore saturiore distinguenda est. Mas vertice capitis, laris tectricibusque aurium saturatis nec et fuscente atris; inter ramus mandibulae pilorum fasciculo nigro; pectore fascia latiore, in margine superiore et nigrescente maculosa cincto; hypochandrius valde

striatis differt. A flumine Lena usque ad Kamtschatkam et insulas Aleuticas nidulatur. Terra typica: Kamtschatka.

Typus: ♂ near Kluchi in Kamchatka 12. VI. 1909.

Paratypus: ♀ near Kluchi in Kamchatka 2. VI. 1909.

Description.—Adult male in nuptial plumage. Bill longer with wider tip. From tip to anterior margin of nostril 81–92 mm. Wing 76–82 mm. Crown pure black with scarcely perceptible bluish sheen as in *Penthestes palustris*. Lares and ear coverts of the same pure black. A conspicuous white streak above and behind the eye, but never extending forward above the lares. Between the rami of the mandible occurs a small tuft of black hairlike plumes. The bay of the crown inclines to terracotta rather than to russet. Band across the breast distinctly wider, about 1.2 cm. Its upper border usually shows several blackish spots. Scapulars with wider median stripes. The flanks are much more distinctly marked, the streaks being wider.

Female, especially the crown, darker than the typical form. Band across the breast wider. Markings on flanks better developed. Tip of bill wider.

Juvenal birds darker as is well evidenced from a comparison of series of specimens.

Range.—Breeding specimens from Yakutsk district, regions of Verkhoyansk and Verkhne-Kolymsk, Kamchatka, and Bering, Copper, St. Paul and Aleutian Islands.

Migratory birds from Taishet, Irkutsk gvt., Olekminsk, Ayan, Amur Province, Ussuri land, South China and Tsaicham.

Birds with mixed characters, i. e. transitional between the two subspecies, obtained during migration from the upper course of the Middle Tunguzka (the Katanga), neighborhood of Olekminsk, Kultuk on the Baikal, and the Little Khingan.

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