

Notes on Siamese races of *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*.—Messrs. Delacour and Greenway have recently published (*L'Oiseau et la Revue Française d'Ornithologie*, n. s., 10: 63–66 and map, 1940) a review of the distribution in French Indo-China of the subspecies of *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*, the Yellow-billed Scimitar-babbler.

In default of material from that area I am unable to pass judgment on the views there set forth, but believe that it may be of interest to add to their discussion certain opinions on the races occurring in Siam, developed after comparison of the excellent series in the U. S. National Museum with types or topotypes of all the pertinent forms at the British Museum in 1939. Inasmuch as, since 1928, the birds of Doi Suthep alone have been reported by various authors as *olivaceus*, *ripponi*, and *nuchalis*, it is evident that examination of types was in order. *Pomatorhinus s. klossi*, a highly saturate race restricted to the humid lowlands of southeastern Siam, and *humilis*, known in Thailand only from Nan province on the borders of Middle Laos, need merely be mentioned, since neither comes into contact, nor shows intergradation, with any more western form.

The races found in the hilly districts of western Siam are decidedly unstable but, with good series, may be separated by application of the 75% rule. At Kanburi, southwestern Thailand, occur individuals which cannot be distinguished from types or topotypes of *olivaceus*, *siamensis*, and *fastidiosus*! The last is probably recognizable in having an increased tendency to develop a blackish edging above the white supercilium. *P. s. siamensis* (1917) is a pure synonym of *olivaceus* (1847), which, within our borders, ranges from the Isthmus of Kra north as far as Raheng, beyond which it intergrades with *ripponi*.

P. s. ripponi (with type specimens from Pyaunggaung, Northern Shan States) is not certainly separable from *olivaceus* by color but may be distinguished by its lesser dimensions, especially its lighter, shorter bill. From *nuchalis* it may be known by its having the sides of the body olivaceous or pale rufous, whereas *nuchalis* has the rich chestnut of the sides of the neck continued unchanged to the lower flanks. *P. s. ripponi* reaches its eastern limit on the hills of the Khun Tan chain, whence eight out of nine birds agree perfectly with specimens from the Shan States. Westward, on the mountains of the Thanon Thong Chai range and in Me Hong Son province, are birds which are somewhat intermediate between *ripponi* and *nuchalis* in having the sides of the body more richly colored, but which are still nearer *ripponi*. Not until the Salwin is crossed do we find examples which are definitely more *nuchalis* than *ripponi*.

The type locality of *nuchalis* is not Thayetmyo, as alleged by authors, but "Karen hills," *vide* Wardlaw Ramsay, collector of the original series (*Ornithological Works of Arthur, Ninth Marquis of Tweeddale*, 1881, p. 669). To judge by the ample material in London, the name may properly be used *only* for the deeply colored population of the Sittang-Salwin watershed, which, northward and eastward, fades into *ripponi*, southward into *olivaceus*. An occasional Siamese specimen of *ripponi* has many of the breast-feathers with small rufous tips but this must be considered an individual variation without racial significance.—H. G. DEIGNAN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

New name for *Stachyris leucotis goodsoni*.—I propose the new name *Stachyris leucotis obscurata*, for *Stachyris l. goodsoni* Hartert (*Bull. British Ornith. Club*, 36: 7, 1915—Borneo), since it is preoccupied by the earlier *Stachyridopsis* (= *Stachyris*) *ruficeps goodsoni* Rothschild (*Bull. British Ornith. Club*, 14: 8, 1903—Hainan). *Stachyris leucotis obscurata* differs from typical *leucotis* (Malay Peninsula) by the

darker coloration of the head and the deeper rust-brown color of the back. The species has recently been discovered on Sumatra (*sumatrensis* Chasen, Treubia, 17: 184, 1939).—ERNST MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

White-winged Crossbills and Sitka Crossbills summering in the West Virginia spruce belt.—The summer of 1941 was a notable one for West Virginia bird students, due to the presence of large numbers of crossbills in the red-spruce (*Picea rubra*) forests which clothe many of the higher mountain ranges. The writers, accompanied by I. B. Boggs and Gene Frum, had opportunities to observe the birds during the second week of June, and at subsequent times during the summer.

On June 9, 1941, a trip was made to Dolly Sods fire-tower, a high point on the Allegheny backbone, where Tucker, Grant, and Randolph Counties, West Virginia, meet, with Pendleton County almost contiguous to the three others. Here a flock of White-winged Crossbills, numbering well over a hundred was seen. The birds were feeding on the flowers of the spruce trees, and were decidedly restless, never allowing a very close approach. They circled overhead a number of times during our stay at this point, and we were unable to determine that any but White-winged birds (*Loxia leucoptera*), were in this flock. Unfortunately, efforts to collect specimens were unsuccessful.

Later in the same day we visited Gaudineer Knob in the Cheat Range, where Randolph and Pocahontas Counties join. At this point Red Crossbills have been under observation for the last three years (see Auk, 57: 576-577, 1940). Almost immediately we saw a flock of 65 White-winged Crossbills which again kept out of our way. After they had fed for a time on the blossoms of the spruce trees we followed them with our glasses as they flew to another point a mile or so distant. On June 10, on the same mountain, we saw a smaller mixed flock of White-winged and Red Crossbills.

This constitutes the first known summer record for White-winged Crossbills in West Virginia, and the first State record of any kind for these birds since the winter of 1921. Although no specimen was secured, we saw the birds under circumstances which seem to justify the publication of this sight record. On June 9, 10, and 11, and again on various later dates in June and July, Red Crossbills were seen by various observers in the Gaudineer region.

From the mixed flock of White-winged and Red Crossbills (the birds were feeding at the top of a very high spruce tree) seen on June 10, a single bird was collected. Unfortunately it lodged near the top of the tree, and had to be shot down. The bird, an adult male Red Crossbill, was badly shot to pieces, but, luckily, the bill was uninjured, and it was possible to preserve the head and wings. From a small flock of Red Crossbills seen on the Pocahontas County side of Gaudineer Knob on June 11, two individuals, an adult male and an adult female, were taken. For critical determination these birds were submitted to Mr. Ludlow Griscom, who has kindly given us permission to quote from his findings. Under date of July 18, 1941, he writes (in part):

- "1. Adult female. Typical *minor* without a shade of doubt.
- "2. Adult male, coloration more scarlet, wing 82.8, culmen 15×8.8 , characteristic *minor* from the coast of southern British Columbia. The small and, above all, slender bill precludes its being the Appalachian Mountain subspecies.