

*Thaumalea amherstiae*, and were doubtless from the same locality—that is, from the slopes of the Yung-ling mountains beyond Ta-kien-leu, on the Chinese confines of Thibet. . . .”

These references, while not directly concerning *Nectarinia dabryii*, indicate that all birds with definite locality received from Msgr. Chauveau seem to have come from Ta-t sien-lu and it is important to note that almost wherever the name is used in them, it receives a new variant transliteration!

Assuming that the bird of Ta-t sien-lu must be called *Aethopyga gouldiae dabryii*, I find it impossible to distinguish between *dabryii* and *harrietae*; I suspect that the richness of the reds and the purity of the metallic blue vary directly with the freshness of the feathers in question and perhaps individually as well. Moreover, the examples placed under the latter name are, certainly in Thailand and probably in Laos (type locality), merely winter visitors from China.

The population of Hupeh have been named *bangsi* by Riley (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 38: 11, 1925); they seem to differ from *dabryii* in the duller red of the mantle, the less intense scarlet of the breast, and the sharper demarcation of the scarlet and yellow areas of the under parts, but here again we may be dealing with seasonal and individual variation and the validity of the race is not yet established.

For the loan of valuable material of *bangsi* and *harrietae*, I am indebted to the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.—H. G. DEIGNAN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**Popular subspecies.**—The public is sometimes just as keen on making fine distinctions among birds as are the systematic ornithologists. A very well-known illustration is the widespread belief that there are two kinds of Black Ducks. That opinion is reflected in a considerable number of local names, of which those available, that can be cited in contrasting pairs from the same regions, are here tabulated:

Locality	<i>Anas rubripes tristis</i>	<i>Anas rubripes rubripes</i>
Delaware	Nigger black duck	Red-paddle
Massachusetts	Green-legged black duck	Red-legged black duck
	Pond black duck	Bay duck
	Putty-legs	Redleg
	Spring black duck	October duck
	Summer black duck	Winter black duck
New Jersey	Grassy channel black duck	Sedge black duck
New York	Long-necked black	Short-necked black
Ohio	Little green-leg	Big winter Jackie
	Little green-legged Jackie	Red-legged Jackie
Rhode Island	Pond black duck	Sea duck
Nova Scotia	Beach duck	Ledge duck
	Inside duck	Outside duck

While this splitting was given taxonomic embodiment by William Brewster (Auk, 19: 183-188, 1902) and was incorporated in the A. O. U. Check-List (4th edition: 44, 1931), it was not accepted by Dwight who stated (Auk, 26: 422-426, 1909) that *rubripes* birds are the adults, and *tristis* individuals the immatures, of a single species. In this he was supported by Pirnie ('Michigan Waterfowl Management': 12, 1935) and Trautman (Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., 44: 179, 1940). The arguments for and against are reviewed by Kortright in his recent valuable book ("The

Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America': 168-170, 1942). Shortt (Wilson Bulletin, 55: 1-7, pl. 1, 1943) clearly shows that the coloration of the soft parts, which has been mainly relied upon for differentiation of the supposed subspecies, varies with age, sex, and eclipse, and he labels the evidence as tending to refute the existence of the subspecies.

The writer wishes to draw attention to two other examples among the waterfowl that should be investigated by systematists. In Missouri, a quarter of a century ago, he found a rather general conviction among sportsmen that two races of Mallards occur. The case resembles that of the Black Duck in that the popular names tend to contrast the characteristics of immaturity and lesser hardiness with those of maturity and greater stamina. The birds of the early fall flight were known by the names, red-legged mallard, redlegs, prairie mallard, and timber mallard; and those of the late flight as yellow-legged mallard, yellowlegs, frosty-beak, ice-breaker, ice duck, ice mallard, snow mallard, and twister.

The second instance, also from Missouri (vicinity of Kansas City) in the same period, was the report of the killing in older times of exceptionally large (*i. e.*, 14-16 pound) geese of the Canada type, which were thought to represent a distinct, and possibly an extinct, race. Roy N. Bach of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has favored me with information he has collected on large geese in that state. Some of it came from the well-known sportsman, the late Wm. B. Mershon, who reported as local to Kidder County in the 1880's a breed of Canada Goose ranging from 14 to 18 pounds in weight. Another correspondent, A. P. Paulson of Rogers, North Dakota, claims to have killed in 1886 and 1887 two honkers, weighing 18 and 21 pounds, respectively. Stanley Saugstad informs me that this "big goose" is also referred to by the vernacular name of 'Mershon goose.' Bird taxonomists are urged to give attention to these and other popularly conceived races. The northern plains goose seems even to have the geographic qualifications for a subspecies, but a complicating record should be noted. It refers to 17-pound birds shot in British Columbia in the 1860's (Mayne, R. C., 'Four Years in British Columbia and Vancouver Island': 418, 1862).—W. L. McATEE, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

**Comparative weights of northern and southern subspecies.**—Although it is known that most species of birds having an extensive north to south distribution are larger in the colder parts of their range (Bergmann's rule), actual measurements to this effect are few. Weight is probably the best measurement for this purpose, as it is proportional to general size, while the size of appendages may vary independently. The following weights of three Florida subspecies, secured during the period from March 30 to April 21, 1943, at the Archbold Biological Station (operated in co-operation with the American Museum of Natural History) near Lake Placid in southern Florida, are perhaps worth recording in this connection, although too few to give a very accurate average weight. For comparison, weights of northern races of the same species are added. The weights of northern Blue Jays and Grackles are of spring specimens in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. I am greatly indebted to Dr. J. Van Tyne for sending them to me. The weights of the Eastern Cardinal are from Ohio birds weighed during the period of March through June and recorded by Baldwin and Kendeigh (Auk, 55: 433, 1938). All weights are in grams.