

*Amphispiza bilineata*.—On August 8 and again on the 28th, Desert Sparrows were seen feeding fledged young near Saltillo.

*Spizella passerina arizonae*.—Two Western Chipping Sparrows were taken from a flock of four or five that were found near Las Delicias on August 17.

REFERENCES CITED

BRANDT, HERBERT W.

1936. Mexican Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura aura*) at Brownsville, Texas. *Auk*, 53: 325.

BURLEIGH, THOMAS D., AND LOWERY, GEORGE H., JR.

1942. Notes on the birds of southeastern Coahuila. *Occas. Papers Mus. Zoology, Louisiana State University*, No. 12.

RIDGWAY, ROBERT

1902. The birds of North and Middle America. *U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 50, part 2.

SUTTON, GEORGE MIKSCH, AND BURLEIGH, THOMAS D.

1939. A list of birds observed on the 1938 Semple Expedition to northeastern Mexico. *Occas. Papers Mus. Zoology, Louisiana State University*, No. 3.

1940. Birds recorded in the state of Hidalgo, México, by the Semple Expedition of 1939. *Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 28: 169-186.

VAN ROSSEM, A. J.

1934. Notes on some types of North American birds. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 7: 347-362.

1946. Notes on distribution and color of the Mexican Turkey Vulture. *Condor*, 48: 180-181.

*American Museum of Natural History*

New York, N. Y., and

113 Olive Road

Tucson, Arizona

---

THE RACES OF THE GRAY-HEADED FLYCATCHER  
[*CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS* (SWAINSON)]<sup>1</sup>

BY H. G. DEIGNAN

It is likely that no Oriental bird has been the subject of so many revisions, with so little agreement among the authors, as this little flycatcher. An instructive résumé of the conflicting results is given by Kuroda ('Birds of the Island of Java,' 1: 226-227, 1933).

Through the courtesy of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the American Museum of Natural History, I have added to the long series of the species in the U. S. National Museum to make a total of 262 adult specimens from virtually every part of its range; among them are six types of forms named by Oberholser and topotypes of most of those named by others.

It is my opinion, after careful and prolonged study of this material,

---

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

that the characters assigned to most of the putative races result from such factors as soiling, wear, and poor preparation viewed in too short series. So vague are the distinctions that I, myself, can see in the majority of populations, that I should find it quite impossible to describe them in words and am by no means certain that they are not largely subjective.

I admit five races of the species *ceylonensis*; four are more or less well defined, but the fifth, an intermediate scarcely worthy of recognition, is accepted simply because it does not really agree with anything else and happens to have a valid name already available.

### 1. *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea* Oberholser

"*Cryptolopha cinereocapilla* (Vieillot)" Hutton, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 17 (No. 2): 689, Dec. 1848 (Himalayas).—Nomen nudum!

*Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 76 (No. 6): 8, July 16, 1923 ("Quaymos, Choung, Thoungyin River" = "Quaymoo Choung" = the right bank of the Thoungyin River, at about lat. 17° 15' N., Amherst District, Tenasserim Division, Burma; see Deignan, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 186: 459, 1945).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis orientalis* Stuart Baker, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 44: 11, Nov. 5, 1923 (Szechwan Province, China).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis pallidior* Ticehurst, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 47: 108, Mar. 25, 1927 (Simla, Ambala District, Punjab Province, British India).

Eye ring white; upper half of head deep ashy gray; remaining upper parts golden olive green, more golden on the rump; remiges and rectrices blackish, edged externally with golden olive green; throat and upper breast pale ashy gray; remaining under parts golden yellow, suffused with olive.

*Range:* Northern India (from the Afghan frontier along the Himalayas to northeastern Assam); Burma (south to northern Tenasserim); Siam (north, northwest); China (Szechwan, Yunnan); Indochine (Tongking, Laos, Annam).

*Remarks:* The birds of southern Annam show approach to the following form, but are best kept under this name.

### 2. *Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha* Oberholser

*Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 76 (No. 6): 9, July 16, 1923 (Khao Soi Dao, peninsular Siam at lat. 7° 20' N., long. 99° 50' E.).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis meridionalis* Stuart Baker, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 44: 12, Nov. 5, 1923 ("Keo, Tung Song" = Sathani Thung Song, peninsular Siam at lat. 8° 10' N., long. 99° 40' E.).

More or less exactly intermediate between *calochrysea* and *ceylonensis* in depth of coloration.

*Range*: Indochine (Cochinchine, Cambodia); Siam (east, southeast, southwest, peninsula); Burma (southern Tenasserim); Malaya (north).

*Remarks*: Between the ranges of *calochrysea* and *ceylonensis* occurs a broad zone of intergradation; the birds of this area, a little too dark for *calochrysea*, a little too bright for *ceylonensis*, may conveniently be known by Oberholser's name, although they hardly deserve a special appellation. The range outlined above is only roughly correct, since just where *antioxantha* begins and leaves off must be largely a matter of opinion.

### 3. *Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis* (Swainson)

*Platyrrhynchus Ceylonensis* Swainson, Zoological Illustrations, (ser. 1) 1 (No. 3): pl. 13 and text, Dec., 1820 (Ceylon).

*Cryptolopha poioccephala* Swainson, in Jardine's Naturalist's Library, 21 [Ornithology, 10 (Flycatchers)]: 200, pl. 23, May 1838. New name for *Platyrrhynchus Ceylonensis* Swainson, 1820 (Ceylon).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis percnocara* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 60 (No. 7): 12, Oct. 26, 1912 (Simalur Island, Barussan Islands, Indian Ocean west of Sumatra).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis amphiala* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 60 (No. 7): 12, Oct. 26, 1912 (North Pagi Island, Barussan Islands, Indian Ocean west of Sumatra).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis pellowota* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 60 (No. 7): 12, Oct. 26, 1912 (Samasama, Nias Island, Barussan Islands, Indian Ocean west of Sumatra).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis pellopira* Oberholser, Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 87 (No. 6): 9, July 16, 1923 (Mount Gedeh, at elev. 4,500 ft., Priangan Residency, West Java Province, Java, Indonesia).

*Culicicapa ceylonensis eophila* Oberholser, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159: 58, 1932 (Gunong Ranay, Bunguran Island, Natuna Islands, South China Sea.)

Similar to *calochrysea*, but with the upper half of the head a darker, more slaty, gray, and the upper parts a deeper, less golden, olive green, much less golden on the rump.

*Range*: Ceylon; southern India; Malaya (south); Natuna Islands; Lingga Islands; Sumatra; Barussan Islands; Java; Bali; Borneo; Paláwan.

### 4. *Culicicapa ceylonensis connectens* Rensch

*Culicicapa ceylonensis connectens* Rensch, Treubia, 13: 378, Dec., 1931 (Mao Marru, Sumba Island, Indonesia).

Similar to *ceylonensis*, but with the throat and upper breast albescent.

*Range*: Sumba.

#### 5. *Culicicapa ceylonensis sejuncta* Hartert

*Culicicapa ceylonensis sejuncta* Hartert, Nov. Zool., 4: 526, Dec. 3, 1897 (southern Flores Island, Indonesia).

Similar to *connectens*, but with the throat and upper breast more or less strongly overlaid with golden yellow.

*Range*: Flores.

*U. S. National Museum*  
*Washington, D. C.*

---

### CYCLIC INVASIONS OF THE SNOWY OWL AND THE MIGRATION OF 1945-1946<sup>1</sup>

BY ALFRED O. GROSS

THE cyclic nature of Snowy Owl invasions is now recognized and the appearances of the owls in large numbers has been correlated with the periodic maximum of Arctic foxes and the lemming cycle in the north (Gross, 1931, 1946). It is therefore desirable to review the records of the past before considering the migration of Snowy Owls into New England in 1945-1946. As might be expected, the records of the earlier migrations are very fragmentary since field observers were fewer in number and there was no coöperative effort to obtain records over the entire invasion area as there is today. A certain number of the owls appear each year, at least in the northern sections of the invasion area, and the individual reports of local concentrations during ordinary years tend to obscure the more pronounced cyclic invasions. It is also obvious that at a time when the cyclic nature of the migrations was not recognized some, especially the less pronounced invasions, were not adequately reported. However, in various journals and publications there are recorded twenty-four dates between 1833 and 1945 during which major invasions occurred. These are by no means of uniform intensity and they vary as to the region and amount of territory covered.

It is confidently hoped that even earlier records will be discovered and that the evident gaps in the series of dates presented in the following table may be filled.

---

<sup>1</sup> Contribution Number 18, Bowdoin Scientific Station, Kent Island, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada.