

***Enanthe phillipsi* (Shelley) in Eastern Abyssinia.**—Slater ('Systema Avium Aethiopicarum,' 1930: 451) gives the known distribution of the Somali Wheatear, *Enanthe phillipsi* (Shelley), 1885, mountains near Berbera, as "British Somaliland (on the plateau); also recorded from Debbit (interior of Italian Somaliland)." This information would appear to be the present state of our knowledge of the distribution of this distinctive species.

During the course of a journey from Hargeisa, British Somaliland, to Mogadishu, Somalia (Italian Somaliland), in the company of Col. R. Meinertzhagen, I recorded this species from several localities in the southern Ogaden, Abyssinia. On March 5, 1949, I noted it as being quite common on suitable terrain in the upper valley of the Webi Shebeli. It was last noted at about the 300 kilometer mark on the military highway, north of Mogadishu.

This species favors low hills with sparse thorn scrub. It is a singularly undemonstrative species, rather "confiding" for a member of the genus *Enanthe*, but has all the other "engaging" mannerisms of the group. It perches very freely on and in trees and shrubs as well as on rocks, and does not seem to spend so much time on the ground as some other Wheatears.

The above records are the first for Abyssinian territory.—P. A. CLANCEY, *Cathcart, Glasgow, S. A., Scotland.*

**A Name for the Dark, Western Populations of the Palaearctic Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis* Latham.**—The Rev. J. M. McWilliam in his 'Birds of the Firth of Clyde' (Witherby, London, 1936: 52-53) quotes Eliot Howard and others in support of the view that the song of the whitethroat breeding in western Ireland and western Scotland differs appreciably from that of the English bird. McWilliam also draws attention on page 53 to the heavily blotched color of the eggs of western Scottish birds.

I have recently compared extensive material from many parts of the species' range in the western Palaearctic and find that those from western Ireland and western Scotland and Isles differ sufficiently from the typical race to justify their separation under another name. In breeding dress they are slightly but constantly darker on the crowns, napes, and mantles, and have darker wings and tails. In the fresh autumn plumage the upper-parts are more earthen brown in tone, less reddish, than in the typical race from southern England and western European countries; this darkness is also very evident in juvenile birds, of which I have a good series in my collection.

As we must now recognize these extreme western populations of *S. communis* as a new race, it seems desirable to fix more precisely the type locality of *Sylvia communis* Latham (Gen. Syn. Suppl., 1: 287, 1787—*ex* Gen. Syn. II: 428, England). As Latham was for a great many years a medical practitioner in Kent we can perhaps fix the type-locality of his *S. communis* as Kent, south-eastern England.

*Sylvia communis cinerea* Bechstein, 1803, from Germany, is recognized by many German specialists. It can perhaps be retained to cover the slightly paler and grayer central and eastern European populations, but it should be noted that the color of the birds from the *terra typica* of *S. c. communis* (as designated above) is by no means constant, some birds from south-eastern England being almost as gray as German examples. The darkly colored populations from the extreme west discussed above are, however, separable in all plumages from *S. c. communis* in over 90 per cent of the specimens, and for them I introduce the name,