

NOTES ON EASTERN CHINESE BIRDS

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DURING World War II, Glass was stationed in China in 1944 and had the opportunity of preserving 79 specimens of birds which were later donated to the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection.

Collecting was done at the following localities: Hengyang, Hunan, 26° 55' N., 112° 25' E.; Chihkiang, Hunan, 27° 15' N., 110° 05' E.; Linchuan (also listed as Shenkiutsi on some maps), Anhwei, 35° 02' N., 115° 21' E.; and Litsi, Anhwei, a small town about 50 miles south of Linchuan.

Hengyang is in the valley of the Siang River, in the heart of the "Rice Bowl." Most of the collecting was done in the vicinity of the military airfield, a place where flat ricefields alternate with rather steep-sided hills that are usually covered with a dense tangle of brush, tall grass and trees. Around all of the farms there are groves of trees, bamboo thickets and ponds, and in many places there are graveyards grown up to brush and trees. The autumn is dry in this region, but winter and spring are normally wet. In summer it is hot with many thunderstorms.

Chihkiang, about 100 miles west of Hengyang, is situated on the eastern edge of the great southwestern plateau of China. The elevation of the airfield is about 2,700 feet, but nearby mountains rise to 6,000 feet. The whole region is hilly, with much brush, and the only cultivated areas are in the narrow river valley and the tributary valleys which are even narrower. The weather in autumn and winter in this region is moist and foggy as a rule.

Linchuan and Litsi are both situated on the vast plain of north China commonly called the Honan Plain. Both of these towns are only a few miles from the eastern border of Honan Province. The soil there is deep, the climate dry except in midsummer, and the landscape flat and dusty; there are no hills. The land is almost entirely under cultivation, either in wheat, which is the winter and spring crop, or in other cereals during the summer. The only relief from the monotony of the landscape is in the groves of trees that are found around every village and cemetery and in the infrequent streams that cut deeply below the general level of the plain, a feature that made it possible to stalk ducks on this tremendous flat area.

A few observations were made in the summer of 1944 at the town of Lingling about 100 miles southwest of Hengyang, but circumstances prevented collecting of specimens there. There are also a few sight records for Kweilin, Kwangsi Province, and for Kunming, Yunnan.

We wish to recognize Dr. Herbert Friedmann and Mr. H. G. Deignan of the U. S. National Museum for assistance in identifying the collection and to express our appreciation of their courtesy in permitting Davis to make direct comparisons with Asiatic specimens in the museum. Insofar as possible we have followed Peters' 'Check-list of Birds of the World' in matters of taxonomy. La Touche's 'A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China' (issued in parts, 1925-1934) has been helpful in dealing with species not yet treated by Peters.

Ardea cinerea jowyi Clark, GRAY HERON.—One adult female, Linchuan, April 7, 1945. Taken from a nesting colony of approximately 12 pairs. Common resident.

Ardeola bacchus (Bonaparte), POND HERON.—One immature individual (sex not determined), Linchuan, May 24, 1945. Summer visitant.

Anser fabalis Swinhoe, BEAN GOOSE.—At Linchuan these were seen almost daily in winter. One collected, but later destroyed by house cat.

Casarca ferruginea (Pallas), RUDDY SHELDRAKE.—Seen once at Chihkiang in late fall, and several times near Linchuan in January, February, and March. None collected because the bird has goose-like habit of alighting in open wheatfields rather than on rivers. Only rarely seen on water.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos Linnaeus, MALLARD.—One adult male, Linchuan, February 15, 1945. Common in winter.

Anas crecca crecca Linnaeus, GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—One adult male, Linchuan, February 26, 1945. Common in winter.

Anas querquedula Linnaeus, GARGANEY TEAL.—One adult male, Linchuan, May 14, 1946. Observed only in spring.

Mareca penelope (Linnaeus), WIDGEON.—One adult male, Linchuan, May 2, 1945. Winter visitant and spring migrant.

Nyroca baeri (Radde), EASTERN WHITE-EYE DUCK.—One adult male, Linchuan, May 4, 1945. Winter visitant in this region.

Mergellus albellus (Linnaeus), SMEW.—One immature male, Linchuan, February 21, 1945. Winter visitant in this region.

Milvus lineatus lineatus (J. E. Gray), BLACK-EARED KITE.—One adult female, Hengyang, January 19, 1944. Commonest bird of prey in South China, at least in regions visited, where it is resident. These birds frequent villages and act as scavengers.

Accipiter nisus nisosimilis (Tickell), SPARROW HAWK.—One adult male, Litsi, January 15, 1945; one adult female, Linchuan, January 25, 1945. Winter visitant.

Aquila nipalensis nipalensis (Hodgson), ASIATIC EAGLE.—One adult male, Chihkiang, October 20, 1944. For about two weeks in October these large birds were seen every day in vicinity of Chihkiang. None seen at other seasons.

Falco tinnunculus japonensis Ticehurst, KESTREL.—One adult female, Chihkiang, November 8, 1944. Winter visitant.

Falco amurensis Radde, RED-LEGGED FALCON.—One immature male, Chihkiang, November 6, 1944. Probably migrant in this vicinity.

Microsarcops cinereus (Blyth), GRAY-HEADED LAPWING.—One adult female, Linchuan, March 30, 1945. Spring migrant.

Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus Linnaeus, KENTISH PLOVER.—Two adult males, Hengyang, February 26, 1944. Winter visitant.

Charadrius placidus Gray, LONG-BILLED RINGED PLOVER.—One adult female, Hengyang, February 26, 1944. Probably resident.

Tringa ochrophus Linnaeus, GREEN SANDPIPER.—One adult male, Chihkiang, October 17, 1944. Seen on several occasions in fall and winter—always solitary.

Erolia temminckii (Leisler), TEMMINCK'S STINT.—One adult female, Linchuan, April 27, 1945. Winter visitant.

Erolia alpina sakhalina (Vieillot), DUNLIN or RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—One female, Hengyang, February 20, 1944. Winter visitant.

Streptopelia orientalis orientalis (Latham), TURTLE DOVE.—One adult male, Linchuan, April 20, 1945. Summer visitant and commonest dove on Honan Plain during summer. Nesting pairs may be identified by peculiar towering ascent in flight and the fixed-wing, gliding descent to vicinity of nest.

Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis (Temminck), RUDDY TURTLE DOVE.—One adult male, Linchuan, May 18, 1945. Summer visitant.

Streptopelia chinensis chinensis (Scopoli), SPOTTED-NECK DOVE.—One adult male, Hengyang, January 30, 1944. Resident species at Hengyang and was seen at all other places where collecting was done. At Linchuan it was only dove seen during colder months, whereas the other two species, *S. t. humilis* and *S. o. orientalis*, were summer visitants only. At Chihkiang this species was very abundant.

Glauclidium cuculoides whitelyi (Blyth), BARRED OWLET.—One adult male, Chihkiang, December 10, 1944. Apparently resident.

Asio otus otus (Linnaeus), LONG-EARED OWL.—One adult male, Litsi, January 16, 1945. A colony of approximately 15 was found living in cedar trees surrounding small village near Litsi. They roosted among branches, both in groves and in solitary trees. Winter visitant.

Alcedo atthis bengalensis Gmelin, LITTLE BLUE KINGFISHER.—One adult male, Hengyang, February 7, 1944. This bird is common throughout rice-growing regions of China. It was often seen at Hengyang where it is resident.

Ceryle lugubris (guttulata Stejneger ?), PIED KINGFISHER.—Although no specimens were taken, this kingfisher was seen on numerous occasions at Hengyang in winter, and a hole in a bank overhanging a farm pond was occupied by these birds. Also observed along Siang River at Lingling in summer of 1944. Resident.

Upupa epops saturata Lönnberg, HOOPOE.—One adult male, Linchuan, March 21, 1945. Migrant in this part of China. Observed in previous years at Peiping, Hopei, where it was apparently nesting.

Dendrocopos canicapillus scintilliceps (Swinhoe), SPARK-HEADED WOODPECKER.—One male, Hengyang, March 23, 1944; one male, Linchuan, January 25, 1945. The most frequently observed woodpecker in areas visited. Resident.

Alauda arvensis intermedia Swinhoe, SKYLARK.—One female, Litsi, January 16, 1945. This specimen is somewhat paler than the average of *intermedia*. Birds were present in small flocks wherever wind had swept ground clear of snow. Winter visitant.

Hirundo rustica gutturalis Scopoli, BARN SWALLOW.—One adult male, Linchuan, March 31, 1945. These birds often build mud nests on rafters inside native houses, utilizing doors and windows for entrance and exit. Summer visitant in this region.

Dicrurus macrocercus cathoecus Swinhoe, BLACK DRONGO.—One adult female, Chihkiang, October 17, 1944. Also observed nesting at Linchuan in April, 1945.

Oriolus sinensis indicus Jerdon, BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE.—One adult male, Linchuan, May 21, 1945. Summer visitant. Also seen at: Lingling in August, 1944, when young were off nest, but not willing to fly; Hengyang in May and June, 1944; and Chihkiang in September, 1944.

Coloews dauuricus dauuricus Pallas, COLLARED JACKDAW.—One adult male, Linchuan, February 21, 1945. Winter visitant. These birds were also common at Kunming, where they are found in same flocks with the all-black form. Both color phases were seen at Linchuan, but in small numbers and only in winter and spring.

Pica pica sericea Gould, MAGPIE.—One adult female, Hengyang, February 7, 1944. The Black-billed Magpie is second in abundance to House Sparrow, *Passer montianus*, in all areas of China visited. Resident and thrives in areas of dense human population.

Urocissa erythrorhyncha erythrorhyncha Boddaert, RED-BILLED MAGPIE.—One adult male, Chihkiang, December 8, 1944. Resident.

Cyanopica cyana swinhoi Hartert, AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE.—One female, Linchuan, January 25, 1945. Resident.

Corvus torquatus Lesson, COLLARED CROW.—One adult male, Hengyang, February 20, 1944. Commonest crow at Hengyang, far outnumbering Jungle Crow, *Corvus coronoides*, none of which was taken. The latter was more abundant at Chihkiang where few Collared Crows were seen.

Corvus corone orientalis Eversmann, CARRION CROW.—One female, Linchuan, February 9, 1945. Often seen feeding in flocks composed of both crows and rooks. Do not seem to have habit of living in large flocks close to human habitations as do the latter. Winter visitant.

Corvus frugilegus pastinator Gould, ROOK.—One male, Litsi, January 16, 1945. Most villages in central China have flocks of rooks that nest in trees and scavenge in fields near by. Resident.

Suthora webbiana webbiana Gray, CROW-TIT.—One male, Hengyang, February 7, 1944. Common from February to May near Hengyang. Also seen at Chihkiang from October to December. Travel in large winter flocks and frequent bushy thickets where they are difficult to see, even though numerous.

Parus major artatus Thayer and Bangs, GREAT TIT.—One male, Chihkiang, October 29, 1944. Also common at Linchuan. Resident.

Parus cinereus commixtus Swinhoe, GRAY TIT.—Common in vicinity of Hengyang and Chihkiang, but no specimens collected. Resident.

Aegithaliscus concinnus concinnus (Gould), RED-HEADED TIT.—One adult female, Hengyang, February 26, 1944. Encountered only twice, in winter, in dense brush and grass of an uncultivated hillside near Hengyang in February and near Chihkiang in November, 1944.

Sitta europaea sinensis Verreaux, EUROPEAN NUTHATCH.—Seen only once—in hostel yard at Lingling in August, 1944. No specimens collected.

Alcippe dubia genestri Oustalet, WHITE-THROATED TIT-BABBLER.—One female, Chihkiang, October 29, 1944. This specimen constitutes a considerable northward extension of range and a new record for eastern China.

Garrulax perspicillatus perspicillatus Gmelin, BLACK-FACED LAUGHING THRUSH.—One male, Litsi, January 15; one female, Linchuan, February 3. Also seen at Hengyang in February and at Chihkiang in November, 1944. Resident.

Spizixos semitorques semitorques Swinhoe, COLLARED BULBUL.—One adult female, Hengyang, March 23, 1944. Encountered only twice, in March and April. Birds were in association with the Chinese Bulbul, *Pycnonotus sinensis*, in bamboo thicket near Hengyang.

Pycnonotus sinensis sinensis Gmelin, CHINESE BULBUL.—One male, Hengyang, January 15, 1944. Encountered in fall and winter at Hengyang and in summer at Lingling and Kweilin.

Turdus merula mandarinus (Bonaparte), BLACK THRUSH.—One male, Hengyang, January 30, 1944. Resident at Hengyang. Habits are similar to those of American Robin except that in winter they were not observed in flocks.

Turdus eunomus Temminck, SPOTTED THRUSH.—One male, Linchuan, April 27, 1945. Winter visitant.

Turdus naumanni naumanni Temminck, RED-TAILED THRUSH.—One female, Litsi, January 19, 1945; one female, Linchuan, February 7, 1945. Apparently winter visitant in central and southern China.

Saxicola torquata stejnegeri (Parrot), COLLARED STONECHAT.—One adult male, Hengyang, February 7, 1944. Seemingly winter visitant, although La Touche ('A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China,' 1925: 154) records it as migrant in Lower Yangtse Valley.

Phoenicurus auroreus auroreus (Pallas), DAURIAN REDSTART.—One male, Hengyang, February 20, 1944; one male, Chihkiang, October 29, 1944; one female, Linchuan, March 28, 1945. Common winter visitant at above localities.

Rhyacornis fuliginosa fuliginosa (Vigors), WATER REDSTART.—One adult male, Chihkiang, November 10, 1944. Apparently resident in area visited.

Prinia polychroa parumstriata (David and Oustalet), HILL WARBLER.—One male, Hengyang, January 16, 1944. Seemingly a new record for eastern China—not reported by La Touche ('Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China,' 1925-27).

Terpsiphone paradisi incei (Gould), PARADISE FLYCATCHER.—One adult female, Hengyang, April 24, 1944. Summer visitant at Hengyang, arriving about middle of April. A nest was found in tree in hostel yard in May. Both brown and white color phases of males were seen near Hengyang, the white ones more frequently, possibly because of their conspicuousness. Also were nesting at Chenhsien (50 miles south of Hengyang). We have sight records for Lingling (August) and Linchuan (April).

Anthus spinoletta japonicus Temminck and Schlegel, WATER PIPIT.—One female, Linchuan, March 23, 1945. Winter visitant.

Motacilla alba leucopsis Gould, WHITE-FACED WAGTAIL.—One male, Chihkiang, October 17, 1944. Also observed on numerous occasions at Hengyang during winter and spring.

Lanius bucephalus Temminck and Schlegel, BULL-HEADED SHRIKE.—One female, Hengyang, February 7, 1944. Winter visitant.

Lanius schach schach Linnaeus, RED-BACKED SHRIKE.—One female, Hengyang, January 19, 1944. Resident.

Acridotheres cristatellus cristatellus (Linnaeus), CRESTED MYNA.—One male, Hengyang, January 19, 1944. Present in large, noisy flocks at Hengyang and Kweilin in fall and winter; seen at Lingling in summer, but not in flocks—prized cage bird among Chinese.

Sturnus cineraceus Temminck, GRAY STARLING.—One male, Chihkiang, December 10, 1944; one female, Litsi, January 18, 1945. Always seen in flocks of 30 or more.

Sturnus sericeus Gmelin, SILKY STARLING.—One male, Hengyang, February 23, 1944. Seen only twice, both times at Hengyang, in large, closely organized flocks so that the temporary impression was of extreme abundance. Frequented tall trees around farm houses. Apparently winter visitant at this locality.

Zosterops japonica simplex Swinhoe, JAPANESE SILVER-EYE.—One female, at Hengyang, a cage bird. Observed in wild at Lingling in August where a flock frequented trees in hostel yard. Probably resident.

Passer montanus taiwanensis Hartert, TREE SPARROW.—One male, Hengyang, January 11, 1944. Common resident at all localities visited, occurring in flocks in winter.

Coccothraustes coccothraustes japonicus Temminck and Schlegel, JAPANESE HAWFINCH.—One female, Linchuan, January 28, 1945. Observed occasionally in January and February. Winter visitant.

Eophona migratoria sowerbyi Riley, BLACK-TAILED HAWFINCH.—One female, Hengyang, January 19, 1944. Winter visitant at Hengyang, in small flocks around farm houses. Prized by Chinese as pet.

Chloris sinica sinica (Linnaeus), CHINESE GREEN FINCH.—One adult female, Hengyang, January 19, 1944. Resident. Nesting at Hengyang in April.

Emberiza aureola ornata Shulpin, YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING.—One female, Chihkiang, October 17, 1944; in flock of about 25. Seemingly migrant.

Emberiza pusilla Pallas, LITTLE BUNTING.—One male, Hengyang, January 19, 1944; one female, Chihkiang, October 24, 1944. Winter visitant.

Emberiza rustica Pallas, RUSTIC BUNTING.—One male, Linchuan, February 18, 1945. Winter visitant.

Emberiza cioides castaneiceps Moore, MEADOW BUNTING.—One male, Chihkiang, October 17, 1944. Sight records for Hengyang, June, 1944, and Kweilin, July, 1944. Resident.

Fringilla montifringilla Linnaeus, BRAMBLING.—One male, Litsi, January 19, 1945. Winter visitant in central China.

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