

A Juba River Race of Klaas's Cuckoo.—Until G. L. Bates (1937, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 57: 150) described *Chrysococcyx klaasi arabicus* from Asir, Arabia, it was generally agreed that Klaas's Cuckoo could not be divided into geographic races. Some variation in size was evident, but this was not at all clear-cut. The coloration in general is the same from the Gambia to South Africa (the type locality).

Some time ago Dr. V. G. L. van Someren lent me two adult males and two females from the Juba River, which in his opinion differed noticeably from most other birds collected in eastern Africa. Comparison of these specimens with extended series of *C. klaasi* in the American Museum of Natural History, and the British Museum too, has convinced me that these four birds from Somalia (two females and a male from Serenli, one male from Hillesheid) do differ sufficiently to be distinguished trinomially, and I propose for them the name.

***Chrysococcyx klaasi somereni*, new subspecies**

Type: A.M.N.H. No. 704,637, adult male, Hillesheid, Juba River, southern Somalia, July 1922. Wing 96, tail 72, culmen from base 18.5 mm.

Diagnosis: In the males, the most conspicuous character is the white outer edging of the greater and middle wing coverts, the secondaries, and the primaries as well. The glossy green patches extending down the sides of the fore-neck to the chest are reduced in extent, and the green stripe down the outside of the tibial feathering also seems narrow. The pattern of the outer rectrices is about the same as in *C. k. klaasi*, not dark on the outer webs as stated for *C. k. arabicus* by Bates.

The females of *somereni* are lighter in general coloration than those of nominate *klaasi*, the barring of chest and flanks is decidedly narrow and the darker patches that usually extend down to the sides of the chest are faint, washed out, and entirely broken up by buff or whitish barring. On the upper surface of the wings the usual brown barring shows a tendency to become whitish at the outer edges of the feathers. The outer rectrices of these two females have much the same pattern as those of females from Abyssinia.

Remarks: The wing of the male from Serenli measures 97; the tail, 67; the culmen to base, 17 mm. The two females from Serenli have wings 97 and 99 mm., tails 69 and 70, and culmen from base 18 in both.

It should be pointed out that white edgings on the upper surface of the wings are very occasionally present in males from Southern Rhodesia and the Transvaal.

The wings are longer (100 to 106 mm.) in South African males. Two males from Roka and the Northern Guaso Nyiro in Kenya Colony show scarcely any approach in color to *C. k. somereni*, but are short-winged (91 and 94 mm.). Not much emphasis can be placed on size, however, for West African birds average slightly smaller than those of South Africa.

Skins from Ethiopia and British Somaliland are typical *klaasi*, so the range of *somereni* seems to be restricted to the Juba River region of Somalia and perhaps the immediately adjacent portions of Kenya Colony.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *c/o* IRSA C, Boite Postale 217, Bukavu, Kivu, Belgian Congo.

House Martin and Swift from Ascension Island. In February 1947, I received a skin of the House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) from Mr. G. Addison-Williamson. He had secured the bird by hand as it perched, completely exhausted, on a piece of machinery on the dock at Georgetown, Ascension Island. This was on November 2, 1946. A ship had arrived that morning from England, but it is doubtful whether a swallow would find it advantageous to stay with a ship for any length of time. The specimen is now number 343,884 in the collection of the American Museum of