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On the Origin of Some Birds Collected by George Such, and the Type Localities of Several Forms

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In the early part of 19th century, George Such (1798–1879), an English medical doctor and member of the Linnean Society of London, collected and described some birds from eastern Brazil (Foster 1888, Wynne 1966). During his stay in Brazil, Such was in contact with William Swainson and Nicholas Vigors, two of the prominent ornithologists of that time. In two articles published in the *Zoological Journal of London* in 1825, Such described the genus *Gubernetes* and 11 species of birds, but only *Ardea fasciata* (= *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, Fasciated Tiger-Heron) and *Thamnophilus leachii* (= *Mackenziaena leachii*, Large-tailed Antshrike) have been maintained (see Appendix for the complete list).

The geographic origin of the material collected by Such is established in the following section of one of the above-mentioned articles (Such 1825a): "The situation to which I allude is that broad mountainous belt which forms the skirt of the table land of Brazil, at that part, where it rises from the low plains of Goaytacazes to the elevated surface of the Province of Minas Geraes." The "plains of Goaytacazes" were well known as the territory of the indigenous Goaytacazes (or similar spelling), which included the lowland from the Rio Macaé to the Rio Itabapoana (dominated by Lagoa Feia), and the mouth of the Rio Paraíba do Sul near "Vila de São Salvador dos Campos dos Goytacazes" in northern Rio de Janeiro state (Ayres de Casal 1817, Wied 1940). Campos dos Goytacazes is still the major population center of this region, and for at least the past 100 years it has been known simply as "Campos" (Moreira Pinto 1894).

In Such's day, the region to the north and west of Campos (where the land rises toward Minas Gerais) was virtually uninhabited (Moreira Pinto 1894, Such 1825a) and must have been very difficult of access. There existed two "roads" to the west of Campos, the "Caminho do Paraíba," which led to present-day Sõo Fidẽlis and doubtfully as far west as Santo Antonio de Pádua, and the "Caminho Campista do Muriaé," which linked Campos with Itaperuna (Lamego 1963: map p. 24). Both roads were entirely within the state of Rio de Janeiro, and they followed the river valleys of the same names at elevations of less than 200 m. Before about 1833, the only links between the states of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais were probably through Petrópolis and Cantagalo (Lamego 1963). Thus, Such's locality of collection may be narrowly defined as the upland region that lies just west of the plain upon which Campos is situated, and well within the borders of the state of Rio de Janeiro. Such also collected three other valid species that were described by others. The type localities for most of these species have been controversial and always in some doubt. We discuss each of them below.

Fasciated Tiger-Heron (Tigrisoma fasciatum) (*Such 1825*).—Citing his correspondence with E. Eisenmann, Pinto (1964) considered *fasciatum* a species distinct from *T. lineatum* (Rufescent Tiger-Heron) and arbitrarily proposed "Rio Grande do Sul" as the type locality. In his work on tiger-herons in Argentina, Eisenmann (1965) clarified the specific status of *fasciatum* and, citing Such (1825a), established the provenance of the type as "the mountainous region of the state of Rio de Janeiro above the low plains of Goyatacazes (= vicinity of Campos, *fide* O. Pinto)." Although Pinto (1978) maintained Rio Grande do Sul as the type locality for *fasciatum* and did not admit Rio de Janeiro in the distribution of the species, Eisenmann's (1965) view is now universally accepted.

Pale-browed Treehunter (Cichlocolaptes leucophrus) (*Jardine and Selby 1830*).—This furnariid was described from material collected by Such, and the type locality "Minas Gerais" was proposed, with reservations, by Hellmayr (1915) and followed by Pinto (1938). Peters (1951) left the type locality as "Brazil" and did not include Minas Gerais in the range of the species. More recently, Pinto (1978) designated the type locality as "leste de Minas Gerais" (i.e. eastern Minas Gerais), confusing George Such with "Dr. Schüch Capanema," who was a famous Brazilian scientist born in Minas Gerais in 1824 (Sacramento Blake 1895). There are no published specimens of *C. leucophrus* from Minas Gerais, although the species has been found in that state recently (Mattos et al.1993).

Large-tailed Antshrike (Mackenziaena leachii) (*Such 1825*).—Cory and Hellmayr (1924) were fairly specific in their designation of the type locality for this species as "vicinity of Goaytacazes (= Campos), Prov. Rio de Janeiro." This designation has not been challenged and is an important factor in delimiting the type locality of the other forms under question (see below).

Eastern Slaty Antshrike (Thamnophilus [punctatus] ambiguus) *Swainson 1825*.—Cory and Hellmayr (1924) stated "we have to consider the vicinity of Campos, on the confines of the states Minas and Rio de Janeiro" as the type locality, although recognizing that Swainson based his description on "two birds brought to England from Minas Geraes by Dr. Such." Pinto (1978) further defined the type locality as near Campos in

northern Rio de Janeiro state. Peters (1951) cited "Hellmayr" for the type locality as "the vicinity of Campos, on the border between the states of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro." Isler et al. (1997) elevated *ambiguus* to species rank.

Such's Antthrush (Chamaeza meruloides) *Vigors 1825.*—Originally described from material collected by Such, the validity of this species was recently clarified by Willis (1992) who, however, did not propose a type locality for *meruloides*. Notwithstanding that the type specimen apparently is lost, leaving as evidence with which the name may be supported two descriptions (including the original) and a painting reproduced in Jardine and Selby (1826, Willis 1992), it is important to establish the type locality as accurately as possible. Raposo and Teixeira (1992) proposed "Teresópolis, Rio de Janeiro" as the type locality for *meruloides*, without mention of the collector or the probability of the type having been taken at any particular locality, including Teresópolis.

Discussion.—In attempting to determine the provenance of specimens without data, or with dubious data, or even in cases where a known specimen no longer exists, it is necessary to research the itinerary of the collector (if such is known) and the cultural history of the region, as closely as they may be defined. Only in this manner is it possible to make a reasonable judgement as to the origin of collected material not unambiguously accompanied by locality data. In cases in which original material is lost or type localities are not known with an acceptable degree of precision (e.g. "Brazil"), the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1985: article 72-h) recommends that the type locality be established on: (1) collector's notes, itinerary, and personal communications; (2) the original description of the taxon; and (3) as a "last resort and without prejudice to other clarification, localities within the known range of the taxon . . ." In the case of the material collected by George Such, determination of his principal collecting locality, the only one he or his contemporaries ever described, is relatively straightforward. Beyond Such's published correspondence (1825a, b; the latter obviously written in Brazil) to "The Conductors of the Zoological Journal" (then edited by N. Vigors) in which he described the place in which he worked, evidence for an exact locality lies in his collection of *Mackenziaena leachii*. At this latitude, *M. leachii* occurs only above about 900 m elevation (pers. obs.). In relation to Campos, then, the closest localities to the west (toward what Such [1825a] termed "the elevated surfaces of the Province of Minas Geraes") and at the appropriate elevation for *M. leachii* are the far northern end of the Serra do Mar (30 km W), the Pico da Bandeira region of Espírito Santo (170 km NNW), and the southern reaches of the Serra do Espinhaço in Minas Gerais (290 km NW). Because the latter two areas are remote from Campos and probably were not even accessible from that center until sometime later in the 19th century (Lamego 1963), the collecting locality may be restricted almost without doubt to the northern extreme of the Serra do Mar. We suggest a more precise designation for the type locality of *M. leachii* as the Serra do Imbé (ca. 21°46'S, 41°37'W), the spur of the Serra do Mar closest to Campos.

Such (1825a) stated that he collected at the point where the land rises above the coastal plain to the highlands of Minas Gerais. Although we know of no evidence that Such worked in Minas Gerais, some of his material (e.g. *Cichlocolaptes leucophrus* and *Thamnophilus* [*punctatus*] *ambiguus*) has been designated from there apparently based upon misinterpretation of the above statement. The impossibility of knowing the border between Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais (which even today is difficult to determine in the field) probably contributed as well. It is certainly possible that Such collected in the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro, through which he must have passed to reach the Campos area. There exists, however, no evidence of his collecting or buying specimens near Rio or in any region outside of the vicinity of Campos.

We propose the Serra do Imbé as the type locality for *Tigrisoma fasciatum, Cichlocolaptes leucophrus, Mackenziaena leachii, Thamnophilus* [*punctatus*] *ambiguus*, and *Chamaeza meruloides*. All of these species still exist in this region (pers. obs.), with the possible exception of *T. fasciatum*, which we have not found there and for which there are few records anywhere in Brazil (Yamashita and Valle 1990, Straube 1991). The far northern sector of the Serra do Mar, including the Serra do Imbé, is within the 22,500-ha Desengano State Park. Although it is poorly protected, this reserve still contains much forest above about 800 m and some large patches at lower elevations (pers. obs.) and, thus, safeguards to some extent topotypical populations of these species. Given that the type of *Chamaeza meruloides* is lost (Willis 1992), a neotype should be collected from the Serra do Imbé (as recommended by ICZN 1985: article 75). Of the other four species, it seems that only the type of *C. leucophrus* is extant (Warren and Harrison 1971); thus, collection of neotypes of the pertinent species from the Serra do Imbé also is recommended. As noted by Willis (1992), a catalog of the locations of type and neotype specimens of birds, with indication for those that are considered lost, would be useful.

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Appendix. Names of birds proposed by George Such.

Such (1825a)	
Thamnophilus swainsonii	= *Mackenziaena severa*
Thamnophilus maculatus	= *Hypoedaleus guttatus*
Thamnophilus vigorsii	= *Batara cinerea*
Thamnophilus niger	= *Mackenziaena leachii*
Drymophila variegata	= *Drymophila ferruginea*
Such (1825b)	
Galbula ceycoides	= *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla*
Gubernetes cunninghami	= *Gubernetes yetapa*
Dendrocolaptes crassirostris	= *Xiphocolaptes albicollis*
Dendrocolaptes fortirostris	= *Dendrocolaptes platyrostris*