



DURBAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Issued by the Durban Museum, Durban, South Africa

VOL. VIII

ISSUED 27TH FEBRUARY, 1970

PART 17

MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS XXVIII

by

P. A. CLANCEY

(Director, Durban Museum, Durban)

THE RACES OF THE EUROPEAN SWALLOW WINTERING IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

In her recent survey of European Swallows *Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus ringed in southern Africa and recovered on the Palaearctic breeding grounds, or in the Palaearctic and recovered in the south of Africa, Rowan, *Ostrich*, vol. xxxix, 2, 1968, pp. 76-84, shows that birds breeding from between 10° W. long. and 95° E. long. in the Palaearctic winter south in the Ethiopian Region to the Republic of South Africa. All ringing records to-date seem to fall within the stated breeding limits of nominate *H. rustica* Linnaeus, 1758: Sweden, which according to Vaurie, *Birds of the Palearctic Fauna*, vol. i (Passeriformes), 1959, p. 9, ranges east as far as the Yenisei Basin south of about 64° N. lat., the western aspects of the Altai, Sinkiang, and Sikkim, to the north of India. That birds breeding still further east in the Palaearctic reach southern Africa on migration has recently been suggested by the discovery in series of *H. rustica* in the collections of southern African museums of specimens which show the characters generally attributed to the taxon *H. r. gutturalis* Scopoli, 1786: Antigua, Panay, Philippines. In the subspecies *gutturalis* the chestnut of the throat patch is paler and variably bled

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A FURTHER SUBSPECIES OF *LANIUS SOUZAЕ* BOCAGE

Lanius souzae Bocage, 1878: Caconda, Huila, Angola, is a small sombre-coloured, thin-tailed shrike of the miombo of the Congo-Brazzaville, Angola, the southern Kasai and Katanga, Congo-Kinshasa, Zambia, Malawi, western Tanzania, and Rwanda and Burundi. Following on the studies of Chapin (*vide Auk*, vol. lxxvii, 1950, p. 241), two races are currently admitted by systematists, these being nominate *souzae*, which is generally considered as ranging from Congo-Brazzaville and Angola, east to the southern Congo, Zambia, Malawi, and adjacent Moçambique (Furancungo), and *L.s.burigi* Chapin, 1950: between Usuvi, north-western Tanzania, and Kisaka, eastern Rwanda, apparently restricted to north-western Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. It should, however, be noted that Rand, in Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World*, vol. ix, 1960, p. 343, extends *burigi* south in the east to southern Malawi, eastern Zambia and adjacent northern Moçambique. Recently the species has been collected and observed in northern South-West Africa and collected in northern Botswana. The subspecific status of these latter records has not been adequately resolved, though they have been associated with the nominotypical race. While Rand, in 1960, grouped the eastern Zambian, Malawian and northern Moçambique populations in with *burigi*, Chapin, the describer of the said race, believed they were better left with nominate *souzae* (see also Chapin, *Birds of the Belgian Congo*, part iv, 1954, pp. 76, 77. Benson and White, in the *Check List of the Birds of Northern Rhodesia*, 1957, p. 104, make the comment that eastern Zambian and Malawi birds probably represent an undescribed race.

Geographical variation in *L.souzae* affects (a) the colour of the mantle, (b) the colour of the wings and the presence or absence of black transverse vermicular bars over the secondaries, (c) the amount of rust-brown wash to the flanks in females, and (d) general size, and is clinal and isohyetal in disposition. Western populations (Congo-Brazzaville, the highlands of Angola, and the Kasai, Congo-Kinshasa) are largest, with wings in ♂♀ 84-91, and have the entire mantle saturated reddish brown or dark chestnut in fresh dress, and the wings are chestnut, the feathers crossed with black vermicular bars. The race *burigi* represents the other (eastern) extreme with the mantle greyish, lacking much or all of the rusty brown or chestnut, and in the wings the greater-coverts and secondaries are not chestnut vermiculated with black, but rather blackish brown edged with light brown, the female has darker and more extensively distributed rust-colour to the flanks, and the size is believed similar. On the basis of the characters defined for *burigi* by Chapin, it is

incorrect to extend its range south to include eastern Zambia, Malawi and northern Moçambique as Rand has done, as the populations of this shrike resident in such regions have the mantle extensively overlaid with drab or dull olive-brown, while the wings are virtually as in Angolan topotypes of nominate *souzae*, though distinctly paler. The females exhibit markedly paler flanks than either *souzae* or *burigi*, while the size is smaller than either. It seems desirable to recognise three subspecific stages in the west-east pattern of geographical variation in Sousa's Shrike, instead of the present two. Recent writings by Benson and Irwin, *Zambia Mus. Papers*, No. 1, 1967, pp. 85, 86, and Irwin, Niven and Winterbottom, *Arnoldia* (Rhodesia), vol. iv, No. 21, 1969, p. 29, also lend support to the view that a third race should be recognised, though such a taxon has a much wider range than these authors would accord it. As a name for such an entity is required, it may be known as

Lanius souzae tacitus, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Rukuzi R. dam at 13° 22' S., 32° 50' E., Eastern Province, Zambia. 26 April, 1962. Collected by V. J. Wilson. In the collection of the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo. N.M. Reg. No. 50, 311.

Diagnosis: Differs from *L.s.burigi* in having the mantle overlaid with dull Olive-Brown (pl. xl) or Drab (pl. xlvi) in some, and the wings with the greater-coverts and secondaries Tawny-Olive (pl. xxix) transversely vermiculated with black, not blackish brown, edged on the outer vanes with light brown. Female with much paler and less expansive rusty colour to the flanks. Smaller in size than *burigi*.

Over the upper-parts, the male differs consistently from *L.s.souzae* in that the grey of the head-top, nape, hind neck and upper mantle is rather paler and less leaden, and the brown of the mantle duller and greyer, less saturated reddish brown (dull Olive-Brown or Drab, *versus* Prout's Brown (pl. xv), or even Raw Umber (pl. iii)), but vermiculations about the same. Below, with the breast whiter, lacking much of the grey wash present in *souzae*. Wings lighter, being about Tawny-Olive rather than chestnut, and in tail, white tipping to rectrices less deep in series. Bill somewhat smaller and weaker, less high. Female differs above as does the male. Below, whiter, less vermiculated with grey on the breast, and flanks with reduced and paler and duller rusty wash. Also differs from *souzae* in being significantly smaller, thus: wings of 25 ♂♀ 78-85 (81.2), *versus* 84-91 (86.6) mm. in 25 ♂♀ of *L.s.souzae* from Angola (see further mensural data below).

Material examined: 80. *L.s.souzae* from Angola, 28 (Cazombo; Longa; Cuito-Cuanavale; Uaba (Caconda); Nova Lisboa; Gogue (Chipinda); Mt. Soque, Huambo; Amboiva; Fazenda do Cuito). *L.s.tacitus*, 52 (South-West Africa, 1 (Makamba, 20 m. W. of Kuring-kuru, Okavango). Botswana, 1 (Serondela, Chobe R.). Malawi, 9 (Kota Kota; Mzimba; Livingstonia; Nyika Plateau; Fort Hill). Zambia, 41 (Sesheke; Mankoya; Mumbwa; Kabompo; Mwinilunga; Sakeji; Salujinga; Solwezi; Ndola; Broken Hill; Mpika district; Shiwa Ng'andu; Lilayi, near Lusaka; Rukuzi R.; Kasama)).

Range: Extends from the Cubango region of south-eastern Angola and immediately adjacent districts of northern South-West Africa along the Okavango R., and in the Caprivi Strip and northern Botswana to Zambia, the southern Katanga, Congo-Kinshasa, the Tete district of Moçambique to the north of the Zambesi R., and Malawi west of the Rift. Grades into nominate *souzae* in north-western Zambia (Kabompo) and in eastern Moxico, Angola (Cazombo). There is no evidence of contact with the populations of *L.s.burigi* at this stage, as the species has not been taken in Zambia to the north of Kasama, or in south-western Tanzania.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 83, tail 91 mm.

Remarks: This shrike becomes badly carbon stained through contact with burnt grass, and soiled leaves and twigs, while the action of sunlight results in the loss of much or all of the brown wash to the mantle and scapulars, and birds taken after August are of little use for subspecific research.

It has been suggested that *L.souzae* is a local migrant in parts of its range, and there is evidence from the specimen material examined that there is some movement of individuals and perhaps entire marginal populations in the dry season. The recent records of *L.souzae* from zoogeographical South Africa, one from Makamba, near Kuring-kuru, Okavango R., and the other from Serondela, Chobe R., were probably birds from miombo tracts further north in central Africa. Yet another specimen, a 12 June, 1964, ♀ from Fazenda do Cuito, Moco, Angola, is grey enough over the mantle and scapulars and pale enough on the flanks to suggest that it, too, is a local migrant *L.s.tacitus*, wintering to the north-west of its breeding grounds.

The following are the flattened wing-measurements of all adult specimens of *L.souzae* measured during the course of this research:

Lanius souzae souzae

Angola	♂♂	84 (2), 85 (2), 86, 87, 87.5, 88, 88.5, 89, 90.5, 91
	♀♀	84 (2), 85 (3), 86 (2), 86.5, 87 (3), 88, 90
		<i>L.s.souzae</i> \supseteq <i>L.s.tacitus</i>

E. Moxico, Angola	♂	83.5
	♀♀	80.5, 81

Lanius souzae tacitus

South-West Africa	♂	86.5
Botswana	♀	84
Malawi	♂♂	78.5, 79 (2), 79.5, 84
	♀♀	81 (3), 81.5
Zambia	♂♂	78 (2), 79 (3), 79.5, 80.5, 81 (2), 82, 83 (2), 83.5, 84, 85, 87
	♀♀	78, 79 (3), 79.5 (2), 81 (2), 81.5, 82 (4), 83 (2), 83.5, 84, 85 (2) mm.

Weights of *L.s.tacitus* are not currently available, but the following are weights taken from *L.s.souzae* specimens collected by Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto and his assistants in Angola:

♂♂	21, 26 (3), 27 (2), 28 (4), 29, 30
♀♀	22, 23, 25 (4), 26, 27 (2), 28, 30 gm.

The characters and ranges of the three races of *L.souzae* may be summarized as follows:

(a) *Lanius souzae souzae* Bocage

Grey of dorsal surfaces of head and neck dark; mantle and scapulars chestnut to chocolate brown. Wings light chestnut, the tertials edged and crossed by vermicular bars of black. Below white, the breast washed or vermiculated with grey, and females with deep rust-brown flanks. Size large.

Range: Angola, except south-east, the Kasai and lower Congo, Congo-Kinshasa, and southern Congo-Brazzaville.

(b) *Lanius souzae tacitus* Clancey

Paler grey over dorsal surfaces of head and neck; mantle and scapulars drab to dull olive-brown. Wings paler, dull pale tawny rather than chestnut, but barring the same. Below whiter, with grey on breast reduced or absent. Female with paler and duller rusty flanks. Size smaller.

Range: South-eastern Angola and northern South-West Africa, east to Zambia, northern Tete district, Moçambique, western Malawi, and southern Katanga, Congo-Kinshasa.

(c) **Lanius souzae burigi** Chapin

Similar to *L.s.tacitus* but without the drab or brown overlay to the mantle and scapulars. Wings duller and without the barring of *tacitus* or *souzae*, the tertials dark brown, the outer vanes margined with paler. Below as in nominate *souzae*, but female with still darker and more extensively distributed rust-colour over the flanks. Size probably as in *souzae*.

Range: North-western Tanzania from the south-western shores of Lake Victoria and Lake Burigi, west to Rwanda and Burundi.

I am grateful to the Directors and stated officials of the following institutions for the loan of material: South African Museum, Cape Town, the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky), the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo (Mr. M. P. S. Irwin), the National Museum of Zambia, Livingstone, the Instituto de Investigação Cientifica de Angola, Sá da Bandeira (Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto), and the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London (Dr. D. W. Snow).

ON THE STATUS AND RANGE OF *EUPLECTES PROGNE DELACOURI* WOLTERS, 1953

Much doubt still exists as to the validity of *Euplectes progne delacouri* Wolters, 1953: Bulu-bulu, Bihé, Angola, and the range of nominate *E.progne* (Boddaert), 1783: eastern Cape Province. In his authoritative *Check-list of Angolan Birds*, 1963, p. 202, Traylor declines to acknowledge the validity of *delacouri*, placing the populations of Angola with the nominate subspecies, from which they are completely geographically segregated. Traylor, in *Ibis*, vol. cvii, 3, 1965, pp. 378, 379, also refers western Zambian specimens to *E.p.progne*. On the other hand, Moreau, in the continuation of Peters' *Check-List of Birds of the World*, vol. xv, 1962, pp. 73, 74, recognises *delacouri*, restricting it to Angola, at the same time placing the Zambian populations with nominate *progne*, while Mackworth-Praed and Grant, *Birds of the Southern Third of Africa*, vol. ii, 1963, pp. 614, 615, recognise *delacouri*, refer the Zambian populations to it, and restrict *E.p.progne* to southern Africa south of the Limpopo R.

A study of this complex problem recently effected in the Durban Museum, using the resources of the Durban Museum, the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin), and