



<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

London :The Club,1893-

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/46639>

v.75 (1955): <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/125673>

Page(s): Page 32, Page 33

Contributed by: Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by: Natural History Museum Library, London

Generated 17 April 2015 6:42 AM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/038548400125673>

This page intentionally left blank.

A New Geographical Race of the Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris* Linnaeus from the Deserts of South-West Africa and Angola

by MR. P. A. CLANCEY

Received 4th January, 1955

Study of the material of the Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris* Linnaeus from South-West Africa in the collections of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, and the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, has revealed that the populations resident in the desolate coastal desert, the Namib, and in the Kaokoveld and coastal desert areas of Angola differ significantly from *L. c. subcoronatus* Smith, 1841: Latakoo, *i.e.*, Kuruman, north-eastern Cape Province, the race with which they are generally associated. As they clearly warrant recognition as a distinct race, I propose to designate them.

Lanius collaris aridicolus, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Swakopmund, Namib, South-West Africa. 29 June, 1932. Collected by R. D. Bradfield. In the collection of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria. T.M. No. 18648.

Description: Most closely allied to *L. c. subcoronatus* of the Orange River drainage but differs in being paler and greyer dorsally, less deep blackish slate, in fresh plumage, and in having the under-parts purer silky white, and by having more white in the tail. Differs from *L. c. capelli* (Bocage), 1879: Cassange, Angola (= *L. c. congicus* Reichenow *auctorum*) which replaces it to the northward, in being paler and greyer dorsally, having prominent white supercilia, and in possessing a much shorter, more rounded, tail, thus—14 specimens of *L. c. aridicolus* measure 96–107 mm. as against (109) 116–128 mm. in 14 specimens of *L. c. capelli*. Furthermore, in *L. c. capelli* the female rarely exhibits the least vestige of chestnut colour on the flanks, a sexual character which is always present in *L. c. aridicolus*.

Range: The most typical populations are found in the Namib and associated deserts of northern South-West Africa, the Kaokoveld, and the coastal desert strip of south-western Angola, and in a less stable form (see 'Remarks') from the Damaraland plateau and Ovamboland.

Material: *L. c. aridicolus*, 14; *L. c. subcoronatus*, 24; *L. c. collaris*, 103; *L. c. predator* Clancey, 35; *L. c. vigilans* Clancey, 40; *L. c. dominator* Clancey and Smithers, 36; *L. c. capelli*, 14; *L. c. marwitzi* Reichenow, 2; *L. c. tenuirectris* Clancey, 46; *L. c. humeralis* Stanley, 11; *L. c. smithii* (Fraser), 5.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 98.5, culmen from base 21, tail 106 mm.

Remarks: *L. c. aridicolus* in its pure form is restricted to the excessively dry coastal deserts of South-West Africa and south-western Angola, an area renowned for its plethora of pallid avian and mammalian endemics. Localities from which I have examined typical specimens are: Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Ugab and Huab Rivers, and Kamanjab. In the higher interior of Damaraland and in Ovamboland birds which are not just so intensely white ventrally occur, but for all practical taxonomic purposes they can be placed with the new race here described. Specimens from the

following localities have been studied: Uis, Naukluft, 10 km. west of Karibib, Okahandja, Windhoek, etc.

In the interior of Great Namaqualand the populations are darker dorsally and the under-parts are almost invariably vermiculated, and they are, in fact, inseparable from *L. c. subcoronatus* (specimens examined from Ariamsvlei, Maltahohe and Helmeringshausen).

I am grateful to Dr. G. Rudebeck, Ornithologist of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, for the granting of facilities to study in great detail the magnificent material of the southern African *L. collaris* populations under his charge.

On the status of *Mirafra rufipilea* (Vieillot), N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. 1, p. 345, 1816

by CAPTAIN C. H. B. GRANT and MR. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED

Received 8th November, 1954

This name is founded on L'Alouette á callotte Rousse, Pl. 198, in Levaillant's Ois d'Afrique, 4, p. 135, 1805, who states that he found it in Great Namaqualand. This name is used by Sclater in his Syst. Av. Æthiop, 2, p. 313, 1924. Roberts, Bds. S. Afr., p. 195, 1940, places it under a separate heading and remarks that this bird has not since been obtained. Macdonald, *Ibis*, p. 629, 1952, discusses this name and on p. 634 places it as a race of *Mirafra apiata* Vieillot.

Our recent investigations into Levaillant's travels shows that he was in the localities where *Mirafra apiata* occurs from the Cape eastwards to Port Elizabeth and northwards to Little Namaqualand, but all the specimens known from those areas both in the British Museum and the Transvaal Museum are too heavily marked to agree with Levaillant's plate and description and do not have long hind claws. At no other locality on Levaillant's eastern journey could he have come across this Lark. In the country north of the Orange River, all birds are too pale for any of them to be Vieillot's *M. rufipilea*, and none agree with Levaillant's plate or description. The plate does agree in many respects (except for the hind claws which are described as very straight and measure on the plate 14.5 mm. against 6 to 8 mm. for *M. apiata*) with the bird that occurs in the Transvaal, northern Cape Province as far south as Victoria West and Deelfontein and the Orange Free State, but Levaillant was nowhere near Victoria West or Deelfontein. Maybe Vieillot's *M. rufipilea* will yet be re-discovered, though it appears doubtful, and meanwhile, we are of the opinion it should be considered as indeterminate.

Dr. Junge, of the Leiden Museum, under date 13th May, 1954, kindly informs us that the type is not in that Museum and there are no types from the Levaillant collection in the Paris Museum.

As *M. rufipilea* is indeterminate we have to consider the name that should be used for the bird that occurs in the Transvaal, northern Cape Province and Orange Free State.

Alauda pyrrhonota Vieillot, N. Dict. Hist. Nat. 1, p. 361, 1816, is a pipit. Sundevall, Oefv. K. Vet.-Akad. Förh., p. 99, 1851, gives *Alauda fasciolatus* for *Alauda pyrrhonota* Smith, Ill. Zool. 110, fig. 2, 1874, which he considered