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A study of the above measurements reveals the fact that there is not very much difference in the wing measurements of the two forms, but that *D.m.praealpinus* has a less robust bill as demonstrated by the computation of the bill coefficient when compared with *D.m.pinetorum*. This is apparent even in the comparatively small samples of each form which have been investigated.

In order to place *D.m.praealpinus* von Burg on a proper footing, it is desirable to create a type, and since the author of this form refers to "Die Buntspechte des Mittellandes und des Jura," I have selected as the type specimen an adult male, obtained at Interlaken, in the Bernese Oberland, on November 21st, 1948, in my collection.

Measurements:—

wing	—	134 m.m.	bill	—	28 m.m.
bill coefficient	—	99	tarsus	—	20 m.m.
tail	—	87 m.m.			

My grateful acknowledgements are due to Dr. Jeffery Harrison for the loan of his series of German examples of *D.m.pinetorum*, which augmented those in my own collection, and also to Herrn Ernst Flükiger of Interlaken for valuable assistance in the course of this investigation.

¹ REICHENBACH, (1854) *Handb. spec. Orn.*, Scansores, 365.

² JOHANSEN, H. (1922) "Dryobates major alpestris Reichenbach und einige Bemerkungen zu *D.m. major* (L). *Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern*, 15, 231, 232.

³ VOOUS, K. H., jnr. (1947). On the History of the Distribution of the Genus *Dendrocopos*. *Publ. Zool. Mus. Amsterdam*.

⁴ VOOUS, K. H., jnr. and AMANN, F. (1951). Die Alpenform des grossen Buntspechtes (*Dendrocopos major alpestris* Reichenbach) im Lötschental. *Der Orn. Beob.*, 1951, 48, 5, 172.

⁵ VON BURG, G. (1921) Weiterer Mitteilungen über schweizerische Vögel, *Der Weidmann*, 6, 6, 7.

A new race of Nightjar from the Caprivi Strip, South West Africa

By MR. R. H. N. SMITHERS

Received 16th June, 1954

Caprimulgus natalensis carpi new race.

Description: Differs from *Caprimulgus natalensis natalensis* Smith, in having the whole upperside including sides of face, wing-coverts, secondaries and tail much paler, more sandy-buff; primaries more dusky less black; buff markings of underparts generally paler.

Distribution: The eastern Caprivi Strip, South West Africa.

Type: In the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo. Male adult. Kabuta, Caprivi Strip, South West Africa, 19th July, 1949. Carp 1949 Expedition. Collector's No. 113. N.M. No. 2929.

Measurements of type: Wing 155; tail 100 mm,

Remarks: Measurements of another male, wing 158 ; tail 103 ; two females wing 156 and 164, and tail 96 mm.

This new race is named in honour of Mr. Bernard Carp of Cape Town, who sponsored and financed the 1949 Caprivi Expedition.

A new race of Nightjar from Northern Rhodesia

By R. H. N. SMITHERS

Received 16th June, 1954

Caprimulgus natalensis mpasa new race.

Description: Differs from *Caprimulgus natalensis natalensis* Smith, in being colder in tone of colour above, less vinous and rufous with broader black markings. Appreciably darker than *Caprimulgus natalensis carpi* Smithers.

Distribution: Northern Rhodesia from Baloyale to Mpika.

Type: In the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo. Male adult. Mpasa, Luwingu district, Northern Rhodesia. 19th August, 1953. Collected by C. W. Benson. Collector's No. N.R.1801 N.M. No. 13975.

Measurements of type: Wing 158 ; tail 105 mm.

Remarks: Ten specimens examined. Wings 156 to 167 mm.

Ornithological Nomenclature and the "First Reviser"

By CAPTAIN C. H. B. GRANT

Received 10th July, 1954

Chapin and Amadon, Ostrich, p.123, 1952, and White, Bull B.O.C. 72, p. 106, 1952, invoked the principle of the "first reviser" in the cases of *Pelecanus philippensis* and *Struthio camelus* respectively.

In nomenclature the broad application of the principle of the "first reviser" may lead to difficulties that in some respects serve to challenge our concepts of the validity and purpose of ornithological research. The broadest application of this principle must of necessity assume that the first reviser was infallible, a quality, I am certain, that no scientific worker would concede to any of his fellows. The hazards that may beset the unwary in the application of this principle can be appreciated by studying the works of about one hundred years ago, or thereabouts, when there were no universally accepted rules although the majority of these authors accepted Linnaeus' 1758 or 1766 editions of the Systema as the starting point of binomial nomenclature. The point of particular interest at present is that these early workers did not always accurately transcribe other authors' works and often selected that scientific name which they considered most appropriate, ignoring those that had priority of date, page or line. Consequently, in these circumstances, the work of the first reviser may be misleading.