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MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS XXVIII

by

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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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populations which impinge peripherally into eastern Rhodesia must all be grouped in *C.b.constans*, notwithstanding the high incidence of purely local variation in this entire region, which appears to result from two different sets of circumstances: (a) simple but restricted hybridization between *C.b.constans* and *C.b.noomei* and introgression by genes of the latter grey-backed form deep into populations of the former green-backed assemblage; (b) selection in areas supporting closed forest enjoying a very high precipitation regime, favouring the emergence of a phenotype with a wholly grey or olive-brown head and more saturated dorsal body surface, wings and tail (than in *constans* of the coastal plain of most of southern Moçambique and some adjacent territories (eastern Swaziland, eastern Transvaal lowveld, etc.)).

Further work on these camaropteras of the evergreen forests along the borders of Rhodesia and Moçambique appears to be called for. There may well be pockets of relatively stable dark-headed birds in areas as yet not collected in, the discovery of which could compel us to revise the present findings, based as they are almost entirely on an Haroni/Lusitu sample. The finding of stable populations would warrant the creation of a new subspecies, distinct from *C.b.constans*.

C.b.bororensis of northern Moçambique is like the dark-headed eastern Rhodesian highlands/adjacent Moçambique phenotypes in having the entire dorsal surface of the head grey, but this is of a lighter, less slate, shade, and the green of the rest of the upper-parts is yellower, less bronzy or citrine.

AN OVERLOOKED RACE OF BARRED BUSH WARBLER FROM THE TRANSVAAL

Material recently collected by Durban Museum personnel in the Thabazimbi district of the western Transvaal shows that a third race requires to be recognised in the Barred Bush Warbler *Camaroptera fasciolata* (Smith) of southern Africa. As no name is available for this newly determined race, it may be known as

***Camaroptera fasciolata europhila*, subsp. nov.**

Type: ♂, first winter. "Uitduiker" Farm, c. 10 miles S. of Northam, Thabazimbi district, western Transvaal. Collected by P. A. Clancey. 27 May, 1969. In the collection of the Durban Museum. D.M. Reg. No. 25, 469.

Description: *Non-breeding dress* (April-August) (prebasic and basic plumages): Similar to *C.f.fasciolata* (Smith), 1847: north-east of Kuruman, northern Cape Province, to which most of the populations of the South West Arid District belong, but darker above

(Saccardo's Umber/Sepia (Ridgway, 1912, pl. xxix), *versus* Dresden Brown (pl. xv)), but more sharply differentiated below in having the transverse vermicular barring blacker and much more extensively developed caudadwise over the lateral body surfaces, flanks and upper abdomen. In freshly moulted non-breeding nominate *C.fasciolata* the brownish ventral barring is restricted to the upper breast, and is vestigial or lacking over the body sides and flanks, and the abdominal surface is always plain. In *euophila* the throat is mottled or vermiculated with blackish on a buffish white ground, whereas in *fasciolata* about 50 per cent of specimens has the throat virtually unmarked. *Breeding dress* (September-March): Not consistently separable, but in series more heavily barred below, and with a deeper buff tinge to the flanks and under tail-coverts. *Juvenal*: Darker on the upper-parts than in *C.f.fasciolata*, as described for the prebasic and basic plumages, but ventral mottling and barring not markedly different. Similar in size.

Range: Transvaal north from about 26° S. lat., and west of 30° E. long., reaching to Messina and Beit Bridge, in the Limpopo R. valley, in the north. Intergrades in south-eastern Botswana (as at Kanye), and southern Matabeleland, Rhodesia (at Sentinel Ranch), with the nominate race.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 60, culmen from base 12, tail 50.5 mm.

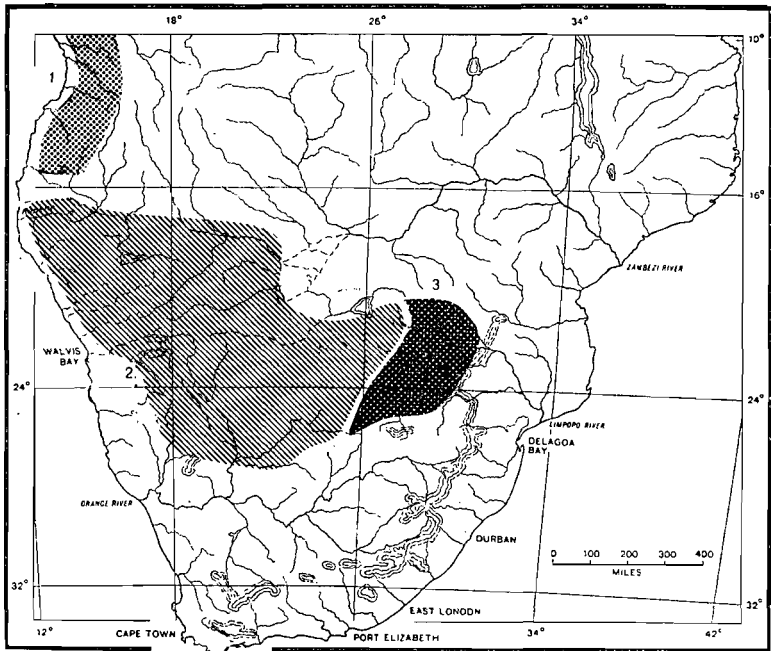
Material examined: 108. *C.f.euophila* 27 (*Transvaal*: Pretoria, Pienaar's River, Hamanskraal, Northam, Marico district, Nylstroom, Waterberg, Blaauwberg; *Rhodesia*: Beit Bridge, Sentinel Ranch; *Botswana*: Kanye). *C.f.fasciolata*, 81.

Remarks: No specimens from anywhere near the type-locality of *Drymoica fasciolata* Smith, 1847, north-east of Kuruman, in the northern Cape, are currently available, but judging by fig. 2, pl. 111, of Smith's *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*, Aves, 1847, and the attendant description, the relevant part of which reads, "chin and throat pure white, variegated with short, narrow, transverse umber-brown bars; breast and anterior part of belly sienna-yellow variegated with short curved umber-brown bars; posterior portion of belly, flanks, vent and under tail coverts rusty ochre-yellow," this name applies to the western and not the south-eastern populations of the Barred Bush Warbler. I mention this, because judging by the Botswana material before me, both *fasciolata* and *euophila* intergrade in the Kanye district of that territory, immediately to the north-east of the type-locality of the former race. *Calamonastes stigmatosus* Reichenow, 1910: Windhoek, South-West

Africa, a name based on an example in the blackish throated breeding dress according to Irwin, *Bull.Brit.Orn.Club*, vol. lxxxix, 2, 1969, pp. 44-48, is therefore correctly placed as a synonym of *C.f.fasciolata*.

C.fasciolata, *sens. strict.*, is divisible into three races: *C.f.pallidior* Hartert, 1907: Sandpits, Benguela, Angola, of the arid coast of Benguela and perhaps Moçamedes, Angola; *C.f.fasciolata* from the Kaokoveld and the west of Damaraland, in South-West Africa, east and south-east to Botswana, the northern Cape and the south-western aspects of Matabeleland, Rhodesia; and *C.f.europhila* of the mesic regions of the Transvaal.

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Camaroptera fasciolata (Smith)

Sketch-map showing the disposition of the three races of the Barred Bush Warbler *Camaroptera fasciolata*

1. *Camaroptera fasciolata pallidior* (Hartert)
2. *Camaroptera fasciolata fasciolata* (Smith)
3. *Camaroptera fasciolata europhila* Clancey