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MISCELLANEOUS TAXONOMIC NOTES ON AFRICAN BIRDS

XV

by

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1. A NEW RACE OF SHELLEY'S FRANCOLIN *FRANCOLINUS SHELLEYI* OGILVIE-GRANT FROM NATAL AND ZULULAND.

The austral populations of Shelley's Francolin are characterized as a new subspecies to science under the following name:

Francolinus shelleyi sequestris, subsp. nov.

Type: ♂, adult. Albert Falls, near Pietermaritzburg, Natal. 25 August, 1951. Collected by Robin Guy. In the collection of the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. Reg. No. 2308.

Diagnosis: Similar to *F.s.shelleyi* Ogilvie-Grant, 1890: Umfuli River, Southern Rhodesia, but rather darker, less greyish, and more boldly marked with Fuscous-Black (*vide* Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. xlvi) on the upper-parts. More clearly differentiated on the ventral surface, being more densely mottled with Fuscous-Black over the lower breast and upper abdomen, and with the breast, body-sides and flanks rather darker (Hazel (pl. xiv) as against Tawny (pl. xv)). Similar in size.

Material examined: *F.s.sequestris*, 6. *F.s.shelleyi* from Southern Rhodesia, 11.

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measure of dorsal colour variation within the component populations of *S.c.tropica*, than to contemplate the subdivision of the taxon into western (*S.c.bailunduensis*) and eastern (*S.c.tropica*) subspecies.

Benson, *Ibis*, vol. 103b, 1, 1960, p. 49, shows that the populations of the Comoros are referable to this race. It is evidently an introduction to the archipelago from the eastern mainland of Africa.

4. THE RACES OF THE JACOBIN CRESTED CUCKOO *CLAMATOR JACOBINUS* (BODDAERT) OCCURRING IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE ZAMBESI RIVER

The Jacobin Crested Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert) is a widely distributed polytypic and dimorphic cuckoo of the Ethiopian and Oriental Regions in which geographical variation is reasonably well developed. The best modern arrangement of the subspecies of *C.jacobinus* is that of Peters, *Check-List of Birds of the World*, vol. iv, 1940, p. 13, whose findings are based on the work of Friedmann (*vide Bull.U.S. Nat. Mus.*, No. 153, 1930, p. 269) and Hartert (*vide Novitates Zoologicae*, vol. xxii, 1915, pp. 253-254). On the basis of the recorded evidence that white breasted examples occur in South Africa alongside the indigenous, dimorphic *C.j.serratus* (Sparrman), in which the pied morphs have the throat and breast washed with grey and streaked with a darker shade, Peters, *loc.cit.*, kept *C.serratus* specifically distinct from *C.jacobinus*, and the probability that such white breasted birds are non-breeding migrants from Asia or elsewhere has been overlooked. In recent standard works on South African birds (Vincent, *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 38; McLachlan and Liversidge, *Roberts' Birds of South Africa*, 1957, p. 184; Smithers *et alia Check List of the Birds of Southern Rhodesia*, 1957, p. 69, etc.) only *C.j.serratus* is admitted as occurring in Africa south of the Zambesi River, and the old records of whitish breasted birds from as far south as Natal seem to have been conveniently forgotten.

Through the kindness of Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin, Zoological Assistant of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, I have been able to examine a large section of the material of *C.jacobinus* preserved in the collection under his control. Critical study of this material in conjunction with that in the Durban Museum shows conclusively that the small-sized, whitish breasted nominate race of *C.jacobinus* (Boddaert), 1783: Coromandel Coast of India, of peninsular and eastern India, Assam, Burma and Ceylon, occurs on migration as far south as Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa during the course of its sojourn

in Africa. The following are the identified specimens of *C.j.jacobinus* in the collections of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia and Durban Museum:

♂ ad.	Misanje Burial Plot, Port Herald, Nyasaland	W.141.5 mm.
♀ ad.	Chitsa Village, Port Herald, Nyasaland ...	W.149 mm.
♀ ad.	Kanyimbe, Tangadzi, Nyasaland	W.145.5 mm.
♂ ad.	Macheke, Southern Rhodesia	W.142 mm.
♂ ad.	Goromonzi, Southern Rhodesia	W.145 mm.
♂ juv.—1st.w.	Victoria Falls, Southern Rhodesia...	W.148 mm.
♀ juv.	Burnside, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia...	W.145 mm.

All these specimens were collected between the latter half of January and the first week of April, and all are in moult. *C.j.jacobinus* differs from the breeding race of southern Africa, *C.j.serratus* (Sparman), 1786: Cape Peninsula, south-western Cape Province, in its substantially smaller size (wings of ♂♀ 138-149, tails 148-170 mm., as against 150-162, 174-194 mm. in *C.j.serratus*) and in the pied morphs having markedly whiter under-parts, the throat and breast creamy white or yellowish, not grey, and almost unstreaked. Three other specimens in the collections of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia and Durban Museum differ from both *C.j.jacobinus* and *C.j.serratus*. In the colouration of the under-parts they resemble the small-sized *C.j.jacobinus* but are like *C.j.serratus* in size. In these characters they agree with the race *C.j.pica* (Hemprich and Ehrenberg), 1833: Ambukohl, Dongola, Sudan, as defined in the first place by Hartert, and admitted by later workers, in particular Peters, *loc.cit.* It now seems to be generally agreed that *C.jacobinus* Boddaert, 1783, is actually an earlier name for the populations described as *C.j.taprobanus* Hartert, 1915: north-western Ceylon, and that the larger birds of Persian Baluchistan, Afghanistan and northern India, and Africa from Senegal in the west, eastwards to Abyssinia and the Somalilands, southwards to northern South-West Africa, northern Bechuanaland and areas to the eastwards to the north of the range of *C.j.serratus*, must be called *C.j.pica*. The three specimens of *C.j.pica* collected within South African limits and examined during the course of this research may all be of Asiatic origin, as two of them are birds of the year in full moult. The specimens of *C.j.pica* (collected Nov., Jan., Apr.) are as follows:

♀ juv.—1st w.	Nuanetsi Ranch, Southern Rhodesia	W.152 mm.
♂ ad.	Hopefountain Mission, near Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia'... ..	W.155 mm.
♀ juv.—1st w.	Gerus, near Otjiwarongo, South-West Africa	W.157.5 mm.

A single breeding ♂ of *C.j.pica* from near Lake Magadi, Rift Valley, Kenya Colony, in the Durban Museum has a wing of 152 mm. while another (♀) from the Sokoke Forest, inland of Kilifi, coastal Kenya Colony, has a wing of 151 mm.

Three races of the Jacobin Crested Cuckoo can be admitted as occurring within South African sub-continental limits, one as a visiting breeding form (*C.j.serratus*), another as a limited breeding form which appears to be augmented by non-breeding birds of migratory Asiatic populations of the same taxonomic unit (*C.j.pica*), and a third which is wholly a non-breeding form of Asiatic origin (*C.j.jacobinus*). The characters, ranges and migratory movements of these three races are detailed synoptically as follows:

- (a) **Clamator jacobinus serratus** (Sparrman), 1786: Cape Peninsula, south-western Cape Province, South Africa.

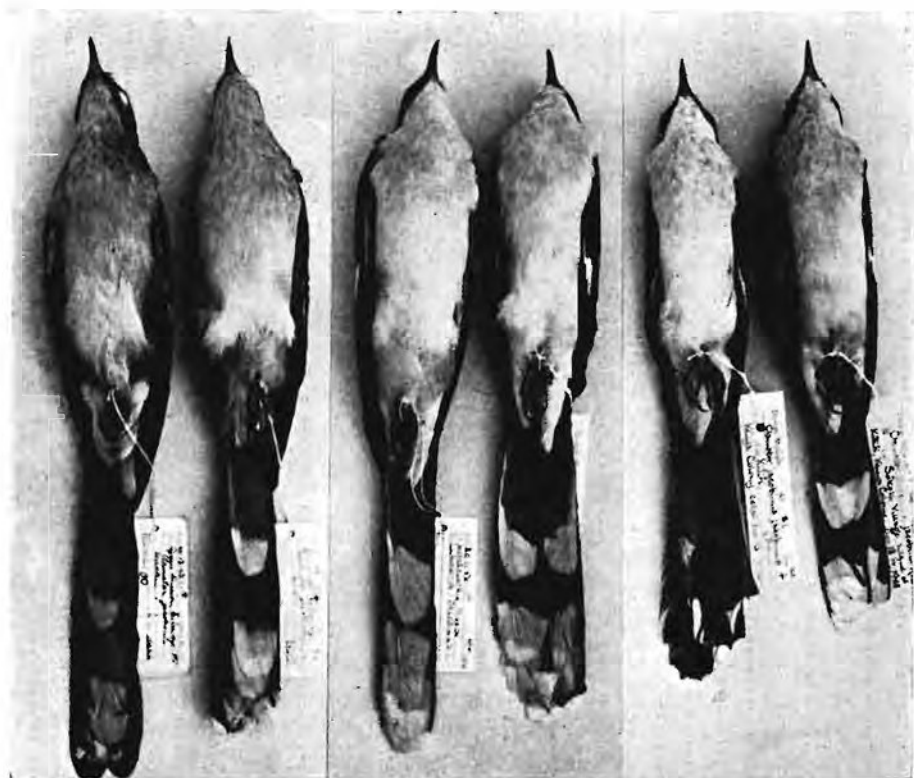
Strongly dimorphic. Pied morphs with the throat, breast, sides of the body and flanks strongly washed with grey; throat and breast variably streaked with darker grey. Wings of ♂♀ 150-162, tails (167.5) 174-194 mm.

Range: Summer resident in southern and south-eastern Africa between the months of October and April. Ranges from the south-western and southern districts of the Cape Province, north-eastwards to Natal and Zululand, Swaziland, southern Portuguese East Africa, Orange Free State, the Transvaal, eastern Bechuanaland Protectorate, and Southern Rhodesia. Also occurs in Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and northern Portuguese East Africa, but it is not clear if the skins studied are those of transients or local breeding birds. Winters in tropical Africa, being recorded from the Belgian Congo, Uganda (Ruwenzori), Tanganyika Territory, Kenya Colony and Abyssinia.

- (b) **Clamator jacobinus pica** (Hemprich and Ehrenberg), 1833: Ambukohl, Dongola, Sudan.

Weakly dimorphic. Pied morphs with the throat, breast and rest of the under surface markedly whiter; throat and breast with reduced streaking on a yellowish or creamy white ground. Similar in size.

Range: Summer resident (October-April) in South-West Africa and the northern Bechuanaland Protectorate, where it breeds. Also occurring as a non-breeding visitor (? Asiatic populations). Breeds in Persian Baluchistan, Afghanistan and northern India, and in Africa from Senegal eastwards to Abyssinia and the Somalilands, southwards through equatorial Africa to Damaraland, South-West Africa, northern Bechuanaland Protectorate, and further east to



A

B

C

CLAMATOR JACOBINUS (Boddaert)

Ventral aspect of three geographical races of the Jacobin Crested Cuckoo occurring in South Africa, one as a breeding form and the other two as non-breeding visiting races of Asiatic origin.

(a) *C. j. serratus* (b) *C. j. pica* (c) *C. j. jacobinus*.

Note greyish suffusion to throat and breast in the race breeding in southern Africa (*C. j. serratus*), and the small size and whitish ventral surface of the nominate race of peninsular and eastern India, Ceylon and Burma. *C. j. pica* resembles *C. j. jacobinus* in colour, but is like *C. j. serratus* in size. Specimens in the collections of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, and the Durban Museum.

(Photo: A. L. Bevis)

the north of the range of *C. j. serratus*. The populations breeding in sub-continental South Africa winter in tropical Africa. The Asiatic populations winter in Africa at the time the African populations of *C. j. pica* and *C. j. serratus* are breeding, and appear to range as far south as Southern Rhodesia, the Transvaal, and, perhaps, Natal during their sojourn in Africa.

Note: The eggs of *C. j. serratus* and *C. j. pica* are recorded as being white in all instances.

- (c) **Clamator jacobinus jacobinus** (Boddaert), 1783: Coromandel Coast of India.

Similar to *C.j.pica*, but smaller in size. Wings of ♂♀ 138-149, tails 148-170 mm.

Range: Breeds in peninsular and eastern India, Assam and Burma (south to Karenni and the Pegu Yoma Mts.). Also Ceylon. The bulk of these populations winters in Africa between the months of September—April, and birds of the nominate race have been determined as occurring as far south as Nyasaland, Southern Rhodesia and southern Portuguese East Africa during the period of its stay in Africa. All specimens examined from South Africa were in moult.

Remarks: The eggs of this race are recorded as being blue and not white.

5. ON THE RACE OF LESSER CUCKOO *CUCULUS POLIOCEPHALUS* LATHAM OCCURRING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Most authorities relegate the Durban, Natal, example of the Lesser Cuckoo *C.poliocephalus* collected by Gordge to the Madagascan race, *C.p.rochii* Hartlaub, 1862: Madagascar. Mackworth-Praed and Grant, *Birds of Eastern and North Eastern Africa*, vol. i, 1952, p. 497, however, place the Durban specimen, now in the British Museum (Nat.Hist.), London, as *C.p.poliocephalus* Latham, 1790: Srinagar, Kashmir, India. Mrs. B. P. Hall has kindly examined this specimen for me, and reports that it is an unsexed and undated immature bird, which was formerly in the Shelley collection, with a wing-measurement of 145 mm., which measurement confirms Mackworth-Praed's and Grant's relegation of this record to *C.p.poliocephalus* and not *C.p.rochii*. Smithers *et alia*, *Occ.Papers Nat.Mus. Southern Rhodesia*, No. 23B, 1959, p. 234, record a second occurrence of the Lesser Cuckoo from within South African limits in an example of this species collected on Mt. Selinda, Masetter district, eastern Southern Rhodesia, on 29th March, 1930, by Sandground (see also *Proc. New England Zool. Club*, vol. xii, 1931, p. 59). The Mt. Selinda example is also referred to *C.p.rochii*. Dr. Raymond A. Paynter Jnr., Associate Curator of Birds, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., has kindly given me, *in litt.*, some information on the Mt. Selinda *C.poliocephalus*, which shows conclusively this specimen, too, is referable to *C.p.poliocephalus* and not *C.p.rochii*. The bird is an adult male with a wing-measurement of 149.5 mm.