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plumage. During this second moult only females can be separated from adults through their lack of a violet blue throat. Second moult males are phenotypically adult and are treated as such in Table 1. In nearly all hornbills immature birds resemble adult males, not adult females. A juvenile in Tables 1 and 2 is a bird which has not yet grown its second generation primaries 6 and 7.

It appears from Table 2 that females are mensurally somewhat smaller than males, especially in the length of the culmen. Wings were measured with a tape from the carpal joint to the tip of the longest primary which is sometimes the sixth but more often the seventh. Culmens were measured from the base to the tip with a tape, apparently also the method used by Verheyen (1953). Sanft's (1960) ranges do not distinguish between adult and juvenile birds. This is a pity since it appears from Table 2 that juvenile birds are mensurally smaller than adults and subadults of the same sex; nonetheless further study is needed.

The fresh subadult female brought into the National Museum and very hungry weighed 2,230 g which is over 45 per cent. lower than the female weight of 4,000 g recorded in Sanft (1960). Weights of males recorded in Sanft (1960) and Verheyen (1953) are 3,500, 3,575 and 3,937 g.

We are obliged for facilities for study to M. P. Stuart Irwin in respect of the National Museum in Bulawayo, to M. A. Raath in respect of the Queen Victoria Museum and to P. A. Clancey in respect of the Durban Museum.

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The Status and Characters of the Races of the Red-backed Shrike Wintering in the South African Sub-Region

by P. A. Clancey

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The Redbacked Shrike *Lanius collurio* Linnaeus is one of the commoner and more widely distributed of the Palaearctic migrants present in Africa south of the Cunene-Okavango-Zambesi Rivers during the period of the northern winter. On its wintering grounds, which extend from Angola, southern Zaire and Tanzania to the Orange R. and the eastern Cape (Moreau [1972] believes the winter range in eastern Africa to extend as far north as Kenya and the southern Sudan, and follows Fry in also listing Nigeria in West Africa), it occurs in various savanna woodland facies, and is perhaps most numerous in acaciaveld, in degraded areas, and on the scrubby and overgrown fringes of primitive cultivation. Redbacked Shrikes commence to arrive in the Sub-Region in the latter part of October, but do not become widespread until the second half of November, the majority departing the first half of April, but with a few laggards still present mid-May, and even early June in Zambia according to Benson *et al.* (1971). During their sojourn

the birds undergo a complete moult, which is at its height January–mid-March, the populations commencing their northward movement through the eastern half of Africa shortly after its completion.

Variation used by workers to arrange the populations into acceptable subspecies is restricted to males, although, in fact, both sexes show reasonably well-marked geographical variation. In males, the forehead varies from pale neutral grey to almost white in far eastern populations, there is appreciable variation in the shade of grey of the rest of the head-top, hind and sides of the neck and the upper mantle, while the mantle and scapulars vary from almost tawny to deep vinous chestnut. In females the upper-parts vary from dull olivaceous to dark vinaceous brown, this variation appearing to follow a closely similar distributional pattern to that of the males. On the ventral surface there is marked variation in the whiteness or buffness of the ground and in the degree of pectoral and lateral squamation. Currently three of the four races recognised by Vaurie (1959) are admitted to the South African list (Clancey [1966]; S.A.O.S. List Committee [1969]; McLachlan & Livesidge [1970]), nominate *L. collurio* and *L. c. kobylini* (Buturlin) supposedly common and widespread seasonally, with the central Palaearctic *L. c. pallidifrons* Johansen known from only two or three records from the northern Cape and South-West Africa. In an effort to arrive at a more satisfactory assessment of the relative abundance of these races on the South African wintering grounds and the characters by which they may be determined in this region, some 200 ♂♂ from southern and eastern Africa were assembled and critically studied. In order to minimize the influence of habitat and seasonally induced as opposed to genetically based differences on the conclusions drawn, the precautionary measure of dry cleaning about a third of the assembled specimens was taken.

A series of some two hundred males is scarcely adequate for this type of research, and only from the territories of the Transvaal, Rhodesia and Zambia were samples anything like satisfactory. In allocating African hibernal material to races 10 ♂♂ *L. c. collurio* from the western Palaearctic (Sweden, Lithuania, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary) were used as controls. Of *L. c. kobylini* and *L. c. pallidifrons* I used short series kindly determined as of these races by Professor Hans Johansen, formerly of the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, and the describer of the latter subspecies. No untoward difficulty was experienced in allocating the great bulk of the material to definite subspecific categories. Conclusions finally reached were on the basis of series laid out and viewed facing the light source, the sky moderately overcast and the time mid-morning.

Bearing in mind the barely adequate nature of the material presently available, the following tentative conclusions were reached: (i) *L. c. pallidifrons* is as numerous or slightly more so than *L. c. collurio*. Of 146 ♂♂ from the South African Sub-Region studied 39 per cent. were *pallidifrons*, with some 35 per cent. nominate *collurio*. (ii) Contrary to expectations, *L. c. kobylini* is far less numerous than either *L. c. collurio* or *L. c. pallidifrons* (26 per cent.); (iii) *L. c. pallidifrons* winters largely in the Kalahari and adjacent xeric areas of the interior of the Sub-Region; (iv) *L. c. kobylini* winters extensively in northern South-West Africa, and in the east from Rhodesia and Moçambique south to Natal; (v) on the basis of present data no hibernal centrum is definable for *L. c. collurio*, which occurs throughout. In so far as the small British Isles population (*L. c. juxtus* Clancey), with backs in males umber brown rather than rufous, is concerned, this study shows that it

does not extend to within present limits, and its wintering grounds are clearly extra-limital (?=hygric regions of Angola or southern Zaire).

In the case of Zambia, the one extra-limital African territory within the species' wintering range from which a reasonably adequate panel of adult males has been available to me, all three races wintering in the South African

TABLE I

Territory	N	Race		
		<i>L. c. collurio</i>	<i>L. c. pallidifrons</i>	<i>L. c. kobylini</i>
Cape	10	5 (50%) 3 Nov. - 15 Jan.	4 (40%) Jan. - 27 Mar.	1 (10%) 12 Mar.
South-West Africa	9	2 (22.2%) 8 Dec. - 6 Mar.	1 (11.1%) 3 Dec.	6 (66.7%) 9 - 28 Mar.
Botswana	17	6 (35.3%) 13 Nov. - 30 Mar.	9 (52.9%) 12 Nov. - 15 Apr.	2 (11.8%) 20 Feb.
Rhodesia	52	15 (28.8%) 14 Nov. - 17 Mar.	20 (38.5%) 23 Nov. - 10 Apr.	17 (32.7%) 11 Nov. - 11 Apr.
Transvaal (mainly west)	35	14 (20%) 7 Nov. - 12 Apr.	17 (48.6%) 12 Nov. - Apr.	4 (11.4%) 28 Sep.(?) - 23 Feb.
Natal, Swaziland & East Griqualand	18	6 (33.3%) 19 Nov. - 11 Feb.	6 (33.3%) 24 Nov. - 4 Mar.	6 (33.3%) 4 Jan. - 1 Apr.
Moçambique	5	3 27 Nov. - 24 May	—	2 1 Mar. - 7 Apr.
<i>Extra-limital</i> Zambia	35	11 (31.4%) 27 Oct. - 7 Apr.	16 (45.7%) 29 Oct. - 14 Apr.	8 (22.9%) 21 Mar. - 8 Apr.

Lanius collurio Linnaeus

Allocation of South African Sub-Region and Zambian material of adult ♂♂ Redbacked Shrikes to subspecies. The assumed relative abundance of each subspecies in a territory's sample is given in the form of a simple percentage. The first and last dates of specimens in each sample are enumerated for the guidance of future workers.

Sub-Region were found to occur, as was to be expected. It will be appreciated from accompanying Table I that the same position as recorded for South Africa obtains in Zambia, with *pallidifrons* the commonest of the three Redbacked Shrike races, and *kobylini* the least so. It is evident from the comments of Benson *et al.* (1971), that Zambian data in large measure corroborate my findings for the South African Sub-Region.

Vaurie (1959) has defined the breeding ranges and racial characters of the four races of *L. collurio*, *sens. strict.*, on the basis of material from the Palaearctic. Examination of skins of both sexes just through the moult from South Africa shows that the criteria ascribed to the individual races by Vaurie require to be modified and expanded somewhat. Hereunder I give my conclusions as to the characters of use in allocating wintering material taken in southern and eastern Africa to subspecies. The breeding ranges have been laid down in Vaurie's work; in so far as Africa is concerned, the races appear to be synhiemal, or mainly so.

(a) *Lanius collurio collurio* Linnaeus, 1758: Sweden

♂. Forehead Pale Neutral Gray (Ridgway [1912], pl. liii), merging insensibly in to Neutral Gray (same pl.) on the crown, nape, hind and sides of the neck and upper mantle; mantle and scapulars Snuff Brown

(pl. xxix). Tertiials with snuff brown extending over most of outer and part of inner vane.

♀. Upper-parts Saccardo's Umber (pl. xxix), the hind neck greyer, and breast and lateral ventral surfaces heavily squamated with dusky on a whitish ground.

Remarks: Specimens unequivocally of this subspecies were examined from South-West Africa and the Cape, east to the Moçambique littoral, with no evidence from the available data of a preference for any particular sector of the Sub-Region.

(b) *Lanius collurio pallidifrons* Johansen, 1952 (1944): Tomsk, Western Siberia, U.S.S.R.

♂. As in nominate *collurio*, but with the grey of the forehead lighter, often whitish (Pallid Neutral Gray [pl. liii]), merging to Light Neutral Gray (same pl.) on the crown, nape, neck and upper mantle, this sharply demarcated from the redder mantle and scapulars (close to Russet [pl. xv]). Tertiials as in *collurio*.

♀. Upper-parts rather lighter, slightly redder, less olivaceous, especially over the mantle and scapulars than in *collurio*, and hind neck greyer (mantle and scapulars Sayal Brown [pl. xxix]). Ventrally about the same.

Remarks: Originally identified from South Africa on the basis of a male taken at Riverton, Kimberley, northern Cape (Clancey [1961]), and later recorded from Olyvenhout Drift, near Upington, on the Orange R. by Winterbottom (1968) and "Quickborn" Farm, Okahandja, South-West Africa (identified specimen in Transvaal Museum not alluded to by Winterbottom [1971]). Now established as almost certainly the most numerous of the three subspecies occurring within present limits, wintering largely in the Kalahari and peripheral xeric areas of the South West Arid District. Records are now available from the northern Cape, South-West Africa (Okahandja), Botswana, Rhodesia, the Transvaal (mainly dry western) and Natal (coast). There are also numerous records from Zambia, in which territory probably largely a transient to and from desertic areas further south.

A typical example of *pallidifrons* from Kitale, Kenya, is in the collection of the South African Museum, Cape Town. The specimen concerned is dated 7th April, 1929, and was presumably on northbound migration when taken.

Vaurie (1959) records that both *pallidifrons* and nominate *collurio* hybridize freely with *L. c. phoenicuroides* (Schalow), 1875: Chimkent, Russian Turkestan, where their ranges meet, though there is no evidence of any stage of this in South African material (of adult males, as well as sub-adults and adult females), and such interracial hybrids must winter within the Ethiopian non-breeding range of *phoenicuroides*, which is from L. Chad, east to south-western Arabia and Somalia, south in the east of Africa to Malawi (Livingstonia). Not south of the Zambesi R.

(c) *Lanius collurio kobylini* (Buturlin), 1906: Kutais and Ssuran, Transcaucasia, U.S.S.R.

♂. Grey of head-top, hind and sides of the neck and upper mantle darker and bluer than in nominate *collurio* (about Dark Gull Gray [pl. liii]), this frequently more extended caudad over the mantle; mantle and scapulars darker and more saturated, being deep vinous brown (Chestnut Brown [pl. xiv]). Tertiials darker, with the snuff brown generally restricted to the lateral outer vane, and the tip starkly white or buffish white in each feather when in a pristine condition.

♀. When freshly moulted much darker vinaceous brown above than *collurio* (mantle and scapulars Prout's Brown [pl. xv]). Below with buffish or vinaceous tinge to ground, and reduced, often vestigial, squamation.

Remarks: This race appears to winter extensively in northern South-West Africa, and in the east in Rhodesia and Moçambique, south to Natal; it is relatively poorly represented in the samples from the northern Cape (1), Botswana and the western Transvaal, in which xeric region *pallidifrons* predominates. *L. c. kobylini* occurs commonly on passage in coastal Kenya, being the only race represented in the series from that area in the Durban Museum collection. Zambian records are dated 21st March–8th April, suggesting its occurrence there is also that of a transient.

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ADDENDUM

Since the above report on *Lanius collurio* in the South African Sub-Region was prepared and submitted for publication, I have been able to study a recently obtained series of freshly moulted examples from Angola. Six ♂♂, two ♀♀ in immaculate dress from Moçamedes (Bibala) and Huila (Chibemba [Gambos] and Cahama) taken between 19th February and 6th April (1967–1970) are all unequivocal *L. c. kobylini*. These specimens have wings in ♂♂ 94.5 – 98, ♀♀ 94.5, 95.5 mm; weights ♂♂ 27 – 32, ♀♀ 24, 25 gm. The discovery that *L. c. kobylini* winters in numbers in south-western Angola ties in with the finding enunciated above that it is the main race occurring in northern South-West Africa, immediately south of Moçamedes and Huila. I am grateful to Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto for the loan of the material in the collection of the Instituto de Investigação científica de Angola, Sá da Bandeira.