



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

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

London :The Club,1893-

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

v.109-110 (1989-1990):

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/123708>

Page(s): Page 225, Page 226, Page 227

Contributed by: Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by: Biodiversity Heritage Library

Generated 27 April 2015 2:21 AM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/038786300123708>

This page intentionally left blank.

Vrijdagh, J. M. 1949. Observations ornithologiques en region occidentale du Lac Albert et principalement de la plaine d'Ishwa. *Gerfaut* 39: 1-115.

White, C. M. N. 1949. Systematic notes on African Birds. *Ibis* 91: 280-287.

Address: Dr M. Louette, Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, B-1980 Tervuren, Belgium.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1989

The status of *Streptopelia capicola onguati* Macdonald, 1957

by P. A. Clancey

Received 13 April 1989

Streptopelia capicola (Sundevall) is the commonest of the ring-necked savanna woodland doves occurring in southern and eastern Africa, the southern subspecies being reviewed by Clancey (1960) and later adopted in the *S.A.O.S. Checklist* (Clancey 1980). Of the 5 subspecies recognized, one, *S. c. onguati* Macdonald, 1957, was described on 2 specimens, one taken on the property "Onguati" in the Kamanjab district of north-western Namibia (at 19°48'S, 14°39'E) being the type-specimen. The second example, on loan from the Übersee-Museum, Bremen, West Germany, had been collected on Eckenberg Farm in the same general area of Namibia in 1952. As part of his comparative material, Macdonald had, on loan from the Übersee-Museum, the *type* of *S. c. damarensis* (Hartlaub & Finsch), 1870, a mid-1800s C. J. Andersson skin from Otjimbingwe at 22°22'S, 16°08'E in the Namib. Macdonald did not further augment his material in order to define a plausible range for *onguati* and at the same time delimit that of the earlier *damarensis*. As will be appreciated, the type-localities of the 2 taxa do not lie particularly far apart.

Recent opinion (see Morel *et al.* 1986) is that *S. c. onguati* represents the desert (Namib) population, and *S. c. damarensis* that of the Namibian plateau and dry subcontinental interior. Such a view, however, overlooks the obvious taxonomic complication so raised; *onguati* of 1957 is in fact based on a plateau sample and *damarensis* of 1870 on a desertic one. The interpretation as in Morel *et al.* (1986) appears to have as its basis the findings of Traylor (1960), who commented to the effect that a series in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, taken on the arid coast of southwestern Angola, conformed to the description of *onguati* in being paler than in the case of a putative sample of *damarensis* from Okahandja, north of Windhoek, in the Chicago Natural History Museum.

With the *type* of *damarensis* before him, Macdonald described *onguati* as being paler, with the dorsal sepia reduced to a light wash on the mantle and adjacent wing-coverts, and with the forehead pale bluish grey. Ventrally, the throat was described as white and the breast lilac-grey. The wing of the *type* was given as 155 mm.

A re-assessment of the geographical variation in southern Africa, during which over 70 specimens from central and northern Namibia were studied, confirms that at no point is it clinal but derives from an ancient secondary contact between (a) a restricted karoo and arid interior complex of populations distinguished by a bluish or light leaden grey pileum, drab or dull greyish brown dorsum and lavender grey breast, and (b) a tropical savanna woodland group, which arcs round (a) to the immediate north, east and southeast. In this latter group, the pileum is pinkish Mouse Gray (Ridgway 1912), the dorsum olive-brown, and the breast pale vinaceous-drab (pinkish) as opposed to lavender grey. Size also varies, arid country representatives having longer wings than those of moister, and especially coastal, regions. The secondary contact through time resulted in the formation of 2 relatively stabilized hybrid complexes, both of which share characters of one of the parental taxa, namely *S. c. tropica* (Reichenow), 1902: Songea, southeastern Tanzania. The western stabilized hybrid population extends from coastal southwestern Angola, south in the Namib to at least the Kuiseb R., and extends some way over the northwestern plateau of Namibia, and constitutes the revised subspecies *S. c. damarensis* (see below). In the case of the eastern hybrid-based form, which is resident in the moist southeastern highlands of southern Africa in Lesotho and adjacent areas—the subspecies *S. c. abunda* Clancey, 1960: Mooi River, Natal—this is more saturated than nominate *capicola* of the Cape Province, has the pileum as in *tropica* and the breast dark pinkish brown (Brownish Drab) as opposed to lavender grey. This taxon is, strangely enough, not alluded to by Morel *et al.* (1986).

Specimens from the plateau of northern Namibia examined were from Ondangua (17°54'S, 15°59'E), Orupembe (18°09'S, 12°32'E), Ohopoho (18°03'S, 13°50'E), Warmquelle (19°13'S, 13°53'E), Outjo (20°07'S, 16°09'E), Oshivelo (19°42'S, 20°35'E), Gaub Rhenisch Mission (Grootfontein), De Hoek (Gobabis), Okahandja, Karibib and Windhoek, etc. From further south in the territory, specimens from Aus, Bethanie, Mariental and near Keetmanshoop were available. This material reveals a marked shift in dorsal colouration with the mantle, scapulars and tertials increasingly more overlaid with light olive-brown as one proceeds north-westwards to the Namib Desert. While descriptive terms such as 'pale' or 'paler' in defining minor colour nuances of xeric populations of polytypic bird species are frequently all but valueless, in the present case the characters laid out in the original diagnosis of *onguati* are confirmed. Macdonald's description and the evidence provided by the adequate series now examined equate it with the bulk of Namibian plateau birds and with those of the entire subcontinental arid interior, and necessitate a reversal in the current usage of the available names *damarensis* and *onguati*. This is effected hereunder.

***Streptopelia capicola damarensis* (Hartlaub & Finsch), 1870**

Mantle, scapulars and tertials in fresh dress light olive-brown; grey in wings pale smoke grey. On underside, breast about Ecru-Drab. Size large: wings of ♂♂ (n6) 156–166 (160.3), SD 3.38; ♀♀ (n8) 153–162 (156.5), SD 3.02 mm.

Range. Locally along the desertic coast of southwestern Angola and the Namib, Namibia, south to about the Kuiseb R. and over the plateau of Kaokoland and the immediate southeast. Intergrades with the following to the east of its range.

***Streptopelia capicola onguati* Macdonald, 1957**

Differs from *damarensis* in having the vinaceous colouration over the hind-head and neck lighter (less saturated), and with the mantle, scapulars and tertials colder, with the upper mantle greyer and the rest of the dorsum Drab. Grey in wings a little darker and bluer, and with the breast pale drab-grey. Size ranging somewhat larger: wings of ♂♂ (n15) 159–167 (162.3), SD 2.49; ♀♀ (n6) 153–162 (158.9), SD 3.38 mm.

Range. The plateau of Namibia from Ovamboland and the Etosha Pan region, south to the lower Orange R., east to Botswana (to the south and southeast of the Okavango delta system), western Zimbabwe, western Transvaal and Orange Free State, and the northern Cape (south at least to Kuruman). Intergrades to the north of its range with *S. c. tropica*, and to the south with the nominate race of the Cape.

The third Namibian subspecies is *S. c. tropica*, which occurs in northern Ovamboland and extensively in the mid-Okavango drainage to the Caprivi and Okavango Swamps, the complete range as given in Clancey (1960). This taxon has the pileum pinkish Mouse Gray, and is more extensively and warmer (buffier) vinaceous over the proximal head and neck, the mantle olive-brown. Below, it is pinker over the breast (pale vinaceous-fawn), with both the throat and lower venter extensively white. Size runs smaller than the foregoing subspecies, with wings in ♂♀ (n14) from Mozambique 145–155 (150.3), SD 3.31 mm. There is evidence from the material examined that *tropica* extends on occasion south of its breeding range, as instanced by a Transvaal Museum specimen from Husab, on the Swakop R. in the Namib at 22°43'S, 15°01'E. Unfortunately, it has no date.

Acknowledgements

For the loan of additional material I am indebted to Dr J. M. Mendelsohn and Joris Komen of the State Museum, Windhoek, and Dr A. C. Kemp, Ornithologist of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

References:

- Clancey, P. A. 1960. The South African races of the Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola* (Sundevall). In Misc. Tax. Notes on African Birds XV, *Durban Mus. Novit.* 6(2): 18–27.
- Clancey, P. A. (Ed) 1980. *S.A.O.S. Checklist of Southern African Birds*: 89–90. Southern African Ornithological Society, Johannesburg.
- Macdonald, J. D. 1957. *A Contribution to the Ornithology of Western South Africa*: 72–73. British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London
- Morel, S. J., Morel, M.-Y. & Fry C. H. 1986. In *The Birds of Africa*, 2: 484–486. Academic Press.
- Traylor Jr, M. A. 1960. Notes on the birds of Angola, non passeres. *Publ. Cult. Companhia de Diamantes de Angola*, No. 51: 150.
- Ridgway, R. 1912. *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*. The Author, Washington, DC.

Address: Dr P. A. Clancey, Research Associate, Durban Natural History Museum, P.O. Box 4085, Durban 4000, South Africa.