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## Systematic Notes on Palearctic Birds. No. 7 Alaudidae and Motacillidae (Genus *Anthus*)

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The following notes are observations made during a study of the Alaudidae and Motacillidae for a contemplated check list of the Palearctic region. The notes on the Motacillidae published here are restricted to the genus *Anthus*.

### ALAUDIDAE

The Alaudidae have been reviewed by Meinertzhagen (1951, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 1, pp. 81-132) with the exception of the genera *Mirafr*, *Eremopterix*, and *Eremophila*. The forms of western Asia including a complete review of *Alauda* east of the Caucasus have been reviewed by Vaurie (1951, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 97, pp. 435-526).

### EREMALAUDA

This monotypic genus has been merged with *Ammomanes* by Meinertzhagen (1951), from which it differs, however, by its spotted juvenal plumage and streaked upper parts in the adult. *Eremalauda* seems to be a valid genus, the correct position of which may be closer to *Eremopterix* as suggested by Sclater.

### EREMOPTERIX

In *Eremopterix nigriceps*, I consider that *affinis* Blyth, 1867, Sind, and *sincipitalis* Blyth, 1867, Aden, are synonyms of *melanauchen* Cabanis, 1851, Jidda, Arabia. Specimens examined show that topotypes of *affinis* and *sincipitalis* are identical and that these two populations differ from *melanauchen* examined from Arabia, Red Sea Province, Eritrea, and Somaliland by being only very slightly paler in both sexes, the difference being too slight in my opinion to warrant separation. The size of the

white frontal patch and the posterior limits of the black on the crown vary individually to the same extent in all the populations examined.

### AMMOMANES

In *Ammomanes deserti* I do not accept the forms below for the following reasons: *A. d. intermedia* Heim de Balsac, 1925, is a pure intermediate between *algeriensis* Sharpe, 1890, and *mya* Hartert, 1912, and I agree with Meinertzhagen (1951) that it is best synonymized with *mya*. I consider, provisionally, that *bensoni* Meinertzhagen (1933, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 53, p. 151, Ahaggar Plateau) is synonymous with *geyri* Hartert, 1924, Air. I did not examine *bensoni*, but the diagnosis given by Meinertzhagen fails to compare this dark form with the dark *geyri*. *A. d. whitakeri* Hartert, 1911, Tripoli, and *mirei* Berlioz (1950, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris, ser. 2, vol. 22, p. 211, Tibesti) I consider to be synonymous with nominate *deserti* Lichtenstein, 1823, Egypt. I did not examine *mirei* which is based on a single specimen said to be in "deplorable condition" by Meinertzhagen (1951), but this form certainly requires confirmation, for the diagnosis fails to differentiate it from nominate *deserti* or *geyri*. In the case of *whitakeri* I find that two specimens (the type and a paratype) are not separable from an original specimen of nominate *deserti* of Lichtenstein.

### ALAEMON

In *Alaemon alaudipes*, the range of the nominate race extends in Africa from Rio de Oro eastward to the Nile Valley, and in the Sahara from the foothills of the Atlas south to the Ahaggar and the Air. Of a large series examined, a series of 13 specimens from the following regions stands out conspicuously by being more richly colored, a warmer sandy buff, than specimens in comparative plumage from the rest of Africa. This series, which is very uniform, consists of two specimens from Oued el Abiodh, north of In-Salah, Tidikelt, one specimen from the Ahaggar, and 10 from the Air (see also Hartert, 1921, Novitates Zool., vol. 28, p. 128; 1924, *ibid.*, vol. 31, p. 38, as to the characters of these specimens). This series is certainly uniform and distinct enough to warrant separation, but in the other parts of the range of nominate *alaudipes* one finds occasional specimens that are identical or very similar to those of the more richly colored series. I have examined such specimens from Biskra, Beni Ounif near Figuig, from Wadi Natrun and near Cairo in Egypt, and from Shereik and Nacheila in northern Sudan. Under the circumstances it seems best not to separate nomenclaturally the darker population.

*MELANOCORYPHA*

*Melanocorypha maxima* requires further study. Some of its populations were studied by Stegmann (1937, Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 45, pp. 54–56) who described two new forms, *subgrisea* from Oring Nor in Tsinghai, and *flavescens* from western Nan Shan. An additional form from Rupshu was described as *kashmirica* by Koelz (1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52, p. 122). After study of the material in the American Museum and British Museum I came to the conclusion (1951) that it is best, for the present, to recognize only two races, a dark race (nominate *maxima*) in the southern part of the range, and a pale race (*holdereri*) replacing the dark race to the west, north, and east; *subgrisea* is a pure synonym of *holdereri* (for a similar opinion, see Meise, 1937, Jour. Ornith., vol. 85, p. 488). The other two forms, *flavescens* from the northeastern part of the range and *kashmirica* from the westernmost part of the range, require confirmation and may provisionally be regarded as synonyms of *holdereri*. I did not examine *flavescens*, but it does not seem that its separation from *holdereri* on the basis of smaller size, as proposed by Stegmann, can be maintained, though it may differ in coloration. The only material of *kashmirica* in existence is badly worn and not diagnostic but averages somewhat larger than *holdereri*. The wing length of males in *holdereri*, 12 specimens, is 148–158 (151), in *kashmirica*, five specimens, 151–160 (155); but as shown in 1951 there is a great deal of overlap in individual measurements.

*EREMOPHILA*

In *Eremophila alpestris* the populations breeding in the steppes east of the Volga eastward to Transbaicalia and the Khingan and in northern Mongolia, Gobi, Ala Shan to northern Kansu, Altai, Tarbagatai, and central and eastern Tian Shan vary very slightly geographically and have been divided into five races: *brandti* Dresser, 1874, Kirghiz Steppes; *parvexi* Taczanowski, 1876, Daurian Steppes and northern Mongolia; *montana* Bianchi, 1904, central Tian Shan; *hachlowi* Meise, 1932, Tarbagatai; and *altaica* Meise, 1932, Altai.

Specimens of *hachlowi* and *parvexi* were not available to me, but the validity of these two forms is considered to be dubious by Dementiev (1934, L'Oiseau, p. 601). Topotypical specimens examined by me of *montana* and *brandti* and specimens from the range of *altaica* show that *montana* has a somewhat thinner and more attenuated bill than *brandti* and that *altaica* averages very slightly darker and browner than *brandti* and has a somewhat shorter wing than *montana* (*altaica*, 106–113; *mon-*

*tana*, 106–119). None of the characters are constant, and it seems best to treat this complex of very slightly differentiated and ill-defined forms (including *hachlowi* and *parvexi*) under the oldest name, *brandti* Dresser, 1874.

*Eremophila bilopha* is usually considered to be conspecific with *E. alpestris*, but I entirely agree with Stresemann (1926, Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 34, pp. 136–137) that it must be regarded as a separate species. Both forms differ sharply in their ecology and in the plumage of the young. Juvenal *bilopha* is only very faintly spotted, but in juvenal *alpestris* the feathers of the upper parts are very boldly spotted with broad buffy edgings. A difference in pattern can be discerned also in the adult plumage. In *alpestris* the upper parts are streaked and in the male the pinkish tinge reaches usually only to the hind neck and in the female is even more restricted, whereas in both sexes of *bilopha* the entire upper parts are of one uniform tone (reddish sandy) and not streaked. In adult *bilopha* the “horns” are much longer than in adult *alpestris*, and there is a very clear-cut difference in body size, *bilopha* being much smaller and more slightly built than the races of *alpestris* with which it comes in contact, *bicornis* in the Near East and *atlas* in Morocco. Stresemann (*loc. cit.*) has separated the population of *bilopha* from Rio de Oro as *elegans* on the basis of smaller size; the wing length of four males from Rio de Oro is 93–96 (94+) as against 94–103 (97.7) in 19 males from Syria and Algeria. This difference does not seem sufficient to warrant nomenclatural recognition.

#### GALERIDA

In *Galerida cristata* many races have been separated nomenclaturally on slight differences in coloration, but an examination of the species taken as a whole shows that many of these races are not constant or are too slightly differentiated to warrant recognition (see also Meinertzhagen, 1951). The following forms may be briefly discussed:

*Galerida c. tenuirostris* C. L. Brehm, 1858, lower Volga; *G. c. kleinschmidti* Erlanger, 1899, Tangier; and *G. c. moltschanowi* Gawrilenko, 1926, Crimea, are synonyms of nominate *cristata* Linnaeus, 1758. Populations from the range of *tenuirostris* and *moltschanowi* are not constant in coloration or bill characters. In 1951, I suggested that *tenuirostris* be synonymized with *caucasica*, for some specimens from Romania and the lower Volga tend to approach *caucasica* in being grayer, less brownish, than nominate *cristata*. Upon reexamination, however, I agree with Meinertzhagen that *tenuirostris* is best synonymized with nominate *cristata*, together with *moltschanowi*. In the case of *kleinschmidti* I find

that of nine specimens from Tangier about half are identical with the specimens from central Europe.

*Galerida c. neumanni* Hilgert, 1907, Rome, and *G. c. apuliae* von Jordans, 1935, Apulia, are synonyms of *G. c. meridionalis* C. L. Brehm, 1841, Dalmatia. In this I differ from Meinertzhagen who recognizes *neumanni* but not *meridionalis* which he considers to be synonymous with nominate *cristata*. I find, however, that although the populations of Dalmatia and Italy vary slightly geographically they are separable as a group from nominate *cristata* in being darker. I also differ in that I consider that the population of Spain (*pallida*) is sufficiently distinct from nominate *cristata* to warrant recognition as being slightly but distinctly paler.

I agree with Meinertzhagen that *G. c. cypriaca* Bianchi, 1907, Cyprus, and *ioniae* Kollibay, 1912, Priene, south of Smyrna, are not or are probably not separable from *caucasica* Taczanowski, 1887, Caucasus, but I have not examined specimens from the region of Smyrna, and this population may be found to be similar to that of Anatolia and the Taurus (*subtaurica*). Contrary to the opinion of White (1934, Ibis, p. 116) I find that a breeding series from Crete is not separable from *caucasica*. Meinertzhagen treats *subtaurica* Kollibay, 1912, Taurus, and *ankarae* Kummerlöwe and Niethammer, 1934, Anatolia, as synonyms of *caucasica*, but in my opinion these forms are sandy and constitute a valid form (*subtaurica*) related, not to *caucasica*, but to the *magna* group of populations. Specimens from Anatolia were not examined, but this population is described as similar to *subtaurica*.

Meinertzhagen synonymizes *macrorhyncha* Tristram, 1859, Laghouat, Algerian Sahara, and *riggenbachii* Hartert, 1902, Mazagan, western Morocco, with *randonii* Loche, 1858, northern Algeria, and *carthaginis* Kleinschmidt and Hilgert, 1905, Tunis, with *arenicola* Tristram, 1859, eastern Algerian Sahara and southern Tunisia. I cannot follow this drastic treatment which I find to be misleading, for all five races are perfectly valid. *Galerida c. macrorhyncha* is paler and more sandy and has a shorter wing than *randonii*; this last form is distinctly paler and larger throughout than *riggenbachii*. In the case of *arenicola* and *carthaginis* I cannot understand Meinertzhagen's statement, "It has been customary to identify all the pale worn specimens as '*arenicola*' and the darker fresh-plumaged birds as '*carthaginis*' when they are in reality the same," for I find that a series of 11 topotypes of *carthaginis* plus other specimens from northern Tunisia are very distinctly darker than a large series of *arenicola* from southern Tunisia which was collected at the same dates and is in precisely the same state of plumage.

Size variation in *riggenbachi*, *randonii*, and *macrorhyncha* in five males taken at random is:

	WING	BILL
<i>riggenbachi</i>	104-114 (109)	21-24 (22)
<i>randonii</i>	115-119 (117)	23-25 (24)
<i>macrorhyncha</i>	111-114 (112)	23-26 (24.5)

*Galerida c. moeritica* Nicoll and Bonhote, 1909, Faiyum; *G. c. halfae* Nicoll, 1921, Wadi Halfa; and *G. c. imami* Meinertzhagen, 1923, Yemen highlands, are synonyms of *G. c. maculata* C. L. Brehm, 1858, Aswan. Examination shows that the populations of these regions of Egypt and of the Yemen are all dark and not separable in topotypical specimens in comparative plumage, though the specimens from Wadi Halfa average somewhat paler. Bates (1938, Ibis, p. 445) maintains that *imami* is a synonym of *tardinata* Hartert, 1904, Hadramaut (which I agree with Meinertzhagen is a synonym of *altirostris*), on the ground that the actual type locality of *tardinata* (Dthubiyat) is actually in the highlands where a dark form ("*imami*") is known to occur. However, examination of the type of *imami* and 11 other specimens and of the type of *tardinata* and 29 other specimens shows that in comparative plumage *imami* is much darker than *tardinata* but that, as stated, *imami* cannot be separated from *maculata* and that *tardinata* cannot be separated from *altirostris*.

Meinertzhagen treats *maculata* as a synonym of *altirostris*, but in my opinion his concept of this last form is far too broad, *maculata* is a very distinct form, and *magna* and *leautungensis*, treated also by Meinertzhagen as synonyms of *altirostris*, are clearly separable from this form. I do agree, however, that *brachyura*, *caroli*, *tardinata*, *nubica*, and *eritreae* are not separable in series from *altirostris*. *Galerida c. magna* from southern and eastern Iran, Afghanistan, Transcaspia, and both Turkestans to northern Kansu, Ala Shan, and northern Mongolia is consistently larger than the *altirostris* complex and though pale and buffy is less sandy, and *leautungensis* from Manchuria and northern China to southern Kansu is browner, more "earthy," than *magna* or *altirostris*. In *magna*, large series show that the populations of Russian Turkestan (*ivanowi*) are cooler gray above, whiter below, and better streaked than topotypical *magna* (Sinkiang), and the populations of Transcaspia and Iran (*vamberyi*) are duller and more sandy, but the characters of *ivanowi* and *vamberyi* though constant are insufficiently well marked to warrant separation from *magna*. I did not examine *alaschanica* but follow Meinertzhagen in treating it as a provisional synonym of *magna*.

The complex of the many names above is very confusing. The names of the races considered to be valid by Meinertzhagen or myself and the

combination of their synonyms (in parentheses) are given below. The order followed summarizes the discussion above and does not imply priority or that the synonymy is necessarily complete.

MEINERTZHAGEN: Nominate *cristata* (*meridionalis*, *tenuirostris*, *pallida*, *kleinschmidti*, *moltschanowi*); *neumanni* (*apuliae*); *caucasica* (*cypriaca*, *ioniae*, *subtaurica*, *ankarae*); *randonii* (*macrorhyncha*, *riggenbachi*); *imami*; *arenicola* (*carthaginis*); *altirostris* (*moeritica*, *halfae*, *tardinata*, *maculata*, *magna*, *leautungensis*, *brachyura*, *caroli*, *nubica*, *eritreae*, *iwanowi*, *vambergi*, *alaschanica*) = seven recognized subspecies.

VAURIE: Nominate *cristata* (*tenuirostris*, *kleinschmidti*, *moltschanowi*); *meridionalis* (*neumanni*, *apuliae*); *pallida*; *caucasica* (*cypriaca*, *ioniae*); *subtaurica* (*ankarae*); *randonii*; *macrorhyncha*; *riggenbachi*; *arenicola*; *carthaginis*; *maculata* (*moeritica*, *halfae*, *imami*); *altirostris* (*tardinata*, *brachyura*, *caroli*, *nubica*, *eritreae*); *magna* (*iwanowi*, *vambergi*, *alaschanica*); *leautungensis* = 14 recognized subspecies.

In *Galerida theklae*, a cline, appreciable only in series, runs from Spain to southern Morocco and Rio de Oro, the populations becoming progressively duller as well as increasingly tinged with rufous as they range farther south. Meinertzhagen accepts only the ends of the cline, nominate *theklae* (type locality, Spain), the range of which he extends to south of the Grand Atlas, and *theresae* Meinertzhagen (1939, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 59, p. 65, Anti Atlas south of Tiznit). This division is in my opinion quite arbitrary, for the material examined shows that three races can be easily distinguished in series: nominate *theklae* on the Iberian Peninsula, from which the population of the Balearic Islands (*polatzeki*) cannot be separated in series, though individual specimens from the islands have a more slender bill, the difference being, however, extremely slight; *erlangeri* from northern Morocco to the Middle Atlas; and *ruficolor* Whitaker, 1898, to the south; the southernmost populations (*theresae*) are only very slightly differentiated from *ruficolor* and the older *ruficolor* cannot be replaced by *theresae*. The populations (*harterti*) of northern Algeria and northern Tunisia are most variable individually, and about half of the specimens cannot be distinguished from *erlangeri*, the other half being similar to nominate *theklae*. On the Hauts Plateaux of Algeria the population is more or less intermediate between the dark or reddish coastal populations and the pale populations (*superflua*) from the southern foothills of the Atlas.

Some local populations in Algeria and Tunisia show a close correlation between the coloration of the plumage and of the soil, resulting in a patchy distribution or in the presence of several "races" in the same area if there are local variations in the coloration of the soil (see also Ticehurst and Whistler, 1938, Ibis, pp. 729-731).

*ALAUDA*

In *Alda arvensis*<sup>1</sup> the populations of Great Britain, Outer Hebrides, and Ireland vary slightly geographically, and several populations have been separated nomenclaturally. A few specimens examined from the Outer Hebrides tend to be somewhat more richly colored than nominate *arvensis* from Scandinavia, but others are identical. According to Meinertzhagen (1951) the population from the extreme west coast of Ireland, which he has separated as *theresae* (1947, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 67, p. 93), is more richly colored than nominate *arvensis* from Scandinavia but, he finds, is similar to some specimens from the Outer Hebrides. Clinal changes can be discerned, but judging from the geographical variation prevailing throughout the range of the species and the characters of the specimens that I have examined from the Outer Hebrides, I do not believe that this population and the other peripheral population from Ireland should be separated nomenclaturally from nominate *arvensis*.

Breeding specimens from Transcaucasia and northern Iran occasionally measure larger than those in the other populations of *cantarella*, and the name *armenica* Bogdanov, Tiflis, is available. These populations are, however, too variable individually to warrant separation.

It is not clear whether *quelpartae* Momiyama, 1927, Quelpart Island, is a synonym of *kiborti* Zaleski, 1917, which appears to be the form breeding in Korea, or of *intermedia* Swinhoe, 1863, the form breeding in Ussuriland (see Vaurie, 1951) and of which *nigrescens*, 1929, and *pusilla*, 1928, are synonyms. I did not examine specimens from Quelpart. Yamashina (1939, *Tori*, vol. 10, p. 474) recognizes *quelpartae* as a valid form, with *nigrescens* and *pusilla* as synonyms, but since these two names are synonyms of *intermedia*, *quelpartae* is synonymous with *intermedia*. If, on the other hand, the populations of Korea and Quelpart are identical, as stated by Yamashina, *quelpartae* is a synonym of *kiborti*.

<sup>1</sup> A paper published very recently by Udagawa (1953, *Tori*, pp. 77, 83-84) which was kindly transmitted to me by Dr. Mayr is of much interest. The specific status of the skylark (*japonica*) which breeds in the Japanese Archipelago north to Hokkaido is in doubt (see Vaurie, 1951). This form seems to be derived from *A. gulgula* but appears to connect this species to *A. arvensis*. *Alda gulgula* is sympatric with *A. arvensis* at the western end of its range, but in Japan, *japonica* appeared to be the geographical representative of *A. arvensis*. Now Udagawa states that he has found that *japonica* breeds side by side with *lönnerbergi*, "mixed in the same territory on Yagishiri," a small island with a circumference of about 7 miles off the north-western coast of Hokkaido. He adds that *lönnerbergi* may breed also in northern Hokkaido. If Udagawa is correct, *japonica* should now be considered to be conspecific with *A. gulgula*.



## MOTACILLIDAE

## ANTHUS

*Anthus richardi* and *Anthus campestris*

The Siberian forms of this genus have been discussed by Johansen (1952, Jour. Ornith., vol. 92 (1944), pp. 145–157). He describes three new races: *A. richardi dauricus*, Ukubun, Selenginsk district, western Transbaicalia; *A. r. ussuriensis*, Possiet Bay, southern Ussuriland; and *A. campestris kastschenkoi*, Novosibirsk, western Siberia. All three, although they represent terminal populations in clines of coloration and size, are but slightly differentiated. Of these, *dauricus* is said to be similar in size to *richardi* from western Siberia but paler, almost as pale as *centralasiae* from the Tian Shan and western Nan Shan but smaller. The size difference between *richardi* and *centralasiae* is not, however, very well marked. Johansen gives the wing length in males of *richardi* and *dauricus* as 93–101 and in males of *centralasiae* from the Tian Shan and Nan Shan as 100–102. I did not examine *dauricus* which may perhaps be retained provisionally.

Of the other two forms, *ussuriensis* requires confirmation before it can be accepted, and *kastschenkoi* seems to be too poorly differentiated to warrant recognition. Johansen separated *ussuriensis* from *sinensis* of southern China on the basis of larger size, wing length of males 90–95 as against “up to 91” in male *sinensis*, but adequate comparative breeding material from the southern part of the range is lacking. The only published measurement of a breeding male that I am aware of is of a specimen from Szechwan with a wing of 91 given by Stresemann (1931, Jour. Ornith., vol. 79, p. 131). Winter visitors measured by me from Fukien and Hainan have a wing length in males ranging from 87 to 96, and Meinertzhagen (1921, Ibis, p. 653) gives the wing length in winter specimens of both sexes from south China as 85 to 91. Further study may show that a cline of decreasing size runs from Ussuriland to southern China.

The eastern populations of nominate *campestris* were separated by Johansen as *kastschenkoi* on the basis of being slightly paler and averaging smaller. These differences do not seem of taxonomic importance, and there is a great deal of overlap in measurements. Johansen gives the wing length in males of *kastschenkoi* as 85–92 and quotes the measurements of males given by Witherby from England as 89–98, and by Niethammer from Germany as 88–96. Breeding males measured by me from Europe have a wing ranging from 86 to 96. For additional measurements, see Stresemann (1920, Avifauna Macedonica, p. 70).

*Anthus trivialis*

In *Anthus trivialis* the populations breeding from Europe to Lake Baikal and the Lena in Siberia have been divided into two races by the Russian authors, nominate *trivialis* and *sibirica* replacing each other, respectively, west and east of the Urals. The latter is said to be paler, smaller, and to show a slight difference in the shape of the wing tip. The validity of *sibirica* is, however, in dispute. Dementiev (1934, L'Oiseau, p. 614) states that the differences in coloration are not constant and that the differences in size or shape of the wing are too slight to warrant separation. A contrary view is taken by Johansen (*loc. cit.*) who gives the wing length in male nominate *trivialis* as 88–94 as against 83–90 in male *sibirica*. My material is limited but supports Dementiev: I can see no significant difference in size or in coloration in specimens in comparative plumage between nominate *trivialis* from Europe and nine specimens from Siberia from Novosibirsk and Yakutia, the wing length of six males from Yakutia being 86–92.

In *Anthus trivialis* the status of the populations breeding in Russian Turkestan, western Tian Shan, and Pamirs to northwestern Himalayas requires further study. The populations of Russian Turkestan and western Tian Shan generally show the thickened bill but lack as a rule the heavy streaks of the Himalayan populations (*haringtoni* Witherby, 1917, Hazara, of which *A. hodgsoni burzil* Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 52, p. 75, Burzil Pass, Kashmir, is a synonym,<sup>1</sup> based, I find, on worn specimens of *A. trivialis haringtoni*). The populations of Russian Turkestan and western Tian Shan may be found to be similar to those of the Pamirs, which I have not examined, and separable from *haringtoni*. If so they must be called *schlüteri* Kleinschmidt, 1920 (Falco, p. 16), Naryn, western Tian Shan, and not *microrhynchus* Severtzow, 1883, Pamirs, for this name is preoccupied by *Anthus arboreus microrhynchus* C. L. Brehm, 1856, a synonym of nominate *trivialis*.

*Anthus pratensis*

Meinertzhagen in his remarks on *Anthus pratensis* (1953, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 73, p. 43) states that the population of northern Scotland described as *whistleri* by Clancey in 1942 (Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 63, p. 6) is not separable in series from nominate *pratensis* from Scandinavia. He states, "I have examined 18 specimens from North Scotland; most of these cannot be separated from Scandinavian speci-

<sup>1</sup>For a similar opinion and the form breeding at the Burzil Pass, see Whistler (1943, Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 43, p. 36) and also Ripley (1948, Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 47, p. 626).

mens though a few are intermediate between Scandinavian and West Irish birds." The latter he separates as *theresae* on the basis of being more richly colored, redder above, less white below, than nominate *pratensis*. My own examination confirms Meinertzhagen as to the lack of validity of *whistleri*, but I cannot judge as to the validity of *theresae* which I have not examined. The populations of western Ireland are often more saturated, however, and the characters of *theresae* may be sufficiently well marked to warrant separation.

I cannot agree with Meinertzhagen as to the characters of the eastern populations of *A. pratensis* or as to his proposed nomenclatural treatment of this species. Meinertzhagen says that a cline of decreasing pigmentation runs from west to east and states, "I suggest that *A. p. intermedius* Dresser be used for the pale eastern race and that all intermediates from intermediate areas be referred to as *A. p. intermedius* cl. *A. p. theresae*." I agree in principle with a further remark, "that intermediate races from intermediate areas should not bear scientific names," but in this case the "intermediate" is nominate *pratensis* of Linnaeus, a name that cannot very well be suppressed, and the population of Scandinavia is not, I find, truly intermediate, for specimens examined from the eastern part of the range show only a very slight tendency to be paler than specimens from Scandinavia. This tendency is not of taxonomic importance, and *intermedius* Dresser has always been correctly regarded by all modern authors as a synonym of *pratensis* Linnaeus.

#### *Anthus cervinus*

Some Russian authors, such as Portenko, followed by Johansen (*loc. cit.*) divide the various populations of *Anthus cervinus* into two races, *rufogularis* in the west and nominate *cervinus* in the east, the two races replacing each other at the Taimyr Peninsula. The eastern populations are somewhat duller and grayer above and paler and somewhat less heavily streaked below, but the differences are slight and do not warrant separation. The eastern populations are said to be smaller (see the measurements given by Johansen), but I find that the overlap in the measurements of specimens from the east and west is virtually complete: wing length of adult males, northern Europe, 14 specimens, 82–91 (86.5), northeastern Siberia (mouth of the Lena and Cape Svyatoi), 18 specimens, 80–89 (84.5).

#### *Anthus spinoletta*

In *Anthus spinoletta* some Russian authors, such as Portenko, followed by Johansen (*loc. cit.*) are of the opinion that the populations of north-

eastern Siberia differ from *rubescens* of North America and should be called *härmsi* Zarudny, described from migrants taken at Tashkent in Russian Turkestan. I find that I cannot separate in any way specimens from North America from breeding specimens from the Commander Islands and Bulun near the mouth of the Lena. I also have one of Zarudny's specimens from Tashkent, and it is identical with the specimens from North America, Commanders, and northeastern Siberia. Johansen states that *härmsi* is intermediate between *rubescens* and the more southern *japonicus*. It may, as such, be found to be an inconstant form, but on the basis of the material examined I must consider it to be synonymous with *rubescens*.

In *Anthus spinoletta* the populations breeding from the Caucasus and northern Iran eastward to Russian Turkestan, Altai, Sayans, Transbaicalia and Mongolia are pale and are usually called *blakistoni* Swinhoe, 1863, described from a migrant in the lower Yangtze Valley, and the population of the Caucasus is sometimes separated as *caucasicus* Laubmann, 1915. I have examined only a few breeding specimens from the Caucasus, western Tian Shan, and the Alma Ata region of Russian Turkestan, but these specimens are not separable from a very large series of winter specimens or specimens taken out of the breeding season from Egypt, Near East, Caucasus, many parts of Iran and Afghanistan, Kashmir, Russian Turkestan north to the Tarbagatai, Kansu, Shensi, Szechwan, and Yangtze Valley. There is of course a certain amount of individual variation in the streaking of the breast which may be more or less obsolete and in the coloration of the under parts which is more or less whitish or pale vinous buff. However, until adequate breeding material can be studied it seems wiser to follow the suggestion of Hartert and Steinbacher (1933, *Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna*, p. 139) and recognize but one form, the oldest name of which is *coutellii* Audouin, 1828, based on migrants from Egypt.

In the *petrosus* group of *A. spinoletta* I am unable to recognize more than three slightly differentiated races: *kleinschmidti* in the Faroes, *petrosus* in the British Isles and coasts of northwestern France, and *littoralis* in the Baltic and the White Sea. In the case of the last-named a certain number of specimens cannot be separated from *petrosus*, and I came to the conclusion that the differences in coloration between the two forms might be due to differences in the state of plumage. This was explained by a study of Mayaud (1952, *Alauda*, pp. 65-79) who finds that the characters of *littoralis* are acquired through a complete, or rather complete prenuptial, molt, but "if there is no prenuptial molt, or a partial

molt, the prenuptial plumage persists and the bird has a *petrosus* phenotype." These differences in the molt vary geographically.

Meinertzhagen, in his remarks on *A. spinoletta* (1953, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 73, p. 43), merges many populations under the name *petrosus*, including that of the Faroes. I agree that the difference in size between that population and that of Wales (the type locality of *petrosus*) is not well marked. Salomonsen (1935, Zoology of the Faroes, Aves, p. 136) gives the wing length of males in the Faroes as 93–96 (once 99), and males measured by me from western England range from 89–95 (92), but birds from the Faroes, though very similar to *petrosus*, can be distinguished by their darker upper parts and by their usually more heavily streaked under parts. I find, however, that the characters of birds from the Outer Hebrides (*meinertzhageni* Bird, 1936, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 56, p. 55) are not constant and that not this race nor *hesperianus* Clancey (1942, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, vol. 62, p. 58) from western Scotland nor *ponens* Clancey (1942, *ibid.*, vol. 63, p. 41) from Ushant can be separated from *petrosus*.

#### *Anthus sylvanus*

The Upland Pipit of the Himalayas (*sylvanus* Blyth) has been hitherto separated from the other pipits as the monotypic genus *Oreocorys* Sharpe which is based solely on the more pointed tips of the rectrices. I see, however, no reason why *Oreocorys* should be retained, for *sylvanus* is otherwise a typical *Anthus* in pattern as well as in habits. The bill of *sylvanus* is thicker and less attenuated than in most pipits but does not differ from that of some races of *A. novaeseelandiae*.





