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A NOTE ON THE SPECIES *MUSCICAPA WESTERMANNI*

BY S. DILLON RIPLEY

I have recently examined 86 female specimens of the Little Pied Flycatcher, formerly called *M. melanoleuca*, which as Deignan has pointed out (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 60, 1947, pp. 165-66) must now be called *Muscicapa westermanni*. My original interest lay in examining the type of *Muscicapa westermanni apo* (Hachisuka) from Mount Apo, Mindanao, which is in my collection. A close comparison of this single specimen with material from the rest of the Philippine Islands and Malaya, shows that while the Mindanao bird does in fact differ from those of Luzon or Negros, it is inseparable from Malayan birds, and so *apo* must be considered a synonym of typical *westermanni*.

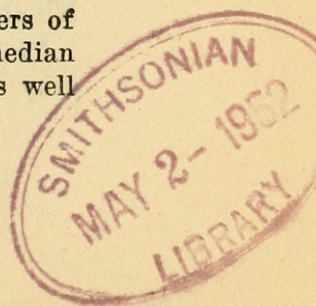
This examination has prompted me to borrow material from the British Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, the Chicago Museum, and the U. S. National Museum, and I am most grateful to the authorities of these institutions for the loan of specimens. In the following discussion, all colors have been compared with Ridgway (*A Nomenclature of Colors*, 1886).

As Mayr points out in the latest discussion of this flycatcher (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 83, Art. 2, 1944, pp. 161-62), this is a markedly heterogynic species, in which the black and white plumage of the male seems to vary not at all. Nor does there seem to be any significant size difference within the species. The sole variation among the populations throughout the species range is in the color of the females, the tone and color of the feathers of the head and back, and the color of the rump, upper tail coverts, and basal edges of the rectrices. Comparing these differences then, I would list the following populations, from west to east throughout the range of this species.

Muscicapa westermanni collini Rothschild

Range.—Himalayas from Kumaon east through Nepal (type locality) and Sikkim. In winter migrant specimens (named *pusilla* by Blyth, 1849) have been taken in central India, now Madhya Pradesh, west Bengal, and in parts of Madras State.

Topotypical females of this race tend to have a hazel-colored shading on the forehead, lores, and around the eye, merging into the brownish-gray of the crown, nape, and upper back, the centers of the feathers of the crown deep olive, almost clove brown. The edgings to the median and lesser wing coverts are pale drab. The rump in this form as well



as the edges of the rectrices are grayish-drab, lacking the bright fuscous or rufescent tones of the more eastern populations. There is a tendency in *collini* to a brownish or hazel suffusion on the feathers of the throat and upper breast, but as in the other forms the abdomen and under tail coverts are white, the basal two-thirds of the feathers dark gray.

Muscicapa westermanni australorientis subsp. nov.

Type.—♀ ad. (Yale Peabody Museum, No. 11912), collected October 14, 1939, by A. David-Beaulieu at Phou Kobo, Laos, French Indochina.

Diagnosis.—Compared to *collini*, this form is less tinged with hazel on the lores and forehead, and lacks any of this coloration on the throat and upper breast. The head and nape are darker, dark mouse-gray in tone, and the back is washed with light tawny-olive. The rump and outer edges of the rectrices vary from russet to mars brown, distinctly brighter and more reddish thus than *collini*.

Compared to *langbianis*, under which name birds from the whole of the Indochinese Subregion were lumped by Mayr (*op. cit.*), this form is lighter, more brownish on the upper surface, the back more washed with tawny-olive, and the rump, upper tail coverts, and edges of the rectrices are dark russet, rather than the pale color, hazel to cinnamon-rufous of the latter form.

Range.—Bhutan, Assam, Burma in the hills, Yunnan, Siam, and Indochina in Laos and Tonkin, wandering irregularly to the adjacent plains in winter.

A female from Margherita in the American Museum collection (No. 605569) and a female from the "Bhutan Duars" in the British Museum collection (Reg. No. 86.4.1,2040) are alike in being strongly olive-brownish on the upper surface, saturated with this color in fact. Another Mandelli specimen from the "Bhutan Duars," however, matches the series of *australorientis* as does a very worn bird collected by Ludlow and Sherriff at Sakden (6000 ft.) in 1934. It may be that there is a markedly saturated population of this species in northeastern Assam and western Bhutan, but lacking more specimens and more definite range data I can only note the existence of these two richly colored atypical specimens.

Muscicapa westermanni langbianis (Kloss)

Range.—Hills of south Annam and southern Laos, Viet Nam or French Indochina.

Compared to *australorientis*, adult females of this form are darker, more uniformly smoky-gray on the upper parts. The lower back and rump is lightly washed with drab, and the upper tail coverts and edges of the rectrices are hazel to cinnamon-rufous. These birds are far lighter, more grayish, and less bluish than the typical form.

Muscicapa westermanni westermanni (Sharpe)

Syn. *Muscicapa westermanni apo* (Hachisuka)

Range.—Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo (specimens examined from Kinabalu), Celebes, Mindanao, Batjan, and Ceram.

This is the bluest and darkest of the races, females being dark slate-gray above, the rump and upper tail coverts being washed with isa-

belline or cinnamon, and the edges of the rectrices russet. In some specimens the pale brownish or cinnamon wash extends farther up the lower back, but in all specimens examined, the dark bluish or slaty-gray of the upper surface is distinctive. I have not seen any females from south Sumatra which is listed by Chasen (Bull. Raffles Mus., No. 11, 1935, p. 168) as within the range of *hasselti*.

Muscicapa westermanni hasselti Finsch

Range.—Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, and Flores.

In this form the females are gray strongly washed with olive-brown, especially on the rump. The upper tail coverts are rufous and the edges of the rectrices rich russet. I do not include specimens from southwest Celebes in this range, as listed by Stresemann (Jour. f. Orn., 88, 1940, p. 79) as they appear to me to fit into *westermanni*. A single female from Raketak, Java, in the American Museum Collection, collected in March, seems identical with *westermanni*, and may just possibly be a migrant from Borneo or Sumatra, as the species is partially migratory in continental Asia. I have been unable to identify this locality.

Muscicapa westermanni rabori subsp. nov.

Type.—♀ ad. (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 192682), collected April 21, 1903, by R. C. McGregor and A. Celestino at Irisan, Benguet, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Diagnosis.—This form is closet to *australorientis* from which it differs by having the upper parts a purer, darker slate gray with much reduced wash of tawny-olive on the back and rump. The upper tail and edges of the rectrices are dark mars brown, slightly richer in tone than in *australorientis*.

Compared to *westermanni* this form is lighter above, lacking the bluish tone of that form, and with more distinctly russet brown upper tail coverts and rectrices.

Range.—Luzon and Negros, Philippine Islands.

I am happy to name this form for Professor D. S. Rabor of Silliman University, Negros Island, the Philippines.

Muscicapa westermanni mayri subsp. nov.

Type.—♀ ad. (Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No. 346056), collected May 1, 1932, by G. Stein at Ramelan, Timor Island.

Diagnosis.—This form is nearest to *langbianis*, but differs from it by having the upper parts suffused with pale grayish-olive and with paler, olive-fulvous upper tail coverts. The differences when compared with *hasselti* are in the more grayish, less brownish-gray upper parts, and pale rump and upper tail coverts, and from *westermanni* in the much paler upper surface, lacking the bluish-gray tone of that form, and in the more distinctly olive-brownish upper tail coverts.

Range.—Timor and Wetter Islands.

It gives me great pleasure to name this form after Dr. Ernst Mayr.

The differences in back and rump color in the populations of this species seem to vary slightly independently and yet parallel each other. It is not an obvious or simple genetic picture from the external evidence.

Nor is there any obvious correlation with trends or rules such as that of Gloger, with the possible exception of the individual atypical specimens from Lakhimpur, Assam, and Bhutan. If the populations are ranged in line the following color clines are evident:

(1) Back color, slate-gray to olive-brown—*westermanni*→*rabori*→*langbianis*→*mayri*→*collini*→*australorientis*→*hasselti*.

(2) Upper tail coverts color, grayish-drab to rufous—*collini*→*westermanni*→*mayri*→*langbianis*→*australorientis*→*rabori*→*hasselti*.

The above diagram illustrates the problem, and at the same time affords a type of key to the populations.



Ripley, S. Dillon. 1952. "A note on the species *Muscicapa westernianni*." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 65, 71–74.

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