

As amongst grouse (Short 1967), the frequency of variations in rectrix number greatly exceeds what might be expected from recurrent mutations, and is more plausibly explained as the effect of a genetic polymorphism. Variation in rectrix number among these Galliformes thus differs fundamentally from the occasional variation found in other birds (Somadikarta 1984, Hanmer 1985). Terrestrial habits might release rectrix number from unifying selection pressure, which could then be susceptible to random drift or to pressures conferring advantages other than those of flight.

The general picture within *Polyplectron* is now of a network of poorly correlated variations, in wing length, tail length and spur number. These correlations, because low, are more likely the result of weak genetic linkage than of pleiotropy (Berry 1977). Particular interest attaches to the lack of correlation between wing or tail lengths, which are direct measurements of feather size, and the ocelli borne on those feathers. These 2 aspects seem to be controlled by different and independent loci. This might be related to the distinction between those features important in inter-male competition (spur number, and wing or tail lengths as a reflection of intimidating body size), and those important in the attraction of females by display. In the second category, number of ocelli may be no less important than their size, and the abundance of ocelli can be manipulated by differences in the number of rectrices which bear them.

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*Address:* Dr G. W. H. Davison, Zoology Department, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia 43600.

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## A new race of *Grallaria haplonota* (Formicariidae) from Ecuador

by Mark B. Robbins and Robert S. Ridgely

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An ornithological survey of the Cordillera de Cutucú in southeastern Ecuador by members of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP), resulted in the discovery of a new form of the Plain-backed Antpitta *Grallaria haplonota*. We propose to call this new form



***Grallaria haplonota chaplinae* subsp. nov.**

*Type.* Adult male; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia No. 176862; "Yapitya", on trail from Logroño to Yaupi, west slope Cordillera de Cutucú, Province of Morona-Santiago, Ecuador, elevation 1525 m; 26 June 1984; collected by M. B. Robbins; original number 1304.

*Diagnosis.* Distinguished from all known populations of *Grallaria haplonota* by having the distal edge of dorsal feathers Sepia (Color 119; capitalized colours from Smithe 1975, 1981), giving the back a dark, scaly appearance. Dorsal coloration greenish-olive, closest to Greenish-Olive (49), but slightly darker with faint vermiculations of Sepia (119), not "Dresden Brown" of nominate *haplonota* and *pariae* (Phelps & Phelps 1949), nor "dark olive-brown with a rufous tinge" of *parambae* (Rothschild 1900). Remiges Sepia (119) with Raw Umber (123) to outer margins, not "Benzo Brown" of *haplonota* and *pariae* (Phelps & Phelps 1949) or "blackish-brown, with rufous-brown outer webs and rusty margins to the inner webs" of *parambae* (Rothschild 1900). Underparts closest to nominate. The rectrices are Hair Brown (119A), with rusty tinge. The throat is mainly white, tinged with ochraceous.

*Measurements of type* (mm). Wing (chord) 97.2, tail 35.8, tarsus 41.2, culmen 25.3 mm.

*Soft parts.* Irides dark brown; maxilla black; mandible horn/dirty white; tarsi grey.

*Range.* Known only from the type locality, elevation 1525–1700 m.

*Specimens examined.* *Grallaria haplonota haplonota* (13). Venezuela: Cumbre de Valencio, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Paso Hondo, 1 ♀; Mt Bucarito, 3 o?; Maracay, 2 ♀♀; Rancho Grande, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 o?; Ecuador: Prov. Napo; Sumaco, 1 ♂. *G.h. pariae* (1). Venezuela: Cerro Azul, 1 ♂. *G.h. parambae* (7). Ecuador: Prov. Esmeraldas: Paramba, 1 ♀ (type); Prov. El Oro: c. 9.5 road km W of Piñas, 4 ♂♂; La Chonta, 1 o?; Prov. Pichincha: Mindo, 1 ♂. *G.h. chaplinae* (3). Ecuador: Prov. Morona-Santiago; "Yapitya", Cordillera de Cutucú, 3 ♂♂.

*Etymology.* We take pleasure in naming this subspecies after the late Louise Chaplin Catherwood.

*Remarks.* The specimens of *chaplinae* were compared primarily with old material of the other described forms. Therefore, we exercised caution in making these comparisons, in view of the possibility that some or all of the older material had become foxed. Thus, we primarily relied on the original descriptions for colour comparisons.

We recently collected 4 fresh specimens of *parambae* in southwestern Ecuador (Prov. El Oro; Piñas), and these are not in accord with all the distinctions given by C. E. Harris in Hellmayr (1924), at which time only the type was available. Harris related to Hellmayr (p. 339) that *parambae* differed from nominate *haplonota* in having the "bill larger, crown rufescent rather than olive, underparts more tawny, with the throat hardly paler than the chest". However, *parambae* does not have a larger bill than either the nominate or *pariae* (Table 1). In fact, there is extensive overlap in bill measurements for all the races, except *chaplinae*. Re-examination of the *parambae* type (now in the American Museum of Natural History), revealed that the crown nearly matches the dorsal coloration, a brownish-olive;



TABLE 1  
Measurements (mm) of *Grallaria haplonota* races<sup>1</sup>

	Wing (chord)	Tail	Tarsus	Bill (from base)
<i>chaplinae</i> (3)	99.7 (97.2–101.3)	38.0 (35.8–39.8)	42.1 (41.2–43.1)	25.2 (25.0–25.3)
<i>parambae</i> (6)	101.0 (99.3–103.0)	36.5 (33.2–39.5)	44.2 (41.7–46.4)	28.3 (27.4–30.7)
<i>haplonota</i> (13)	99.9 (93.2–104.5)	40.6 (37.1–43.6)	43.7 (37.1–46.2)	27.1 (25.1–30.0)
<i>pariae</i> <sup>2</sup> (5 ♂♂)	99.4 (98–101)	41.8 (40–43)	–	29.2 (28–30)
(5 ♀♀)	101.2 (98–103)	41.4 (39–43)	–	28.8 (28–30)

<sup>1</sup>means are shown, with ranges in parentheses below each entry.

<sup>2</sup>measurements taken from Phelps & Phelps 1954.

moreover, our fresh *parambae* specimens exhibit no differences in colour between the crown and dorsum. Apparently, Harris erred in attributing a rufous crown to *parambae*, since the original description (Rothschild 1900) and our examination of the type revealed no such trait. Both *parambae* and *pariae* do average deeper tawny underparts than either *chaplinae* or the nominate, though there are specimens of each race which can be matched with individuals of the others. For example, one *chaplinae* (ANSP 176860) is very close ventrally to a recent example of *parambae* (ANSP 177600).

The amount of ochraceous on the throat is another variable character among the forms. Both *parambae* and *pariae* tend to be more ochraceous, the nominate least so, with *chaplinae* intermediate. Again, as with the ventral colour, there is some overlap among the races.

All 3 *chaplinae* specimens exhibited moderate to heavy body moult. Two of the specimens (ANSP 176860 & 176861) had primaries (counted from outer side) 9 and 10 in moult, and the type had the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th sheathed. All 4 recent specimens of *parambae*, collected in June, were in a similar stage of moult. In view of the stage of moult, the size of the testes (testes of all 7 males  $\leq 5$  mm), together with the lack of vocal activity (at both localities), we suspect that June–July is a non-breeding period for both *chaplinae* and *parambae*.

There are no published records of *G. haplonota* from the eastern slope of the Andes. The nominate race is recorded only from the coastal mountains of northern Venezuela from Lara east to the Paria Peninsula (Meyer de Schauensee & Phelps 1978), c. 1300 km northeast of Ecuador. There are no published records for Colombia (*in* Hilty & Brown, MS). However, D. W. Norton collected a single specimen (MCZ 329744) during July 1964 at the head of the Río Guataraco, Volcán Sumaco, Prov. Napo, an isolated mountain just east of the main chain of the Andes in northern Ecuador. Surprisingly, this bird (a male) closely matches the geographically distant nominate race in plumage colour and morphometrics (bill 29.9, wing (chord) 102.8, tarsus 44.2, tail 38.6 mm). Furthermore, R.S.R. and P. Greenfield have heard birds which sounded identical to *chaplinae* on the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador not far to the west of Sumaco (Prov. Napo; Coca Falls, c. 1400 m). We suspect that the absence of previous records from the eastern slope may be



due to lack of observers in the subtropical zone, and the fact that *G. haplonota* is easily overlooked and very difficult to collect, even when using playback recordings. We predict that *G. haplonota* eventually will be recorded from at least southern Colombia to northern Peru (north of the Marañón Valley). The race *parambae* is known only from the west slope of the Andes in Ecuador, although S. Hilty (*in* Hilty & Brown, MS) notes that he may have heard it in southwestern Colombia, also on the west slope, between 900 and 1200 m (Deptos. Nariño & Valle).

Although the new form is morphologically the most divergent of *haplonota* populations, a vocal comparison of recordings of the nominate race (Venezuela: Caracas; Oripoto, by P. A. Schwartz, Cornell Laboratory of Sounds) revealed no significant differences from *chaplinae*. Likewise, vocalizations of *chaplinae* and *parambae* (El Oro) are nearly identical.

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*Address:* M. B. Robbins and R. S. Ridgely, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and The Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA 19103.

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## Plumage stages, moults, sexual dimorphism and systematic position of the Somali Wheatear *Oenanthe phillipsi*

by Alan Tye

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In his original description of the Somali Wheatear *Oenanthe phillipsi*, Shelley (1885) gave no indication of the range of variation in the species, describing a single plumage form with a black face, throat and breast. He did not assign the description to any particular age or sex, thereby implying monomorphism. Shelley's type was collected by Lort Phillips in 1884, along with several other specimens of the new species, and it is likely that Shelley examined more than





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