

The atypical condition seen in *Streptoprocne* may prove to be of some functional interest. However, I do not consider it relevant to the separation of these two subfamilies, and recommend that the structure of the MM. splenii capitis be omitted from any future discussion of this proposal.

My thanks are due to Richard Brooke for reading this note in draft. He agrees that the structure of *M. splenius capitis* is not relevant in any attempt to split the Apodidae but still believes that the other factors adduced justify his proposals.

The Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* wintering in Iran

by Christian Hjort

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According to current literature (Ticehurst 1938, Dement'ev *et al.* 1968, Vaurie 1959) the winter range of the Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* does not include Iran. Vaurie (1959) notes that the subspecies *humei* winters in Afghanistan east of Kabul south of the Hindu Kush and in the Paropamisus and foothills to the border of Iran. He also mentions the one bird, belonging to the *humei* subspecies, which was collected at Birjand in Khorasan, eastern Iran, on 4th January 1927 (Ticehurst 1938). This seems to be the only winter observation of the species hitherto made in Iran (one observation, made in Gorgan on 16th March 1917, and mentioned by Schüz 1959, falls within the period of spring migration).

Taking this into account it was with some surprise that during January 1971 I found the bird at three different places in that country. In Kerman one bird was seen on the 18th, in Zahedan in Baluchistan two birds were seen on the 20th and a minimum of two more heard, and finally on the 25th one bird was seen in Teheran. The observations were made at close range and, except the one in Teheran, with the help of binoculars (7 × 50).

All the birds had a rather greyish appearance, greyish white below and greyish green above. This was probably partly due to worn plumage. The pre-nuptial moult, according to Ticehurst (1938), begins in early March. Also on only one of the birds were both wing bars clearly visible, on two the frontal one could be seen only with some difficulty, and on one bird it was invisible even with the help of binoculars.

Of course the fact that none of the birds were studied in the hand prevents me from judging as to which subspecies they belonged, although for geographical reasons *humei* seems to be the most probable one. Also according to my notes the call (surprisingly loud for such a small bird) has a rather resemblance to the "tiss yip" stated by Ticehurst (1938) to be characteristic for *humei*. But as they were written down in "swedish" it does not seem advisable trying to re-do them into "english" here. Note also that Dement'ev *et al.* (1968) have a rather different description of the respective calls of the *humei* and *inornatus* subspecies, as compared with that given by Ticehurst (1938).

References:

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