

The 3 subspecies measure:-

		Wing	Bill	Tail
<i>diluta</i>	♂ ♂ (5)	101-104 (103)	6.1-7.2	43-47 (45.4)
	(IH)	(99) 102-108	c.6	48-51)
<i>indica</i>	♂ ♂ (6)	90-95 (92.8)	6.4-7.2 (6.9)	37-40 (38.4)
<i>ijimae</i>	♂ ♂ (3)	101,105,106	6.7,7.2	46,47,47
	(♂ ♀	99-107	c.5-6	49-5)
<i>diluta</i>	♀ (1)	97	-	45
	IH	102-108	c.6	46-5)
<i>indica</i>	♀ ♀ (5)	92-95	6.2-6.7	37-42 (40.2)
<i>ijimae</i>	♀ ♀ (2)	102-106	7.1,-	50,53

The occurrence of *diluta* in the Bombay-Deccan and of *ijimae* in Gujarat, around Bombay and in Bihar add to and clarify the known distribution of both subspecies.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,
BOMBAY 400 003,
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11. ON THE VALIDITY OF *LANIUS SCHACH KATHIAWARENSIS* KOELZ

Koelz (1950:7) separated *Lanius schach* from "Rajputana, Kathiawar and possibly also Sind" as *kathiawarensis* (Type locality Junagadh, Kathiawar) as "similar to *L. s. erythronotus* and *L. s. caniceps* but grey on back paler than in either, and rufous on the back less extensive than in *L. s. erythronotus* but generally more than in *L. s. caniceps*". Biswas (1950:449) accepted it from Sind, Rajputana, and Kathiawar, and repeated the description.

Subsequently, Sálím Ali (1954:781) and Ripley (1961:262) included it with *caniceps*, as has been done again in Ali & Ripley (1972:96).

As *caniceps* merges into *erythronotus* and the migrations of the latter regularly lead to both races being together in the same area, some individuals are difficult to identify with certainty. Together with this, the description of *kathiawarensis* is perhaps not very convincing; but an actual comparison of six specimens in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society [4 Kutch, 1 Bombay, and 1 Simla (?)] with other specimens of the species in the collection (58 *erythronotus*, 15 *caniceps*) shows a striking difference. In addition to the grey on the back, the rufous on the rump is paler and more restricted than in both these subspecies. On this material and for the reasons given, I would confirm the validity of *kathiawarensis*.

Of the 4 specimens from Kutch (2♂ ♂ 2♀ ♀), three were shot off nests in August; the fourth was obtained on 21st March. The breeding

birds are marked *caniceps* and the last *erythronotus* by Sálím Ali with the note that the identifications are by Meinethagen, which opinion he (Sálím Ali) confirms in the text (1954:782).

Specimen No. 4691 is marked "Simla, July 1886, Capt. Anderson". In the first list of members of the Society published in Vol. 1 of the Society's Journal (January 1886), there are several persons of this name including a Capt. W. R. Anderson from Simla. Later on p. 12 in "Catalogue of Birds as yet in the Collection of the BHNS" is listed one specimen of *Lanius erythronotus* donated by Col. W. B. Thomson from Kashmir. In the July number of the same volume is another list of birds presented by A. T. H. Newnham but whose origin is not mentioned. Newnham contributed several notes from Kutch. The list includes a specimen of this species, as also other species likely to be found in that area. Subsequent numbers of the *Journal* were examined but though specimens sent in by members are mentioned in some detail, no reference to this species from Simla and/or from Capt. Anderson is traceable. In view of the improbability of the distinct subspecies restricted to Kutch and its immediate neighbourhood, being found so far away as Simla, I would suggest that there has been some mix-up among the labels and this specimen may originally have been from Kutch too.

The Bombay bird, obtained by A. Brosset near Thana on 6th February, 1964, is the only evidence of this race being migratory, unlike *caniceps* which is sedentary and whose movements, if any, are very restricted.

75 ABDUL REHMAN STREET,
BOMBAY 400 003,
October 21, 1974.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

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