

***Argya fulva billypayni*, subsp. nov.**

*Description*.—Darker above than *A. f. fulva*, crown as dark as in *A. f. maroccana*, but mantle intermediate between that form and *A. f. fulva* and lacking the distinct blackish shaft-stripes. Tail much paler than in *A. f. maroccana*, underparts darker than *A. f. fulva*, and about the same as in *A. f. maroccana*.

*Distribution*.—Only known from the type-locality.

*Type*.—In my collection, male, Ksar es Souk, S.E. Morocco, 26. xi. 1938.

*Remarks*.—Two obtained: wing of male 94 mm., wing of female 94 mm.

***Sylvia ticehursti*, sp. nov.**

*Description*.—A small *Sylvia* of about the size of *Sylvia cantillans*, but with whole crown and mantle pale sandy-brown, yellower than in *Sylvia n. nana*, but neither so isabelline nor so pale as in *Sylvia nana deserti*; but the impression of the bird is a distinct desert coloration all over. Wings dark brown, secondaries broadly fringed with colour of mantle. Tail dark brown with ragged pale fringes. No white in tail. Underparts very pale buff. Ear-coverts pale hair-brown. A white feather-ring round the eye, and a white streak from the lores to behind the eye.

*Soft parts*.—Legs pale biscuit-yellow, upper mandible dark horn, lower mandible pale yellowish-horn. Iris pale brown.

*Measurements*.—Wing 54.5 mm., tail long for size of bird—58 mm. First primary reaches to 4 mm. beyond primary coverts, second primary is 3 mm. short of the third, and the third to sixth are equal. The specimen is in very fresh plumage, having just completed its moult.

*Distribution*.—Unique specimen. Found in desert scrub with *Sylvia conspicillata* and *Sylvia deserticolor*.

*Type*.—In my collection, female, Tinghir, Ouarzazate District, Moroccan Sahara, 24. xi. 1938.

**A new Race of the Moorhen from Scotland.**

Mr. P. A. CLANCEY sent the following description:—

An examination of a long series of freshly moulted autumn



Moorhens from west and north Scotland has shown that the birds inhabiting this region are to be distinguished readily from those from England; the restricted typical locality of *Gallinula chloropus* (L.). A sufficiency of breeding specimens has also been compared from both the regions cited above, while Continental material has been freely consulted. As the Scottish bird is so obviously distinct, it should be characterized as a new race, and, therefore, I propose the following name:

***Gallinula chloropus vestigialis*, subsp. nov.**

*Description*.—Differs at once from *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* (L.) in being a considerably darker and bluer grey on the under surfaces; whole of head, including nape and throat, more intense black; primaries somewhat darker. Upper parts frequently darker, but not constantly so, and this would not appear to be a reliable characteristic.

*Distribution as at present known*.—Specimens have been examined from the following counties: Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire, and Sutherlandshire. In all probability this race will be found to be the breeding form throughout the whole of west and north Scotland, including the Outer and Inner Hebrides.

*Type*.—Female. Not moulting. Very fat. Near Bardowie, Stirlingshire, Scotland, October 29, 1938. In my collection. Wing 169 mm.

*Co-type*.—Male. Slight moult. Fat. Near Bardowie, Stirlingshire, Scotland, December 24, 1938. In collection of Dr. C. B. Ticehurst. Wing 184 mm.

*Remarks*.—No perceptible difference in measurements. I cannot conclude this note without thanking both Dr. C. B. Ticehurst and Mr. N. B. Kinnear for their invaluable assistance and advice.

**A new Jay from the Balkans.**

Dr. ANDREW KLEINER sent the following description:—

By the kindness of Messrs. P. Zervas and H. Th. Ziogas and the Forest Office of Sparta and Chalcis, I have received five Jays from Greece. The Jay of Greece is



1939. "A new race of the Moorhen from Scotland." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 59, 69–70.

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