

In colour the single male of *tenuirostris* does not differ in any way from the long series of *crocatus*. Although it is always chancy to generalize from one specimen, it appears that the characters of *tenuirostris* are more accentuated in females than in males.

The occurrence of *P. o. tenuirostris* at Mambova is an extension of range across the eastern tip of the Caprivi Strip from Kabulabula, on the south bank of the Chobe River.

## The River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (Wolf) in Barotseland, south-western Zambia

by C. W. BENSON AND M. P. STUART IRWIN

Received 26th April, 1965

Despite a fairly extensive western palaearctic breeding range, records of the River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* in its winter quarters remain exceptionally few. Indeed it cannot be stated with any certainty where the bulk of the population does winter. There are certainly fewer records than for the Olive-Tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*, with a much more restricted breeding range; compare the respective distribution maps in Voous (1960).

Long & Benson (1960) give a single record from Nyasaland (now Malawi) and mention very briefly its status as given in the literature for southern and eastern Africa. It is of interest that one of us (Irwin) on 26th March, 1965 collected a River Warbler near Imusho (17° 35' S., 23° 24' E.), in extreme south-western Barotseland, near the border with Angola and the Caprivi Strip. It is an adult male in very fresh dress, wing 74, tail 55 mm. It weighed 19 grammes, and carried a considerable amount of body fat. The bird was collected low down in a dense thicket alongside a track through mixed *Acacia giraffae*/*Baikiaea plurijuga* woodland on Kalahari Sand, about half-a-mile from the Mashi (Kwando) River. No further individuals were recorded, though a Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* was collected the same morning in similar habitat. Unless they were singing the two species would be difficult to tell apart in the field.

The only previous Zambian specimen was collected in reeds fringing the Zambezi 30 miles upstream from Zumbo, which is on the border with Mozambique, 25th December (Alexander, 1900). Tree (1963) reports seeing one at close range on an island of reeds floating down the Zambezi at Feira (the station on the north bank of the Zambezi, opposite Zumbo), 6th April. From the habitat it was unlikely to have been a Thrush Nightingale.

### References:

- Alexander, B. 1900. An ornithological expedition to the Zambesi River (second part). *Ibis*, 42: 70-109.
- Long, R. C. and Benson, C. W. 1960. The River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (Wolf) in Nyasaland. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 80: 52.
- Tree, A. J. 1963. Two unusual palaearctic passerines in Northern Rhodesia. *Ostrich*, 34: 178.
- Voous, K. H. 1960. *Atlas of European birds*. London: Nelson & Sons.





Benson, C. W. and Irwin, Michael P. Stuart. 1965. "The river warbler *Locustella fluviatilis* (Wolf) in Barotseland, south-western Zambia." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 85, 116–116.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/126842>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/77751>

#### **Holding Institution**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Sponsored by**

Natural History Museum Library, London

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: British Ornithologists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.