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The five hundred and ninety-seventh meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on Tuesday, 20th March, 1962.

Chairman: CAPTAIN C. R. S. PITMAN

Members present: 39; Guests 17; Total 56.

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Jean Dorst, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. McChesney and Mr. Melvin A. Traylor.

Exhibition of a hybrid duck

Dr. J. M. Harrison exhibited and briefly commented upon a Wigeon x European Green-winged Teal shot at Hayling Island during December 1961. A paper on this specimen is to be published in the *Bulletin*.

An ornithologist in Australia

Mr. John Warham recently returned from Australia where, with his wife, he has spent nine years, travelling to many parts. He addressed the meeting on some of his bird observations, the talk being illustrated with many superb coloured photographs.

A new race of *Myioparus plumbeus* (Hartlaub)

by P. A. CLANCEY

Received 1st July, 1961

Geographical variation in the aberrant flycatcher species *Myioparus plumbeus* (Hartlaub), 1858: Casamance River, Senegal, affects the coloration of the under-parts and under tail-coverts, the amount of white on the outermost rectrices and the physical proportions. At the present time two races are recognised by specialists, namely, *M. p. plumbeus* and *M. p. orientalis* (Reichenow and Neumann), 1895: Kibwezi, south-eastern Kenya Colony, mainly on the basis of variations in the ventral coloration, the former race having Light Pinkish Cinnamon (*vide* Ridgway (1912)), the latter off-white, under tail-coverts. In the populations currently embraced within the taxon *M. p. orientalis* it has recently been ascertained that there is quite considerable size variation, the eastern humid coastal birds being markedly smaller-sized than those occurring on the plateaux

of the interior, from central Angola, the southern Congo (Katanga), Uganda and north-western Tanganyika Territory, southwards in the interior to the Bechuanaland Protectorate, most of Southern Rhodesia and the western Transvaal. The variation in size is of such a nature as to justify the division of the present race *M. p. orientalis* into two taxa, one of which will require to be given a name.

Topotypical material of *M. p. orientalis* from south-eastern Kenya Colony seems to be limited in museum collections, and I have only been able to examine one specimen: a ♀ from Teita with a wing of 61 and tail of 55 mm. Sclater, in Jackson (1938), gives the wing of the Kenya ♂ as 65 mm. In these small proportions Kenya topotypes agree with other material from the eastern parts of the species' range at my disposal, and I have determined *M. p. orientalis* as ranging from eastern Kenya Colony and eastern Tanganyika, southwards in the tropical coastal lowlands of eastern Africa to the eastern Transvaal, eastern Swaziland and Natal and Zululand. To the west of the range of *M. p. orientalis* occur subspecifically discrete population which may be known as

Myioparus plumbeus grandior, subsp. nov.

Description: Similar to *M. p. orientalis* but differs in averaging slightly paler and more powdery neutral grey on the upper-parts, and somewhat deeper and clearer grey over the breast and flanks, and with rather broader white edges to the outer webs of the tertials. Significantly larger in size, thus: wings of 12 ♂♂ from Northern Rhodesia, South-West Africa and northern Bechuanaland 70–73.5, tails 63–69, 12 ♀♀ wings 65–69.5, tails 58–63 mm., as against 12 ♂♂ of *M. p. orientalis* with wings 63.5–68, tails 57–62, 5 ♀♀ wings 61–65, tails 55–58 mm. (Kenya Colony, Tanganyika Territory, P.E.A., and Southern Rhodesian specimens).

Material examined: *M. p. plumbeus*, 2; *M. p. orientalis*, 35; *M. p. grandior*, 50.

Distribution: Occurs south and east of the range of nominate *M. plumbeus* in Uganda (Mubende), the Lake district of northern Tanganyika Territory and immediately adjacent Kenya Colony, south and south-westwards to Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, the southern Congo (Katanga), southern and south-eastern Angola, northern and north-eastern South-West Africa, northern and eastern Bechuanaland Protectorate, the western and northern Transvaal and most of southern Rhodesia (in the south *M. p. orientalis* ranges west to Nuanetsi, and a single specimen from the Matopos (25th May) is likewise referable to it). Intergrades to the east of its range with *M. p. orientalis*, as shown by a series from eastern Southern Rhodesia.

Type: ♂, adult. Mashi I, Barotseland, south-western Northern Rhodesia. 24th July, 1952. Collector's name not given. In the collection of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo. N. M. Reg. No. 13317.

Measurements of the Type: Wing (flattened) 71.5 (slightly worn), culmen from base 15.5, tarsus 19, tail 66 mm.

Remarks: I am extremely grateful to Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin and Mr. J. G. Williams for kindly lending me the series of this small flycatcher from the collections of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo, and the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi. For the benefit of

workers I detail hereunder the mensural data of the samples studied of the various groups of populations now placed in the taxa *M. p. orientalis* and *M. p. grandior*:

Myioparus plumbeus orientalis (Reichenow and Neumann)

Populations	Males			Females		
	No	Wings	Tails	No	Wings	Tails
S. E. Kenya Colony	—	—	—	1	61	55 mm.
E. Tanganyika	2	63.5-65	58.61	—	—	— mm.
Portuguese East Africa	4	63.5-66 (64.6)	57-62 (59.5)	—	—	— mm.
E. Southern Rhodesia	6	65-68 (66.3)	58-62 (60.3)	4	61-65 (62.9)	56-58 mm. (57.0)
E. Transvaal, E. Swaziland, N. Zululand	10	63-67.5 (65.9)	57.5-60.5 (59.4)	6	60.5-64.5 (62.1)	55.5-57.5 mm. (56.6)

Wings of 22 ♂♂ 63-68, tails 57.5-62 mm.

Wings of 11 ♀♀ 60.5-65, tails 55-58 mm.

Myioparus plumbeus grandior Clancey

Populations	Males			Females		
	No	Wings	Tails	No	Wings	Tails
Uganda, W. Tanganyika	4	70 (70)	63-64 (63.4)	1	67	59 mm.
N. Rhodesia, S.W. Africa, N. Bechuanaland	12	70-73.5 (71.8)	63.5-69 (66.2)	12	65-69.5 (67.3)	58-63 mm. (61.0)
W. Southern Rhodesia	4	70-71 (70.5)	63-65 (64.0)	7	65.5-69 (67.4)	59.5-63 (61.6)

Wings of 20 ♂♂ 70-73.5, tails 63-69 mm.

Wings of 20 ♀♀ 65-69.5, tails 58-63 mm.

The generic placing of Hartlaub's *Stenostira plumbea* has recently figured quite prominently in the periodic literature. On the basis of the findings by Vaurie (1957) and Clancey (1957), the species is now placed in the Muscicapidae in the genus *Myioparus* Roberts, 1922, and divorced from the forms *Parisoma subcaeruleum* (Vieillot) and *Parisoma layardi* Hartlaub, now believed to be aberrant warblers and not flycatchers, with which it has generally been associated.

References:—

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