

new name (*Ophidium beani*), in honor of our excellent friend the Curator of Ichthyology in the National Museum. *O. beani* agrees with *O. holbrooki* Putnam, in the long and tapering air-bladder, but differs in the much longer head (6 in length in *O. holbrooki*). In *O. marginatum*, the air-bladder is ovate, truncate behind. Its form is not mentioned in the descriptions of *O. graëllsi* and *O. josephi*.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, February 7, 1883.

ON THE PROBABLE IDENTITY OF MOTACILLA OCULARIS SWINHOE AND M. AMURENSIS SEEBOHM, WITH REMARKS ON AN ALLIED SUPPOSED SPECIES, M. BLAKISTONI SEEBOHM.

By ROBERT RIDGWAY.

The Pied Wagtails of Eastern Asia have given much trouble, as the numerous papers in the Ibis and Proceedings of the London Zoölogical Society, by Mr. Swinhoe, Mr. Seebohm, and others, testify. In a recent article in the first-named journal (in the number for January, 1883, pp. 90-92) the latter author gives some "Observations on the Pied Wagtails of Japan," in which is described a supposed new species (*M. blakistoni*) breeding in the Kurile Islands, South Yesso, and Askold, and concluding with a synoptical "Key" to the allied Asiatic species, nine in number.

The material in the National Museum is not what could be desired, and is by no means so extensive as that upon which Mr. Seebohm's observations are based. Nevertheless, the series includes specimens which throw much light upon the subject, to the extent, in fact, of conclusively proving that, either it is only the summer adult male of *M. amurensis* which has the back black, while the fully adult female is undistinguishable from *M. ocularis*, or, else, that these two birds are identical, the former representing the adult male, and the latter the adult female, or perhaps, in winter, both sexes. The specimens which render this fact perfectly obvious are a series of five skins collected by Dr. L. Stejneger, of the United States Signal Service, on Bering Island and at Petropaulovski, Kamtschatka (one only from the latter locality). This series includes two males and three females (the sex of one of the latter conjectural, however*), the former being typical *ocularis* and the latter equally typical "*amurensis*." There can be no doubt that they represent opposite sexes of the same species, having been obtained together, the duties being from May 11 to June 27.

Granting that the gray-backed specimens hereinafter to be described really represent the *M. ocularis* of Swinhoe (and they agree in the

*There can be no question as to the correctness of the collector's identification of the sex, his invariable practice being to mark the sex only when determined by dissection.

minutest particulars with the descriptions which I have been able to consult), the synonymy of the species would be as follows:

MOTACILLA OCULARIS Swinhoe.

SWINHOE'S WAGTAIL.

- 1811 (?). *Motacilla albeola* (supposed variety from Kamtschatka and Kuriles) PALLAS, Zoog. Rosso-As. i, 507.
1832. "*Motacilla lugens* PALL." KITTLITZ, Kupf. Nat. Vög. 16, pl. 21, fig. 1 (nec TEMM. et SCHLEG., 1847).
1850. "*Motacilla lugens* ILLIG." BONAP. Consp. i, 250.
1851. *Motacilla alba* LINN., var. *lugens* ILL., Midd. Sibir. Reise, ii, 166 (nec Ill., nec Temm.).
1860. "*Motacilla alba*, var. *lugens* ILLIG.," von SCHRENCK, Amur-Lande, i, 338.
1863. *Motacilla ocularis* SWINHOE, Ibis, Jan., 1860, 55 (Amoy, in winter); P. Z. S., 1863, 275 (Kamtschatka and E. Siberia to China and Formosa).—SEEBOHM, Ibis, 1878, 345; 1883, 92.—RIDGW. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 4, 1882, 414 (Lower Cal., accidental).
1871. *Motacilla baicalensis* var. *temporalis* SWINH., P. Z. S., 1871, 363.
1878. *Motacilla amurensis* SEEBOHM, Ibis, 1878, 345, pl. 9; 1883, 91, 92.
1882. "*Motacilla camtschatica* PALL." TACZAN., Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1882, 388.
- (?) 1883. *Motacilla blakistoni* SEEBOHM, Ibis, Jan., 1883, 91 (Kurile Islands, South Yesso and Askold; coast of China in winter).
- Adult ♂ in summer* (Nos. 88986, Bering I., May 11, and 89146, Petropaulovski, June 27, 1882, L. Stejneger): Posterior half of crown, with occiput, glossy blue-back; back, scapulars, and upper tail-coverts, duller black, the rump mixed black and plumbeous-gray; lesser wing-coverts, uniform ash-gray. Forehead, anterior half of crown, and broad superciliary stripe, pure white; beneath this, a distinct black line, confluent with the black of the occiput, and extending thence forward along upper edge of auriculars to the eye, and from the latter across lores to the bill, but loreal stripe rather indistinct anteriorly; side of head below this black line, pure white; chin also white, but more or less mixed with blackish; throat and jugulum, uniform blue-back, with a strongly convex posterior outline; rest of lower parts, pure white, but tinged laterally with bluish gray. Lateral upper tail-coverts with outer webs very broadly edged with white; middle rectrices black, the outer webs distinctly edged with pure white (almost worn off in No. 89146); next three rectrices, on each side, uniform brownish black; two outer rectrices (on each side) pure white, the inner web of the first with or with-

out a very narrow edging of blackish along the middle portion,* that of the second with a broader and more extended blackish edging. Exposed portion of middle and greater wing-coverts and outer web of tertials (except first), pure white, appearing as a continuous, unbroken, elongated patch on the closed wing; inner webs of tertials, blackish; secondaries, grayish-brown, the outer webs edged with white, but inner webs with no trace of white edging toward ends; primaries and their coverts, with alulae, also grayish brown (or brownish gray) edged with white. Bill, uniform deep black; feet, duller black; "iris, dark brown." Wing 3.70-3.80, tail, 3.80-4.20, culmen .50, tarsus .95, middle toe .58-.60.†

Adult ♀ in summer (Nos. 88987-8, Bering Island, May 11 and June 10, 1882, L. Stejneger): Similar to the adult ♂, as described above, but nape, back, and scapulars, uniform plumbeous-gray, instead of black; chin black, with (No. 88987) or without (No. 88988) a slight admixture of white. Wing 3.50-3.60, tail 3.85-3.90, culmen .45-.49, tarsus .90-.95, middle toe .55.

[These two examples differ in slight details of coloration: No. 88988 has the "mantle" absolutely uniform plumbeous-gray, while the other has a slight clouding of blackish on the scapular region. Another specimen from the same locality (No. 88985, obtained May 9) presumed to be a ♀, though the sex is not marked, has still more black on the scapulars, while the hinder interscapulars are decidedly clouded with black. The measurements are, wing 3.75, tail 3.75, culmen .48, tarsus .90, middle toe .55. A specimen from Plover Bay, Siberia, obtained June 26, 1881, by Mr. E. W. Nelson, and marked "♂" (No. 89676), although in somewhat worn plumage, agrees minutely with No. 88988 in coloration. It measures, wing 3.65, tail 3.90, culmen .50, tarsus .90, middle toe .55.

Adult (?) in winter (No. 86259, La Paz, Lower California, January 9, 1882‡): Forehead, superciliary stripe, cheeks, chin, and throat white; also side of neck and lower parts, except sides; jugulum with a large crescentic patch of black, the posterior feathers narrowly tipped with white; crown, occiput, and upper part of nape mixed black and ash-gray, the latter predominating, or in fact almost uniform, centrally. In other respects almost like the summer ♀, as described above, but white of wings and gray wash on sides somewhat tinged with brownish. Bill dusky, the mandible lighter brownish and paler basally. Wing 3.60, tail 3.85, culmen .42, tarsus .90, middle toe .50.

* In No. 89146 there is no trace of dusky edging on the inner web of the outer pair, both rectrices being wholly pure white; even on the second pair the dusky edging is very poorly defined, while the third feather, in addition to the pure white shaft, has a broad, whitish streak on the middle portion of the inner web, while the corresponding feather of the opposite side has no white at all! In No. 88986, however, the pattern is more symmetrical, though on one side the dark edging to the outer feather is perceptible only on the closest inspection.

† The lesser measurements are represented by No. 89146.

‡ Cf. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 4, p. 414.

A specimen from Plover Bay, Siberia, obtained in fall or winter (No. 57977, Capt. C. M. Seammon, collector), agrees pretty closely with the La Paz specimen described above, but is decidedly more brownish-gray above, while the black of the jugulum extends farther up on the throat. Wing 3.50, tail 4.

An example, from China, of what appears to be this species, differs from the two described above in the wing-markings, the middle coverts being dusky, tipped with white, the greater wing-coverts also dusky and narrowly edged with dull grayish, but without white, even at tips. The head-markings, however, are precisely identical, and it may be merely a younger individual. Wing 3.70, tail 3.80.

Mr. Seebohm's *M. blakistoni* is said to differ from *M. "amurensis"* (♂) only in having black lesser wing-coverts and white secondaries, these parts being, respectively, ash-gray and brownish-gray in *M. "amurensis."* Is it not possible, therefore, that *M. blakistoni* merely represents the perfectly developed plumage of the adult ♂ of *M. "amurensis"* (= *ocularis*)?

THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF PSEUDOTRIACIS MICRODON, CAPELLO, ON THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

By **TARLETON H. BEAN.**

The United States National Museum has just received, in the fresh state, a fine example of a species of *Pseudotriacis*, which came ashore at the Amagansett Life-Saving station on Long Island, February 8, 1883.

This shark is the first result of a request by Prof. S. F. Baird to the Superintendent of life-saving stations, Mr. S. I. Kimball, for information from points along the entire coast concerning the movements of marine animals and for the sending of such specimens to the National Museum as it may be desirable to possess. The example here described was forwarded by Mr. J. B. Edwards, keeper of the Suffolk life-saving station, February 12, 1883.

No species of the genus *Pseudotriacis* has heretofore been recorded in the western Atlantic. The genus was first made known by Capello,* who had the single discovered species, *P. microdon*, from the coast of Portugal. A figure of the species is published in the journal referred to on Plate 5. An examination of the description and figure leaves no doubt in my mind that our example is identical with Capello's species. Owing to the extreme rarity of this shark a full description and table of measurements may prove interesting.

PSEUDOTRIACIS Capello.

Body elongate; mouth wide, with a very short labial fold around the angle; snout depressed, rounded, moderately long; nostrils inferior, near the mouth, but not confluent with it; eyes oblong, lateral, without

*CAPELLO: *Jorn. Sc. Math. Phys. e nat. Lisboa*, t. I, 1868, p. 321, pl. V.