

## NOTES ON A JAPANESE SPECIES OF REED WARBLER.

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

In a recent paper on a collection of Japanese birds submitted to me for examination by the authorities of the Science College Museum, Tokyo,\* I described what I considered a new species as *Locustella hondoensis*. At that time the volume for 1889 of the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London belonging to the Museum was at the Government bindery, and consequently inaccessible to me. Since the publication of the above description, however, I have had access to another copy and find that the naming of this species had already been anticipated by the late Dr. L. Taczanowski. Three males in greatly abraded plumage, collected near Chemulpo, Korea, on July 15, 1887, were at first recorded by him as *Locustella fasciolata*.† The following year, however, he corrected this mistake and named the birds *Locustella pleskei* in honor of Dr. Th. Pleske, the distinguished director of the zoological museum of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

Notwithstanding the fact that his types, as stated, were adult birds in greatly abraded plumage and that mine (Sc. Coll. Mus., No. 1669) is a young bird, the description furnished by Dr. Taczanowski is sufficient to warrant the conclusion that the two names refer to the same species.

It will be noticed, however, that Taczanowski lays considerable stress upon the alleged larger size of *L. pleskei* as compared with *L. ochotensis*, while, on the other hand, I have regarded them as practically of the same size; but it must be remembered that my bird was a young one, while Taczanowski's types were adult males, and that on account of the abraded state of their wings and tail he allowed for their consequent smaller dimensions.

To supplement the measurements given by me‡ so as to make them more comparable with the dimensions given by Taczanowski, I may state that in the type of *L. hondoensis* the bill from tip to angle of mouth measures 185 mm., and from tip to nostril 105 mm., consequently

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\* Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xvi, 1893, No. 957, p. 633.

† Proc. Zool. Soc., London, 1888, p. 455.

‡ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xvi, 1893, p. 635.

agreeing pretty closely with Taczanowski's data, especially if we bear in mind what an unreliable measurement the former is.

It will be remembered that in my description I stated that the bird in question probably belongs to that group of the genus which has no subapical blackish bar across the tail-feathers, the specimen at my command showing no trace of it, but that I did not venture to be positive about it, as the character is less developed in young birds than in the adults. As Taczanowski's description contains no mention of any subapical black bar, I take it now for granted that the species has none, and the character may be inserted in the diagnosis.

From the above it follows that the Japanese bird must stand as *Locustella pleskei*, Taczan., with the following synonymy:

- 1888.—*Locustella fasciolatu*, TACZANOWSKI, Proc. Zool. Soc., London, 1888, p. 455  
(not of Gray).  
1889.—*Locustella pleskei*, TACZANOWSKI, Proc. Zool. Soc., London, 1889, p. 620.  
1893.—*Locustella hondoensis*, STEJNEGER, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1893, No. 957,  
p. 633.