

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

THREE NEW BIRDS FROM WESTERN CHINA.

BY J. H. RILEY.<sup>1</sup>

---

During the year 1923 and early part of 1924, Doctor Joseph F. Rock made a botanical exploration of the high mountains of northwest Yunnan, under the auspices of the National Geographic Society. On this occasion he employed a Chinese taxidermist and made a large collection of birds which have been presented to the U. S. National Museum by the National Geographic Society.

The three new forms described herewith have been discovered in working up this material and are published in advance of a more detailed report.

*Ithaginis rocki*, sp. nov.

Type, adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 296085, Hofuping Mountains, Mekong Valley, Yunnan, November, 1923. Collected by J. F. Rock (original No. 1351).

Similar to *Ithaginis kuseri* Beebe, but ear-coverts broadly streaked with grayish-white and the lores black not red.

*Description*.—Forehead nopal red, bordered posteriorly by a few cinnamon-buff shaft-streaks of the gray feathers of the pileum; pileum neutral gray with grayish-white shaft-streaks; rest of the upper-parts, lesser and median wing-coverts neutral gray with white shaft-streaks, bordered upon each side by blackish; chin and throat nopal red; lores and feathers surrounding the naked eye space black; ear-coverts black with broad grayish-white shaft-streaks, these streaks buffy anteriorly; a black gorget, extending from behind the ear-coverts across the fore-neck, with a few very fine shaft-streaks on the side of the neck; the fore-neck with a few red and buffy streaks; chest nopal red, the feathers anteriorly with cinnamon shaft-streaks and posteriorly with chrysolite green bordered by a shade of the same color; breast light cress green with chrysolite green shaft-streaks, the lower breast feathers with the shaft-streaks bordered

---

<sup>1</sup>Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

on each side by blackish, all the feathers neutral gray basally; belly light neutral gray; flanks neutral gray with white shaft-streaks, bordered on each side with black posteriorly, a few tinged and centered with greenish; under tail-coverts nopal red with the shaft and tip white; exposed portion of the greater wing-coverts and longer scapulars cress green with chrysolite green shaft-streaks, bordered on each side with blackish posteriorly; primaries and their coverts deep mouse gray, the shaft white; secondaries deep mouse gray, the outer web cartridge buff, the shaft white; longer upper tail-coverts neutral gray with white shaft-streaks bordered on each side by blackish, the outer web broadly bordered by nopal red; tail pale smoke gray, mottled with dark mouse gray and becoming wholly of this color basally, the shaft white, the outer web fringed with nopal red, except the outer pair; thighs neutral gray with white shaft streaks; bill black, the cere ochraceous salmon; feet coral red (in the skin); "iris peach red." Wing, 204; tail, 141; culmen from cere, 14.5; tarsus, 68; middle-toe, 43 mm.

*Remarks.*—Dr. Rock obtained three males and three females of this interesting bird. One male resembles the type, except that the red on the chest has more green-centered feathers while the other male does not have the black extend across the fore-neck, but the red of the throat continues right down onto the chest without interruption and the exposed part of the tail is smoke gray without any mottling, becoming whitish at the tips. The type and second male have two spurs on the tarsus, the third male without the black across fore-neck none; otherwise they are essentially alike.

The females resemble the females of *Ithaginis clarkei* Rothschild taken more to the eastward in the Likiang Mountains, but the hind-neck is not so extensively neutral gray; the forehead, cheeks, and throat are cinnamon-rufous, not tawny-olive; and the bills are smaller and red, only black basally, not wholly so.

Named in honor of the collector.

#### *Strix aluco nivipetens*, subsp. nov.

Type, adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 296208, Likiang Mountains, 11,000 feet, Yunnan, May 8, 1923. Collected by J. F. Rock (original No. 380).

Similar to *Strix aluco nivicola* (Blyth), but much darker, the back and chest with the white spots replaced by ochraceous-buff, except those on the scapulars and greater wing-coverts; flanks and feet ochraceous-buff; the face darker; under wing-coverts ochraceous-buff instead of buffy-white; bars on the tail darker and broader. Wing, 310; tail, 188; culmen from cere, 22 mm.

*Remarks.*—In addition to the type, Rock collected another specimen in the same general region, which while like the type above is lighter below. Both the above specimens are so different from *Strix aluco nivicola*, or any of the related forms that they hardly need comparison and it is very doubtful if they belong to the same species. The principal difference is the replacement of the white in *Strix aluco nivicola* by ochraceous-buff,

above and below, except for the white jugular patch, the white spots on the belly, the white spots on the scapulars, and greater wing-coverts.

I have not seen *Syrnium aluco harterti* La Touche (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 40, 1919, 50) described from Hupeh, but also recorded from Formosa and Yunnan. The description certainly does not fit the present race, as no mention is made of the ochraceous-buff of the upper or lower parts that so strongly characterizes it.

*Aethopyga dabryii bangsi*, subsp. nov.

Type, adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 213223, Hongsurkou, Hupeh, May 15, 1907. Collected by Walter R. Zappey.

Similar to *Aethopyga dabryii dabryii* (Verreaux), but chest and back a lighter, duller red, rump and belly lighter yellow, the middle tail-feathers violet not steely blue, bill and tail shorter. Wing, 56; tail, 71; culmen, 14.5 mm.

*Remarks.*—Ten adult males of *Aethopyga dabryii* from the high mountains of northern Yunnan are uniformly more of a scarlet-red while two from Hupeh have these parts scarlet. The Hupeh birds also differ as described above and the differences are quite striking upon comparison. They evidently represent two races, but which one to bestow a name upon needs consideration. *Nectarinia dabryii* Verreaux (Rev. et Mag. Zool., 1867, 173, pl. 15) came from the province of Szechuan. The U. S. National Museum contains a male from Tatsienlu, Szechuan, and it agrees with the Yunnan series. Verreaux's plate is poor. The red is more like the Hupeh bird, while the color of the tail, pileum, rump, and belly more closely resemble the Yunnan form. As certain water-colors, especially red (the plate is hand-colored), are known to change with age, and as the color of the tail, pileum, rump, and belly more closely resembles the Yunnan bird, it would seem Verreaux's type originally came from the mountains of western Szechuan.

Named in honor of Mr. Outram Bangs.