

Systematic notes on Asian birds. 19. Type material from Japan in The Natural History Museum, Tring, U.K.

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The Natural History Museum, Tring, holds type material from Japan upon which names were based by Gould, Gurney, Hargitt, Ingram, Mathews, Oates, Seebohm, Sharpe, Swinhoe, Tristram and Vigors. In most cases selected types, which are not necessarily lectotypes, have been listed by Warren (1966) or Warren & Harrison (1971), but we provide here information that has come to light during preparatory work on a list of types of all Japanese taxa. We have located types for a number of taxa for which they had not been identified or segregated, and lectotypes are here designated for three taxa to safeguard current nomenclatural practice.

Introduction

Morioka and Dickinson are engaged in preparing a list of types of Japanese birds. This will contain information about all new names known to have been given to avian taxa from Japan, including any of which no type has been traced. The list will also clarify, as far as possible, which types perished in World War II, both in Europe and in Japan where the collections of Taka-Tsukasa and Matsudaira perished almost entirely, as did almost all the collection of Nagamichi Kuroda. Yamashina's collection survived. It is now at the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, Abiko City, Chiba, Japan, and much of the collection formed by Momiyama is now integrated with it along with a few surviving specimens from Kuroda.

The inclusion of type material in The Natural History Museum, Tring (BMNH) in the list led to collaboration with Michael Walters and to the rediscovery of a few types not listed by Warren (1966) or Warren & Harrison (1971, 1973). It also led to further research about the types found in relation to taxonomic treatment in the recent Check-list of Japanese Birds (Ornithological Society of Japan, 2000). By mutual agreement we now report jointly with authorship arranged alphabetically.

Names considered here

The following names, arranged in the sequence of "Peters Check-list" (1931-1987), qualify for listing as being from Japan and as having, or being expected to have, types

in The Natural History Museum, Tring. Brackets follow each of these names. Where the types are listed in Warren (1966) or in Warren & Harrison (1971) this is shown by the abbreviations (W66 or W/H71 and the page number). Where no entry is present in Warren (1966) or Warren & Harrison (1971) the abbreviation "N/A" appears for "not applicable".

Cymochorea castro kumagai Mathews, 1938 (N/A); *Nycticorax crassirostris* Vigors, 1839 (W66, p. 71); *Anser mentalis* Oates, 1899 (W66, p. 185); *Phasianus* (*Graphophasianus*) *scintillans* Gould, 1866 (W66, p. 265); *Porzana cinerea brevipes* Ingram, 1911 (W66, p. 41); *Scops pryeri* Gurney, 1889 (W66, p. 234); *Bubo blakistoni* Seebohm, 1884 (W66, p. 36); *Picus japonicus* Seebohm, 1883 (N/A); *Lyngipicus seebohmi* Hargitt, 1884 (W66, p. 266); *Lyngipicus kizuki nigrescens* Seebohm, 1887 (W66, p. 203); *Picus noguchii* Seebohm, 1887 (W66, p. 208); C[*helidon*]. *blakistoni* Swinhoe, 1862 (W/H71, p. 68); *Motacilla blakistoni* Seebohm, 1883 (W/H71, p. 68); *Motacilla grandis* Sharpe, 1885 (W/H71, p. 213); *Accentor fervidus* Sharpe, 1883 (W/H71, p. 176); *Megalurus pryeri* Seebohm, 1884 (W/H71, p. 448); *Arundinax blakistoni* Swinhoe, 1876 (W/H71, p. 68); *Parus palustris japonicus* Seebohm, 1879 (W/H71, p. 271); Z[*osterops*] *simplex* var. *loochooensis* Tristram, 1889 (N/A); *Zosterops stejnegeri* Seebohm, 1891 (W/H71, p. 526); *Schænicola yessoënsis* Swinhoe, 1874 (W/H71, p. 606); *Schæniclus pyrrhulinus* Swinhoe, 1876 (W/H71, p. 456); *Fringilla kittlitzii* Seebohm, 1890 (W/H71, p. 284); *Coccothraustes ferreo-rostris* Vigors, 1829 (W/H71, p. 175); *Pyrrhula rosacea* Seebohm, 1882 (W/H71, p. 467).

We have located what may be the types of one taxon: *Locustella subcerthiola* Swinhoe, 1874 (N/A). This we discuss further below. We have searched for the type, or types, of three other taxa, like *L. subcerthiola* not mentioned in Warren (1966) or Warren & Harrison (1971, 1973), but have not found them. These are: *Columba metallica* Vigors, 1839, *Regulus japonensis* 'Bp.' Blakiston, 1862, and *Emberiza minor* Blakiston, 1863. We also comment on these.

Warren & Harrison (1971: 624) stated that the name *Loxia curvirostris japonica* Ridgway, 1884¹, had been coined as a new name for *Loxia albiventris* Swinhoe, 1870. The intent of this statement was to suggest that Ridgway's name was a nomen novum and that as such its types would be those of *L. albiventris* Swinhoe. However, although the matter of the preoccupation of *L. albiventris* Swinhoe was raised Ridgway (1884) did not, by his wording, provide for the preoccupation directly. He said "Regarding the Japanese birds as distinct from *L. curvirostra* proper (and leaving the question of their relationship to the Chinese birds in abeyance), it becomes necessary to give them a new name." The subject, "them", is therefore a reference to the Japanese birds and not to the Chinese ones of Swinhoe. Furthermore Deignan (1961) lists Japanese type specimens for Ridgway's name. Swinhoe's name was based on specimens from Beijing not from Japan.

In the comments that follow we repeat the original names given above (including hyphens and diacritic marks) using the same sequence as above, so that the order is that in "Peters Check-list" (1931-1987) for the first paragraphs and then the four extra names are treated. We also provide the current name or a comment on the status of the name in synonymy taking the Ornithological Society of Japan (2000) as our bench-

¹ Warren & Harrison (1971) wrote "1885" but the paper dates from 28 Apr. 1884 (Deignan, 1961).

mark. In general we do not comment further if there is nothing to add to the information provided by Warren (1966) or Warren & Harrison (1971).

Comments on selected forms

Cymochorea castro kumagai Mathews, 1938, now in synonymy of *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt, 1851).

The type of this taxon was not listed by Warren (1966). It has now been located and is BMNH 1949.64.38, male, collected 7 Jul. 1935 by Saburō Kumagai. The label date is clearly 1935, not 1936, as mentioned by Mathews (1938).

Anser mentalis Oates, 1899, now in the synonymy of *Anser fabalis serrirostris* Swinhoe, 1871.

This name, not in the Check-list of Birds of the World (Peters, 1931; Johnsgard, 1979), is considered to have been bestowed on a domesticated bird. Names already in synonymy in the Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum were usually deliberately omitted by Peters, and by his successors, if the names were adjudged still synonyms (Peters, 1931).

Porzana cinerea brevipes Ingram, 1911, now *Poliolimnas cinereus brevipes* (Ingram, 1911).

Warren (1966) erred in thinking that the types of this were collected by Ingram. The label on the male syntype that she listed and the label on the female syntype is Owston's. It is preprinted and bilingual (English on one face and Japanese on the other) and unlike early Owston labels, which were not preprinted. All specimen-specific data are handwritten and in English. Both specimens would therefore seem to have been obtained by Japanese collectors for Alan Owston.

Picus japonicus Seebohm, 1883, now *Dendrocopos major japonicus* (Seebohm, 1883).

No type was listed by Warren (1966).

We have located most of the 11 type specimens that were in front of Seebohm (1883: 24). He listed two from Hakodate, five from Yokohama, two from South Yezo, one from Sakhalin and one from the Kurile Islands. We found all these except one from Hakodate and two from Yokohama. The type locality was restricted to Hokkaido by Stejneger (1886a: 110). To ensure that his restriction of type locality is not overlooked it seems better not just to select a syntype to store in the type collection. We therefore now designate BMNH 1898.3.10.1132, male, collected at Hakodadi [= Hakodate, Hokkaido] in Feb., year not on label, by Blakiston [Coll. No. 1103] as the lectotype. This specimen, once Seebohm's, was received as part of the Hargitt collection.

Iyngipicus seebohmi Hargitt, 1884, now *Dendrocopos kizuki seebohmi* (Hargitt, 1884).

The new Check-list of Japanese Birds (Ornithological Society of Japan, 2000) recognizes nine Japanese subspecies of *Dendrocopos kizuki* (Temminck, 1836) and largely follows the views of Vaurie (1959, 1965) rather than the earlier treatment of Peters (1948). The following table illustrates the different treatments.

Distribution using the terms used by the authorities shown (right)	Peters (1948)	Vaurie (1959)	Ornithological Society of Japan (2000)
Sakhalin	<i>seebohmi</i>	<i>ijimae</i>	extralimital
[S.] Kuriles	<i>kurilensis</i>	<i>ijimae</i>	<i>ijimae</i>
Hokkaido	<i>seebohmi</i>	<i>ijimae</i>	<i>ijimae</i>
N and C Honshu	<i>nippon</i>	<i>seebohmi</i>	<i>seebohmi</i>
W Honshu		<i>seebohmi</i>	<i>shikokuensis</i>
S Honshu	<i>shikokuensis</i>	<i>seebohmi</i>	
Shikoku	<i>shikokuensis</i>	<i>kizuki</i>	<i>shikokuensis</i>
Kyushu	<i>kizuki</i>	<i>kizuki</i>	<i>kizuki</i>
Yakushima	<i>matsudairai</i>	<i>kizuki</i>	<i>matsudairai</i>
Izu Is.	<i>matsudairai</i>	<i>matsudairai</i>	<i>matsudairai</i>
Oki and Tsushima	<i>kotataki</i>	<i>kotataki</i>	<i>kotataki</i>
Amami Is.	<i>amamii</i>	<i>amamii</i>	<i>amamii</i>
Okinawa	<i>nigrescens</i>	<i>nigrescens</i>	<i>nigrescens</i>
Iriomote I.	<i>orii</i>	<i>orii</i>	<i>orii</i>

There is one major difference here and two or three more minor ones. The fundamental difference is in the population to which the name *seebohmi* is applied. Does this, as Peters believed, relate to Hokkaido birds or does it relate to the birds of Honshu as argued by Vaurie? All agree that the two are distinct.

The minor issues are matters of opinion as to the validity of *shikokuensis* Kuroda, 1922, and *kurilensis* Bergman, 1931, and the extent and nature of variation within the southern part of the island of Honshu. These opinions, although discussed, have not led to a re-examination of related material since there is insufficient material in *Tring* from these places in the breeding season to permit this.

The detailed reasons given by Vaurie (1959: 17-18) for overturning the treatment by Peters (1948) derive from the opinion of Meise (1934) regarding the type locality of *seebohmi*. Vaurie correctly mentioned the earlier restriction of the type locality to Hokkaido by Stejneger (1886a: 122), which was ignored by Meise, and re-examined the evidence. Vaurie concluded that Hargitt had two types both from Yokohama and found that Yokohama "cotypes" matched perfectly the birds of central Hondo [= Honshu]. In the second of these points he was undoubtedly right, Yokohama birds do match birds from central Honshu. However, we believe Vaurie was wrong in declaring there to be just two types both from Yokohama.

As Vaurie (1959) stated, Hargitt (1884) did refer to his earlier paper (Hargitt, 1882) in which Hargitt's own collection lacked specimens from Hokkaido; nonetheless for *seebohmi* he gave the "Hab[itat]." or *terra typica* as "in insulis Japonicus Nippon et Yezo dictis" (the two names Nippon and Yezo then being the names applied respectively to Honshu and Hokkaido). Hargitt (1884) erred in saying that he had then "only examined birds from the northern island of Japan". In 1882 his full list included birds from South Yezo and from Hakodate (both in Hokkaido) and from Yokohama (in Honshu).

Hargitt (1884), directly after the statement of the *terra typica*, wrote “Typ. in Mus. meo”. We believe that this meant that in 1884 Hargitt did have specimens from both places (otherwise we consider that Hargitt would have specified the island from which his type or types came). In other words since 1882 he had received one or more specimens from Hokkaido. Vaurie (1959) either thought otherwise or did not seriously reflect on this.

There is no doubt that Hargitt’s collection, accessioned in 1898, contained specimens from both Kyushu (BMNH 1898.3.10.1750 and 1751) and Hokkaido (BMNH 1898.3.10.1780). These specimens bear Seebohm labels as well as Hargitt labels, and we believe they would have changed hands as soon as Seebohm understood that Hargitt was to separate a northern race. No doubt this was immediately after Seebohm showed Hargitt the Kyushu birds (Hargitt, 1884), and Hargitt probably named the new taxon after Seebohm in recognition of his kindness in giving him the specimens.

Hargitt (1884) provided a diagnosis: “*Similis I. kizuki*, sed major et subtus conspicue albescentior, et præcipue pilei coloreo cinereo, nec brunneo rufescente lavato distinguendus.” In the English version, that followed, he was more emphatic: “the underparts are conspicuously whiter, and have none of the fulvescent tinge on the abdomen which is to be seen in the last named bird. The white barring on the back is also more strongly pronounced; but its chief claim to distinction lies in the colour of the crown, which is of a clear pale grey, instead of the brown head with a rufous tinge, which is seen in *I. kizuki*.”

The population of Honshu, and Shikoku to its south, varies clinally – as also stated by Vaurie. In the north it is apparently close to the breeding bird of Hokkaido and in the south so close to nominate *kizuki* that Vaurie treated all the birds of Honshu in his central form *seebohmi* and placed those of Shikoku with the nominate bird of Kyushu. This cline is reflected in the differing treatment (Ornithological Society of Japan, 2000) in which the birds of Shikoku are again considered distinct from those of Kyushu and treated as *shikokuensis* and birds of western Honshu are considered a good match for these.

Hargitt’s description might be expected to relate to a composite series, made up of birds from Hokkaido and Honshu. However the “clear pale grey” crown that Hargitt described suggests that this is not so.

As mentioned above Vaurie compared the two adult cotypes of *seebohmi* from Yokohama with birds from “central Hondo”, which is essentially where Yokohama is located, and found that these matched, but that Hokkaido birds were paler. And so it is with the colour of the crown: brownish in the Yokohama syntypes and greyish in BMNH 1898.3.10.1780 and other specimens from Hokkaido. Hargitt’s description is therefore not so much a composite one but one based more on the Hokkaido bird.

Vaurie (1959) may have been misled by the information that had begun to be gathered for the eventual type catalogue. Initially we understand there to have been a loose-leaf binder containing notes about types (E.F. Warr pers. comm), but this is apparently no longer in existence. In preparing the type catalogue Miss Warren used new custom-printed sheets in quite different Twinlock binders. When Vaurie looked for these types we cannot now know exactly what was available to look at but Warren (1966) listed the male (BMNH 1898.3.10.1768) as the selected syntype and mentioned just one other syntype, a female, in the collection. Her selection of a Yokohama speci-

men may well have been influenced by Vaurie's views, as may her idea that Hargitt had only two specimens. Alternatively her views may have influenced him.

That the description better fitted the birds of Hokkaido than those of Honshu was precisely the point made by Stejneger (1886a: 121). At this time Stejneger wondered whether the material reported upon was being selected carefully, with wintering birds removed from the equation. He felt that Hokkaido breeding birds might be expected to occur in Honshu in winter. In fact the species is now thought to be sedentary in Japan (Ornithological Society of Japan, 2000). Stejneger believed the breeding birds from Honshu "not far from Yokohama" to be the true *Y. kizuki* of Temminck". Of the Hokkaido birds, compared to the Kyushu bird, he wrote "the brown on top of the head, hind neck and interscapulars is much paler, as if suffused with ashy; the white cross-bands on back and wings are purer and considerably broader; the outer tail-feathers, instead of being black with white cross-bars, are white with black cross-bars, the streaks on the flanks and breast are fewer and more indistinct, and the brown patches on the sides of the breast are scarcely more than indicated. There can, I think, be no doubt but what these may be safely regarded as typical *Y. seebohmi*." Later Stejneger (1893: 630) reported that *seebohmi* was "but very slightly differentiated, but there is enough average difference between the specimens from Yezo and those from further south to make it profitable to retain the name for the northern form" a view with which we, in common with Vaurie, agree.

Hargitt (1884) also provided some measurements. We judge these to relate to a male; in inches he gave a total length of 5.3, a wing of 3.3, tail of 1.95; these measurements agree marginally better with our fresh measurements of the Hokkaido male than with our fresh measurements of the four Yokohama males from Hargitt's series.

To settle this matter, and to restore to the Japanese populations the names used for them by Peters (1948) and, following that, by the Ornithological Society of Japan (1958), we hereby designate BMNH 1898.3.10.1780, male, collected in South Yezo [= southern Hokkaido] by Blakiston in November [Coll. No. 1612], as the lectotype. The following ten specimens, all from Yokohama, are to be treated as paralectotypes: BMNH 1898.3.10.1767-74 and 2937-38.

We have carefully debated the merits of retaining the treatment advocated by Vaurie. We accept that our case rests on the notion that Hargitt's careful words meant he had specimens from Yezo and Nippon in his museum. This is an exceptional situation. Had the evidence we present been developed and considered by Vaurie, we do not believe he would have set aside Stejneger's considered restriction and we believe he was wrong to do so and that it is necessary to restore the situation.

In consequence the population in Hokkaido, the Kuriles and probably Sakhalin, must be called *seebohmi* instead of *ijimae* (Taka-Tsukasa, 1922) and the population in most of Honshu may be called *nippon* Kuroda, 1922, instead of *seebohmi*.

The race *shikokuensis* occurs in an adjoining part of Honshu. This was called "southern Honshu" by Peters (1948) and "western Honshu" by the Ornithological Society of Japan (2000). The two terms refer to the same restricted area of Honshu. The Ornithological Society of Japan (1958) used the term "S. Honshu" and listed the prefectures of Nara, Mie, Hyogo and Tottori, and these are the same prefectures listed for "W Honshu" by the Ornithological Society of Japan (2000). This race does not occur in westernmost Honshu, the peninsula lying due north of Kyushu. Given the clinal vari-

ation of this species from Hokkaido through to Kyushu the alternative view that nominate *kizuki* takes in the whole range of *shikokuensis* (and perhaps of Honshu) is certainly a tenable one.

It should be stated that the label of BMNH 1898.3.10.1768, the specimen selected by Warren (1966), is annotated "figured". We interpret this remark in the following way. There was no plate published with the original description, nor was a plate of *seebohmi* included in Hargitt (1890). However Hargitt, a trained painter (who exhibited landscape paintings at the Royal Scottish Academy between 1852 and 1862), was at work on a greater monograph of the Picidae than the volume arranged for the British Museum. His obituary reported that "He worked continuously at a series of paintings to form a monographical gallery of the Picidae, illustrating every type in British and foreign museums, and giving coloured portraits of every variation of plumage. It was only on February 20th that we saw him last at the Meeting of the B[ritish]. O[rnithologists]. Club, full of justifiable pleasure at having completed his twelve years of hard work, and prepared for private circulation the sixteen or seventeen stout volumes to which this elaborately illustrated monograph will extend" (Anon., 1895). So we may presume that Hargitt illustrated one of his types of *seebohmi* for this monograph. He may have done so prior to Stejneger's restriction of the type locality to Hokkaido, but, in any event, it seems that Hargitt (1890) did not accept the restriction.

The notation on this label does not constitute the designation of a lectotype and furthermore Hargitt's paintings were not published; indeed they do not seem to have surfaced since his death. His will suggested that they be sold at Christies (Jackson, 1999). It seems unlikely that such a portfolio would have been destroyed. They may have been sold, or they may still be in the family. Wherever they are, the present owners would give enormous pleasure to many if they were to permit an exhibition of these paintings, which have apparently been out of the public view since February 1895.

In closing it is perhaps worth remarking upon the significance of one of the Kyushu specimens that passed from Seebohm to Hargitt. This (BMNH 1898.3.10.1750) is annotated "compared with the type by Mr. Oldfield Thomas". This can be explained by reference to Seebohm (1884). Thomas took the specimen to Leiden and concluded that it was a good match for Temminck's type of *Picus kizuki* which Seebohm reported. The restriction of the type locality of nominate *kizuki* to Kyushu must therefore be credited to Seebohm (1884). The inclusion of this important voucher specimen in those that Seebohm passed to Hargitt is a testimony to the high regard that Seebohm must have had for Hargitt's work. There can be little doubt that Seebohm and Hargitt discussed Thomas's finding, and this further supports the view that the specimens would have changed hands in or slightly before 1884.

C[helidon]. blakistoni Swinhoe, 1862, now in the synonymy of *Delichon urbica dasyopus* (Bonaparte, 1850).

This name is not in the Check-list of Birds of the World (Peters in Mayr & Greenway, 1960).

Motacilla blakistoni Seebohm, 1883, now in the synonymy of *Motacilla alba lugens* Gloger, 1829.

This name is not in the Check-list of Birds of the World (Vaurie in Mayr & Greenway, 1960).

Accentor feroxoides Sharpe, 1883, now in the synonymy of *Prunella rubida* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1848).

Megalurus pryeri Seebohm, 1884, now *Locustella pryeri pryeri* (Seebohm, 1884).

Reasons for treatment in the genus *Locustella* have been given by Morioka & Shigeta (1993).

Arundinax blakistoni Swinhoe, 1876, now *Locustella ochotensis* (Middendorff, 1853).

This name is not in the Check-list of Birds of the World (Watson in Mayr & Cottrell, 1986). Stejneger (1893: 635) wrote that Seebohm (1881) considered this to be *L. ochotensis* in first plumage. Warren & Harrison (1973) listed it as a synonym of *Locustella certhiola* (Pallas, 1811), but at this juncture they, like many at the time, probably considered *L. ochotensis* to be conspecific with *L. certhiola*. Two of us (MW and ECD) have compared the type (BMNH 1898.9.1.1333) with other specimens of the two species and we agree with Seebohm's opinion that it is *L. ochotensis*.

Parus palustris japonicus Seebohm, 1879. Now in synonymy (see below).

This name is not in the Check-list of Birds of the World (Snow in Paynter, 1967). The name is unavailable due to the prior use of the name by Stephens, in Shaw (1817). The description then given was brief and, when it was found that *Parus montanus* Conrad, 1827, and *Parus palustris* Linnaeus, 1758, are sympatric in parts of Japan, it was found insufficient to separate the two and considered indeterminate; the name is thus unavailable.

Seebohm (1879) reintroduced the name *japonicus* as a subspecies of *P. palustris* but did so in a discussion in which he treats the willow tit as a part of the same species as the marsh tit. In this context he would not have considered Stephens's name unavailable, and although Seebohm did not cite Stephens, he presumably did not consider the name *japonicus* to be one that he newly proposed, which would explain the nature and brevity of his description.

Seebohm (1879) listed four subspecies of *P. palustris*: nominate *palustris*, *borealis* Selys-Longchamps, 1843, *japonicus* and *camtschatkensis* [sic = *kamtschatkensis*] (Bonaparte, 1850). The taxa *borealis* and *kamtschatkensis* are now treated (e.g. by Snow in Paynter, 1967) as forms of *P. montanus*. The distinctions that Seebohm gave were minimal. "Back greyish brown. Black of head extending onto the upper back" he wrote of *japonicus*. By contrast *borealis* had the back "grey" and "*camtschatkensis*" plate slate-grey but with the black of the head extending onto the upper back.

Stejneger (1886b) was not convinced that there was just the one species in northern Japan. Seebohm consequently lent him two specimens, which Stejneger considered to be Seebohm's types, although Seebohm himself may have had no types consciously selected when he wrote, and Hartert (1905: 380-381) seems to have suspected that Seebohm had been looking at a composite series. These two specimens, now in Tring, are BMNH 1898.9.20.315 and BMNH 1898.9.20.314; the former is identifiable as Blakiston's specimen No. 1121 and the latter as Whitely specimen 97a, these being num-

bers mentioned by Stejneger. Warren & Harrison (1971) listed the former as the selected type and mentioned a second syntype (which is that we list above). Warren & Harrison (1973) listed the name *japonicus* as a name associated with *P. palustris* not with *P. montanus*.

In view of Hartert's implication of a composite type series it is desirable to designate one of the two above specimens as a lectotype but this can be safely done only when there is certainty that it is a specimen of *P. palustris* (or of *P. montanus*). The name *japonicus* Seebohm will appear in the Japanese type list, although the name must be kept in synonymy as it is not an available name. It was our intention, therefore, to satisfy ourselves that it is correctly attributed to *P. palustris*.

Determining this has proved harder than expected. There is limited comparative material from Hokkaido in the collection and the two species seem to be even more difficult to tell apart there than they are in Europe. There do appear to be slight differences, but we have not been able to satisfy ourselves that any of the specimens attributed to either species is a satisfactory voucher specimen for the taxon with which it has been associated. We are not able, at this time, to provide a definitive answer. The matter of safely-identified voucher specimens has raised questions about the specific identity of types of related taxa named by Stejneger (1892). These are purely precautionary questions as we have little reason to doubt him, but it is hoped to resolve these, perhaps with fresh voucher specimens. The relationships of the Hokkaido birds are also in need of further review in the light of acoustic evidence recently presented (Thönen & Fujimaki, 1995).

We are in separate discussions about various studies that we believe will be designed to resolve these issues and we expect that those undertaking these studies will report fully in due course. The designation of a lectotype must await the results.

In the Japanese type list (Morioka et al., in prep.) *P. palustris japonicus* Seebohm will be given as a synonym of *P. palustris hensoni* Stejneger, 1892, with the information on the type selected for listing by Warren & Harrison (1971), but the provisional nature of this listing will be footnoted (with a reference to this paper).

Z[osterops] simplex var. *loochooensis* Tristram, 1889, now *Zosterops japonicus loochooensis* Tristram, 1889.

Mees (1957) wrote "this form was described on the base [sic] of 14 specimens in the collections of Tristram and Seebohm; though some of Tristram's specimens may have been destroyed in the Liverpool Museum during the war, the specimens from Seebohm still exist. I could examine a number of early specimens doubtless cotypes, in the BM."

We are informed that none of Tristram's specimens of this taxon that may have been in Liverpool are now to be found in the Merseyside County Museums (C. Fisher, pers. comm.). No types were listed by Warren & Harrison (1971). However Seebohm had four specimens collected by Pryer in January 1887 and these will have been among Tristram's 14 specimens. We now designate BMNH 1898.9.30.132, an adult, collected Jan. 1887, as the lectotype and the other three Seebohm specimens become paralectotypes.

Schænicola yessoënsis Swinhoe, 1874, now *Emberiza yessoensis yessoensis* (Swinhoe, 1874).

Schœniclus pyrrhulinus Swinhoe, 1876, now *Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhulina* (Swinhoe, 1876).

Warren & Harrison (1971) listed a holotype. However the original description did not make clear that only one specimen was involved. Although Blakiston & Pryer (1878) stated that Swinhoe (1876) based his name on a specimen from Yezo [= Hokkaido] in autumn plumage, this subsequent information suffices only to allow the designation of a lectotype (ICZN, 1999), which we consider was done by the action of Warren & Harrison, who stated that the bird was in autumn plumage and matched the plate.

Fringilla kittlitzi Seebohm, 1890, now *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi* (Seebohm, 1890).

Coccothraustes ferreo-rostris Vigors, 1829, now *Chaunoproctus ferreorostris* (Vigors, 1829).

Warren & Harrison (1971) considered BMNH 1855.12.19.39 a holotype. This is incorrect as Vigors (1839) listed two specimens, as did Sharpe (1888: 31), and constitutes the designation of a lectotype. Warren & Harrison pointed out that Sharpe mentioned "HMS Sulphur", but Beechey sailed in H.M.S. "Blossom". Sulphur is a name given to one of the islands and this no doubt caused the confusion. Warren & Harrison (1971) did not date the specimen but Vigors (1839) mentioned the date of the visit to the Bonin Islands as April 1827 in his account of *Columba metallica* (q.v.). The second syntype (BMNH 1855.12.19.71) is in the collection and must now be considered a paralectotype.

Pyrrhula rosacea Seebohm, 1882, now *Pyrrhula pyrrhula rosacea* Seebohm, 1882.

The type locality of *Locustella subcerthiola* Swinhoe, 1874

This name is now in use in the combination *Locustella ochotensis subcerthiola* Swinhoe, 1874. Watson, in Mayr & Cottrell (1986) gave the type locality as Hakodadi (= Hakodate), Japan. This is incomplete and misleading.

Swinhoe (1874) gave this the English vernacular name of Kamtschatkan grasshopper-lark and wrote "Blakiston has now sent the same specimen which in 1863 I thought to be a pale *L. ochotensis*. The bird however, was not compared, and my identification was from memory (see Ibis, 1863, p. 98). I have received from Dr. v. Schrenk at St. Petersburg two skins from Kamtschatka, marked *L. certhiola* that tally with Blakiston's bird." In fact, therefore, there were three types² and Watson should have given the localities from the original description as "Hakodadi [= Hakodate, Hokkaido] and Kamtschatka".

Subsequently it has been said that the Japanese type could not be located (Stejneger, 1893: 635). Stejneger missed the explanation by Swinhoe (1876), quoting a letter from Blakiston saying of this "unfortunately the typical specimen that you identified

² The fact that the third type was not seen by Swinhoe does not change the fact that he included it within his description and, although lost, it was a type.

was also lost in the 'Ariel'³. Although by implication this was a syntype, the description was evidently based on the two specimens from Kamtschatka. Hence the English vernacular name.

We have sought the two Kamtschatkan specimens sent to Swinhoe by von Schrenk and believe we have found them. One (BMNH 1898.9.1.1323) came from Seebohm's collection. It is known that Seebohm acquired most of Swinhoe's collection, and that he often did not retain Swinhoe's labels. The other (BMNH 1886.7.8.1750), with a label written by the same Russian, came from Hume's collection and must have been received by Hume directly from Swinhoe. Copies of the labels from these two specimens were sent to St. Petersburg, but if von Schrenk kept a record of what he sent it does not now survive (V.M. Loskot, pers. comm.). We therefore lack definitive proof that these are the types. However, it is clear that although the lost Japanese bird may be construed to be a syntype the description must have been drawn from the two available Kamtschatkan specimens, and this, combined with Swinhoe's vernacular name, leads us to consider that the type locality should be corrected to Kamtschatka.

Types not found in The Natural History Museum, Tring

Columba metallica Vigors, 1839, a synonym of *Columba versicolor* Kittlitz, 1832.

The type, probably originally in the collection of the Zoological Society of London, does not appear to have reached the British Museum (Natural History). There are numerous reported cases of types from the Zoological Society's collection which were apparently not bought by the British Museum (Natural History) (Sharpe, 1906).

Regulus japonensis 'Bp.' Blakiston, 1862, now *Regulus regulus japonensis* Blakiston, 1862.

The type, not in Tring, is apparently not in the substantial Blakiston collection in Washington D.C. (USNM) either (C. Milensky, pers. comm.), nor was any specimen of *Regulus* ever received by the Natural History Museum, Hokkaido University, Sapporo to which some of Blakiston's material went (*vide* Yamashina et al., 1932; T. Hiraoka, pers. comm.).

Emberiza minor Blakiston, 1863, in the synonymy of *Emberiza yessoensis yessoensis* (Swinhoe, 1874). Preoccupied.

We have not located the type. Blakiston wrote that the name he employed was based on *Emberiza schoeniclus minor* Middendorff, 1853, proposed for the Siberian form. As may be seen from Sharpe (1888: 480-486), different taxa are involved and Blakiston's name, although preoccupied, would appear to have been used in conjunction with a description not of *schoeniclus* but of *yessoensis*, and to be a valid basis for a name (although the name would be unavailable). Further efforts should be made to look for this type.

³ A ship that sank with a consignment of Blakiston's specimens on board.

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