

**Systematic notes on Asian birds. 32.**  
**The type locality of *Hirundo daurica* Laxmann, 1769**

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Dickinson, E.C. & P.G.P. Ericson. Systematic notes on Asian birds. 32. The type locality of *Hirundo daurica* Laxmann, 1769.

Zool. Verh. Leiden 340, 27.xii.2002: 205-206.— ISSN 0024-1652/ISBN 90-73239-84-2.

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Keywords: *Hirundo daurica*; type locality; correction.

The restricted type locality suggested by Brooke (1974) for *Hirundo daurica* Laxmann, 1769 was apparently made without a translation of the original Swedish description. With this in hand we find it necessary to correct that restriction and move the type locality some 2500 km west.

Dickinson et al. (2001) reported on a translation of the content of Laxmann (1769). In that context they noted that Brooke (1974) had restricted the type locality of *Hirundo daurica* Laxmann to “the Sung-hua Chiang, Heilungkiang, China near its confluence with the Amur River”. In this paper we demonstrate that this is not the correct type locality.

Laxmann employed the specific epithet *daurica*, apparently believing that credit for the name belonged to some former publisher of the name. However there appears to have been no use of the name between 1758 and 1769. Art. 3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) sets the starting point of zoological nomenclature as January 1st, 1758. Peters (1960: 115) listed the name *Hirundo daurica* with attribution to Linnaeus (1771). Deignan (1963: 101) cited Laxmann (1769) and we have verified this. The only published reference between 1758 and 1771 seems to be that of Laxmann.

Laxmann mentioned specimens in St. Petersburg to which an apparently unpublished name *singora* had been attached. Laxmann failed to re-examine these before travelling to Siberia, a term which in those days applied to an area stretching further south than the Siberia of to-day. Although Laxmann visited the area known as Dauria he reported that it was not in Dauria that he saw this species but at Mt. Schlangen, Kolywanian Sawode, around the fortress Ustkamenogorskoi and in the Altai mountains.

We have now been able to establish that these three localities are all on the western fringe of the Altai mountains in or close to NE Kazakhstan some 2500 km west and somewhat south of the area pinpointed by Brooke (1974).

Dickinson et al. (2001) reported that “Ustkamenogorskoi is in Eastern Kazakhstan on the Irtysh River some 80 km south of the Russia-Kazakhstan border, Kolywan’ lies some 60 km north of the border or 140 km north of Ustkamenogors [sic]. Both are near the western Altai mountains”.

With expert help from Francis Herbert, Curator of Maps at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), London we have been able to establish that Mt. Schlangen (or

Schlangenberg) stands above the town of Zmeinogorsk which is located at approximately 51°11'N, 82°10'E. This site is about 150 km NNW of Ustkamenogorsk. One of the maps, published in 1775, shows "Dominium vetus Sengorense" just to the south of Ust Kamenogorskaja (Mappa Gubernii Sibiriensis, continens Provincias Toboliensem et Jenisejensem; comp. I. Trescott).

All the localities mentioned by Laxmann are therefore accounted for and so indeed is the name *singora* that he had found on specimens in St. Petersburg. He apparently collected at least one specimen as evidenced by the drawing associated with his description. In accordance with Recommendation 76A.2 of the Code (ICZN, 1999) we therefore correct the type locality of *Hirundo daurica* Laxmann, 1769, to Mt. Schlangen near Zmeinogorsk, Russia.

Dickinson & Dekker (2001: 135) discussed variation within the range of nominate *daurica*, but in making comparisons they had very little specimen material from that range in the collection at Tring. By correctly identifying the type locality we hope to assist researchers who examine *H. daurica* specimens to the south of the range of the nominate form. However, it remains clear that comparisons should be made only when adequate series from the west and the east of the range usually attributed to *daurica* can be brought together as part of a full study.

### Acknowledgements

We should like to thank Mikhail Kalyakin for help with two localities and particularly Francis Herbert for details of the elusive Mt. Schlangen, and we should like to acknowledge the assistance of Clive Mann and Nigel Winsor for their introduction to Francis Herbert. We are grateful to Angela Turner and to an anonymous reviewer for reading a draft of this paper and providing valuable comments.

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Received: 23.vii.2002; 30.viii.2002 (final draft)

Accepted: 10.ix.2002

Edited: C. van Achterberg