

C. nivosa: ♂♂ 34, 35, 36; ♀ 35.

C. tullbergi: ♂ 52; ♀ 49.

Dendropicos fuscescens: 11 ♂♂, 21-30 (26.1 ± 3.5); ♀♀ 22.8, 24, 25; ♀ b. 22.4.

D. poecilolaemus: ♂ 27.0, wing 85; ♀ 29.2, wing 87; pair, Ng'iyia, Central Nyanza, May.

D. obsoletus: ♂ 23.5, Thika, June.

Mesopicus goertae: ♂♂ 46, 48, 53; ♀♀ 49, 51.3.

M. griseocephalus: ♂ 43.1, W. Usambara.

M. xantholophus: ♀♀ 51.5, 56; Kakamega Forest.

Thripias namaquus: ♂ 83, Dodoma, Dec.

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The races of the Rusty-breasted Nunlet (*Nonnula rubecula*)

by Kenneth C. Parkes

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The Rusty-breasted Nunlet is one of five rather similar South American species of the bucconid genus *Nonnula*; all are clad in rufous, grey, and dull brown in various combinations, with no striking markings. The first record of the species *N. rubecula* from the Guianas was that of Blake (1963), who identified his one Surinam specimen as *simplex* Todd on the basis of geographic probability, without direct comparison. The species was again collected in Surinam by G. F. Mees, who sent me two of his three specimens to compare directly with the type of *simplex*. After I had borrowed some additional specimens, it became evident not only that the Surinam birds represented an undescribed subspecies, but that the entire species was in need of revision, as the material examined by no means conformed to the subspecies and ranges listed by Peters (1948). The description of the Surinam subspecies as *tapanaboniensis* by Mees (1968) has resolved part of the problem; a review of all of the subspecies, including two to be newly described, is presented in this paper.

The range of the subspecies *N. r. duidae* Chapman was given by Peters (1948: 19) as "Southern Venezuela in the region at the base of Mt. Duida" (north of the Orinoco). Phelps and Phelps (1958: 247), however, extended this to include virtually all of the southern half of Terr. Amazonas, south of the Orinoco to the Brazilian frontier and for an unspecified distance beyond

("Brasil septentrional"). The extension to Brazil is undoubtedly based on Todd (1943), who referred a series of 11 specimens from Tonantins, on the north bank of the Amazon, to *duidae*; Peters apparently overlooked Todd's remarks. It is true that the Tonantins birds (two of which have since been exchanged to other museums) closely resemble *duidae*, and it is understandable that Zimmer (who made the comparisons for Todd) so identified them. However, there is a population of this species, also hitherto assigned to *duidae* but quite different therefrom, interposed between Tonantins and the range of true *duidae* which is restricted to Venezuela north of the Orinoco. These birds cannot be assigned to *duidae* or to any other known subspecies. Friedmann (1948: 434), with a small mixed series before him, overlooked the correlation of colour and collecting localities of his birds, and called them all *duidae*; this series includes the specimen chosen for the type of the new subspecies, which may be called:

Nonnula rubecula interfluvialis subsp. nov.

Type: U.S. National Museum no. 326713, adult male, collected at the mouth of Caño Atamoni, on the Brazo Casiquiare, Terr. Amazonas, Venezuela, 6th February, 1931, by E. G. Holt, E. R. Blake, and C. T. Agostini (collectors' no. 5039) [for this and other Venezuelan localities cited, see map in Phelps and Phelps, 1950].

Characters: Differs from *duidae* in being greyer, less rufescent dorsally, with the crown greyer than the back rather than nearly concolorous; anterior underparts averaging duller, less brightly rufescent; orange-buff of lores more mixed with white; wing longer (6 *interfluvialis*, 66–70 mm.; 8 *duidae*, 63–67 mm.); tail pattern (see beyond) as in *duidae*. Nearer *cineracea* in colour of underparts, but differing from that race in greyer crown and less purely white lores, and in wing length (in which *duidae* and *cineracea* are alike). Differs from *tapanaboniensis* in having *less* contrast between grey of crown and brown of back, somewhat brighter underparts, and white rather than buff under tail coverts.

Range: Between the Río Orinoco in southern Amazonas, Venezuela, and the Río Negro in northern Amazonas, Brazil.

The Tonantins series mentioned above apparently represents the population next south, in the area lying between the Río Negro and the Río Solimões (Rio Amazonas). It may be called:

Nonnula rubecula simulatrix subsp. nov.

Type: Carnegie Museum no. 97733, adult male, collected at Tonantins, north bank of the Río Solimões, Amazonas, Brazil, 8th August, 1923, by S. M. Klages (collector's no. 34533).

Characters: Exceedingly similar in colour to *N. r. duidae*, but tail darker—comparisons are best made with the second outermost rectrix, which in *simulatrix* is blackish with a sharply defined grey tip, rather than dark brownish grey with the margin of the pale tipping poorly defined, as in *duidae* and *interfluvialis*. The wing is proportionally longer: 8 *duidae*, wing 63–67 mm., tail/wing ratio .791–.841; 8 *simulatrix*, wing 65–70, tail/wing ratio .757–.819.

Range: Presumably western Brazil between the Río Negro and the Río Solimões; birds from the south bank of the Solimões are *cineracea* Sclater, which is much duller and has a white loreal spot (see Todd, 1953: 18 for detailed comparisons between "*duidae*" [= *simulatrix*] and *cineracea*). Two specimens (AMNH) from Yauanari, on the south bank of the Río Negro, are nearest *simulatrix* dorsally and in tail pattern, but are rather dull below, apparently representing intergradation with *interfluvialis*.

Remarks on other races: At the time of its description, *tapanaboniensis* was known only from Surinam. I have since examined a specimen (LACM 59690) from the Serra do Navio, Terr. Amapá, northeasternmost Brazil (an area generally Guianian in its avifaunal affinities), which is indistinguishable from Surinam birds. Further, a specimen (AMNH 283556) from Faro, north of the Amazon in Brazil south of Surinam, clearly represents an intergrade between *tapanaboniensis* and *simplex*, the race found south of the Amazon in Pará, Brazil. The range of *simplex* as given by Peters (1948: 19) should thus be amended by deleting the Rio Jamundá, on which Faro lies. True *simplex* appears to be found only south of the Amazon.

A specimen from the confluence of the Ríos Curaray and Napo, Peru (AMNH 25553) extends the range of *cineracea* somewhat farther northwest in Peru than indicated by Peters. This locality was in Ecuador prior to the settlement in 1942 of the Oriente border dispute.

It is quite probable that *N. r. rubecula* (Spix), as presently understood, will prove to be a composite, but the material before me from within the large putative range of the subspecies is too scattered to permit any conclusions to be drawn. The type locality, Malhada, is in western Bahía; the nearest locality to this from which I have seen a specimen is São João de Aliança, central Goiás (LACM 32501). This specimen has much more white on the posterior underparts than any other "*rubecula*" examined. A small series from Victoria, São Paulo (AMNH) is longer-winged and shorter-tailed and rather more richly coloured than a good series from Misiones, northeastern Argentina. Additional material from other localities will almost undoubtedly permit the subdivision of *N. r. rubecula*, and there are several available names, from various parts of the range, listed in synonymy. Incidentally, as Todd (1937: 248) has mentioned, the figure (pl. 45, fig. 1) of "*rubecula*" in Sclater (1881), painted from a specimen thought to be from "Pará", does not represent the nominate race but is probably *simplex* Todd.

Specimens examined:

duidae: VENEZUELA, Cerro Duida (various localities), 6; Cerro Yapacana, 4.

interfluvialis: VENEZUELA, Río Casiquiare (various localities), 5; BRAZIL, Tahuapunto, Rio Uaupés, 2.

interfluvialis x *simulatrix:* BRAZIL, Yauanari, Rio Negro, 2.

simulatrix: BRAZIL, Tonantins, Rio Solimões, 9.

cineracea: BRAZIL, São Paulo de Olivença, Rio Solimões, 4; Hyutanahan, Rio Purús, 4; PERU, confluence of Ríos Curaray and Napo, 1.

tapanaboniensis: SURINAM, Palomeu, 2; Kaysergebergte airstrip, 1; BRAZIL, Serra do Navio, Amapá, 1.

tapanaboniensis x *simplex:* BRAZIL, Faro, 1.

simplex: BRAZIL, Rio Tapajós (various localities), 3; Villa Bella Imperatriz, S. bank of Rio Amazonas, 2.

rubecula (probably composite): BRAZIL, Victoria, São Paulo, 4; São João de Aliança, Goiás, 1; "State of Goyaz", 1; Fazenda Taquari, Rio Paraná, Mato Grosso, 1; ARGENTINA, Misiones (various localities), 14.

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New facts on the distribution of *Tauraco ruspolii* Salvadori

by C. Erard and J. Prévost

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Prince Ruspoli's Turaco remained for a long time only known from the type; the exact locality at which it was collected is still unknown (after considering Prince Ruspoli's itinerary, Moreau (1958) suggests that the specimen might have come from Arero). Some fifty years later, C. W. Benson rediscovered the species at Arero in Sidamo, at 4° 48' N., 38° 50' E., and an altitude of about 1800 m., and obtained five birds. In his 1945 paper, Benson suggests that future workers look for the species around Neghelli (Sidamo).

In the course of the expedition of the Laboratoire d'Ornithologie (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle) to Ethiopia in 1968, we prospected the Neghelli area but failed to find this turaco. On the other hand we were successful in the montane forests between Wadera and Zembaba in Sidamo, ca 80 km. north of Neghelli, at 5° 40' N., 39° 20' E., and an altitude of 1800 m., where we found *T. ruspolii* on 22nd and 23rd May in juniper woods with dense evergreen undergrowth (the same habitat as at Arero).

In an area of about 150 ha we recorded six birds which probably concerned four different pairs. Two collected females showed ovaries the largest follicles of which measured respectively 1 and 2 mm. in diameter: obviously the birds were not breeding.

This new locality is situated about 120 km. to the north-north-east of Arero, and is particularly interesting because we found there within 5 km., both *T. ruspolii* and *T. leucotis*, the former in the juniper, the latter in the broad-leaved forests. This appears to be the first proof of geographical (but not ecological) sympatry between the two species; so the statements of Moreau (1958) and Hall & Moreau (1962) that they could possibly be conspecific no longer hold good.

Recently, J. H. R. Boswall informed us that several years ago a Swedish taxidermist in Addis-Ababa prepared two *T. ruspolii* collected in the same area as ours. One of the specimens was sold to tourists while the other was sent to a museum in the U.S.A.

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