

Preliminary Note on the Geographical Variation of the Hazel-Grouse (*Tetrastes bonasia* (L.)).

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(Med et Dansk Resume: Foreløbig Meddelelse om Hjerpens
(*Tetrastes bonasia* (L.)) geografiske Variation.)

During the revision of the distribution of the Hazel-Grouse in Hungary made by VERTSE in 1939, it was not possible to revise this "Rassenkreis" also from a systematical point of view, as at that time neither HARTERT, PETERS, STEINBACHER nor later on NIETHAMMER had segregated the Central-European subspecies. In the year 1944 v. JORDANS & SCHIEBEL described a *T. b. styriacus* from Steiermark, and KLEINSCHMIDT a *T. b. schiebeli* from Krain, the former as follows: "Length of wing upwards of 18.3 cm, coloration less brown than in West-German and Middle-German birds", the second with darker and warmer colours and larger size. KLEINSCHMIDT further upholds his *T. b. rhenana* (from 1917).

The fine collection kept in the Natural History Museum of Vienna prompted me to make a new review of these birds, especially in regard to the subspecies which might occur in Hungary and in the Carpathian Mountains.

As to the measurements I did not find any difference. In the coloration I could separate two groups similar to those recently found by OLIVIER in *Lanius excubitor*.

I. — A grey northern group to which the following skins belong: 1 Lapland, 5 Sweden (*T. b. bonasia* L.); 1 Latvia, 4 Livonia, 2 Russia (*T. b. volgensis* But.); 1 Tomsk, 8 Tunkinsk and Baikal Mts. (*T. b. sibiricus* But.). I must however point out that the skin from Lapland is particularly light¹), and further that a skin from East Prussia belonged to this grey, northern group, although it is no doubt a red phase, as it had similar colours as the "*carpathicus*" mentioned below.

II. — The southern group has a brownish coloration: 2 Westerwald-Rhein (*T. b. rhenana* Kl.), 4 Salzburg (*T. b. rupestris*

¹) This population was in the meantime described as *T. b. griseonota* by SALOMONSEN (1947, p. 222).

Brehm), 4 Krain, 1 Upper Austria (*T. b. schiebeleri* Kl.), 1 Steiermark (*T. b. styriacus* Jord. & Schieb.). Although the last mentioned is the darkest, the skin from Upper Austria seems to indicate that all Hazel-Grouse from the Eastern Alps, possibly to the Enns-line, should be referred to *T. b. styriacus*, including the population from the vicinity of Kószeg. — The two skins from the Rhine area are strikingly rusty-brown, so *T. b. rhenana* could probably be upheld.

Just as OLIVIER found an intermediate form between the two groups of *Lanius excubitor*, I also find the following skins to be more grey than those from Salzburg, and I therefore use "*carpathicus*" as preliminary name without attempting at present a separation. To "*carpathicus*" belong two specimens from the northern Carpathians, four from Lower Austria, even two from Upper Austria (Peuerbach near Linz). The populations still occurring in the Hungarian Central mountains, in Pilis, Börzsöny, Mátra and Bükk (after VERTSE) should be examined in this regard.

When a larger material is available it may be possible to separate the birds from the northern foothills of the Alps and those from the Carpathians if they constantly appear to be more grey than those from the West Alps, which according to ROKITANSKY, belong to *T. b. rupestris* Br.

Finally, I wish to clear up a misunderstanding. In the book by VALENTINITSCH-KRUDENER (1926) is mentioned a specimen from "Krain bei Palle", which locality is often quoted in the literature. Fortunately, a copy of VALENTINITSCH-KRUDENER's book from REITER's Library came into my hands, in which he, in his own hand-writing, had corrected this locality to "Kiran near Pale, Bosnia", and I can thus prove that this specimen erroneously was regarded as originating from Krain.

DANSK RESUME

Foreløbig Meddelelse om Hjerpens (*Tetrastes bonasia* (L.)) geografiske Variation.

Forf. har undersøgt den store Samling Hjerper (*Tetrastes bonasia*) i Naturhistorisk Museum i Wien og kommer til det

Resultat angaaende deres geografiske Variation, at der kan skelnes mellem følgende Grupper:

I. En graalig, nordlig Gruppe omfattende Fugle fra Sverige (*T. b. bonasia* L.), Lappland (*T. b. griseonota* Salom.), Randstaterne og Rusland (*T. b. volgensis* But.) og Sibirien (*T. b. sibiricus* But.). En Fugl fra Østpreussen hører herhen, tiltrods for at den er i en rødligere Dragt, ikke ulig den nedennævnte "*carpathicus*".

II. En sydlig Gruppe med brunere Fjerdragt, hvortil hører Fugle fra Westerwald ved Rhinen (*T. b. rhenana* Kleinschm.), Salzburg (*T. b. rupestris* Br.), Krain og Øvre Østrig (*T. b. schiebeli* Kleinschm.) og Steiermark (*T. b. styriacus* (Jordan & Schiebel)).

Fuglene fra Karpaterne, fra det østrigske Lavland og rimeligvis ogsaa fra de centralungarske Bjergdrag, er intermediære mellem de ovennævnte to Grupper og benævnes her preliminært *T. b. carpathicus*.

Literature.

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