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## NOTES ON PIGEONS.

By ERNST HARTERT, PH.D.

IN 1910, when I had finished Volume I. of my work on the birds of the palae-arctic fauna, an eminent ornithologist—now deceased—said to me that since I had overcome the difficulties with Titmice, Warblers and others, and concluded the *Passeres*, the end of my task would be near, and the second volume would be more or less playwork. I replied at once that I could not agree with him, as I had before me the Woodpeckers, Owls, Eagles, Geese, game birds, and other difficult groups; but I had hardly imagined that almost every larger family would be as difficult as most of those of the *Passeres*. This, however, seems to be the case, especially as many of the larger birds, being bulky and tiresome to skin, are shunned by many collectors, and therefore very often the series in collections are small and insufficient, and not to be compared with those of the smaller birds. On the other hand the difficulties connected with their study mostly increase the interest in those groups.

Among others the Pigeons are by no means an easy order, and exceedingly interesting.

## I. ON SOME TURTLE-DOVES.

Among the Turtle-Doves—now *Streptopelia*, formerly *Turtur*—there is first of all a difficulty about the name "*risoria*." Linné, *Syst. Nat.*, Ed. x., i. p. 165 (1758), gave it to a bird of which he said: "*Habitat* in India, *nobis communis Turtur*." On the strength of this "*Habitat*" the name has been frequently applied to a wild Indian species, the *Turtur douraca* of the *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxi. p. 430. Before Salvadori and most of his followers, Schlegel, Blyth, Stejneger, and a few others had already, more or less with reasons fully stated, refused to adopt the name *risoria* for the Indian Ring-Dove.

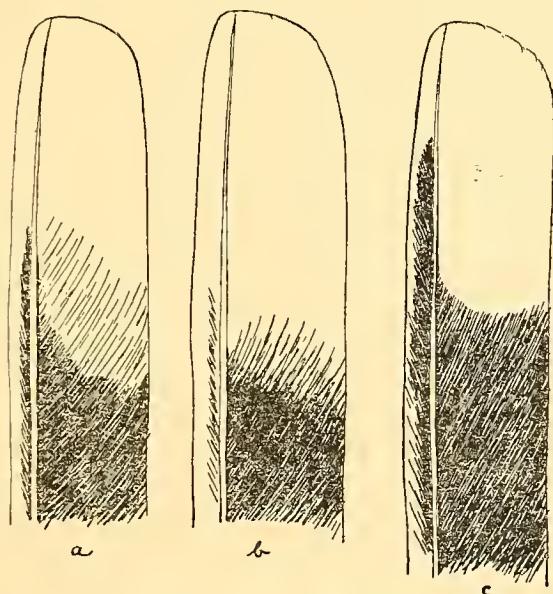
Unfortunately my friend E. C. Stuart Baker, in his splendid book on the *Indian Pigeons and Doves* (1913), p. 219, has again reverted to the name *risoria* for the Indian Ring-Dove. In the Preface to his book, p. vii, the author most laudably declares that he takes his names "according to strict priority and with effect from the date of the tenth edition of Linnaeus." On p. 219, however, he quotes, "*Columba risoria* Linn., *Syst. Nat.*, i. p. 285 (1766)"! He then says that the authors quoted by Linnaeus give India as the country whence their Dove came—mentioning also Brisson, who is not quoted in Ed. x., and whose work was not published in 1758—and winds up: "There cannot, therefore, be the slightest doubt that Linnaeus meant the name *risoria* to be applied to the wild Dove which had the headquarters of its habitat in India."

Unfortunately Mr. Baker's conclusions are incorrect. Linné (1758) quoted Aldrovandus, Willughby, Ray, and Albin, vol. iii., p. 42, pl. 45. Aldrovandus had two figures, one (p. 509) of the European *Streptopelia turtur*, the other (p. 510) of a "Ring-dove" which he calls a "*Turtur Indicus*." Of the latter he says in the description (p. 508) that the female is white with the exception of the red feet and blackish bill, while the male has the upperside rufescent. In the chapter on the distribution Aldrovandus says that the Turtledove occurs in the Orient, in Africa

(in enormous cloud-like masses), in the country of the Tartars, in Germany and in England. No exact statement is ventured of the occurrence in India, and from the description we can only suppose that it was taken from a cage-bird of the tame race, while the figure might be either the tame or wild Indian or one of two or three African species. Willughby quoted from Aldrovandus, merely adding that he saw these Indian Doves in the King's aviary in Westminster. Ray merely quoted Aldrovandus.

Then comes Albin, who described "The Turtle-Dove from India," and figured on pl. 45 very clearly the tame domestic form, and who says nothing about its habitat but "They are tame pretty birds, and kept in cages by the curious, in which they will breed and bring up their young."

It is thus evident that all previous writers quoted by Linnaeus were merely



a. *Streptopelia roseogrisea*  
 b. Tame *S. risoria*  
 c. *S. decaoto decaoto*.

acquainted with the domestic race, of which they **supposed** that it had come from India.

For the following reasons the Indian species cannot be the ancestor of the tame Dove :

(1) The markings on the outer tail-feathers are different. In the Indian wild bird the outer web of the outer tail-feather is grey at least one centimetre beyond the slate-grey basal portion of the inner web ; in the tame race in Europe the white of the distal portion of the outer web extends as far as or farther than the white on the inner web (see figures). In these markings the tame race agrees with *Streptopelia roseogrisea* of N.E. Africa.

(2) The tame Dove is smaller than "*S. douraca*," agreeing in size better with *S. roseogrisea*. Domesticated races are—as a rule—larger than wild ones, as for example canary-birds, ducks, geese, and others. The tail is also longer in the Indian Ring-Dove !

(3) The note of the tame Dove is a curious laughing one, that of the Indian wild bird quite different (see Baker, *Indian Pigeons and Doves*, p. 224, and other places). *S. roseogrisea*, on the other hand, has the same call as that of our domestic race.

The latter is either cinnamon buff on the upperside or more or less entirely white; therefore not much can be learnt from its colour, but it would seem remarkable that no trace of the grey under tail-coverts is ever noticed in the domestic race, these coverts being grey in the Indian, white in the African species.

We must therefore conclude that the Indian species cannot be the ancestor of the tame Dove, while in all probability *S. roseogrisea* is the species from which our domestic birds have come.

It is important to clearly understand this, because Mr. Baker's book must be widely spread and his nomenclature may therefore mislead many ornithologists. Before Mr. Baker the late Professor E. Oustalet dissented from Count Salvadori's correct view in a lengthy article entitled "Recherches sur l'origine de la Tourterelle à collier," in the Proceedings of the Third Ornithological Congress (Paris 1900), *Ornis* xi. pp. 259-66. But Oustalet's articles have been curiously neglected in this country, and the *Ornis* is by no means in every ornithologist's library. For the reasons explained above, I cannot agree with Oustalet, who brings no proof of his theory. Some of his conclusions are hypothetically based on a mounted specimen in the Paris Museum, the locality of which is uncertain, and which, therefore, cannot enlighten us in any way.

The name of the Indian Ring-Dove can therefore not be *risoria*; but, unfortunately, neither can it be *douraca*, because Frivaldsky in *A. M. Társaság Évkönyvei* (Hungarian Academy writings), 1834-36, iii. kötet (3rd vol.), osztály 3 (3rd part), pp. 183, 184, pl. viii, published 1838, described the wild Ring-Dove from Turkey as *Columba risoria* var. *decaocto*. Moreover *douraca* of 1844 is a nomen nudum!

A. E. Brehm, in the *Thierleben*, among others, described *S. roseogrisea* as the ancestor of the tame Ring-Dove, but he seems partially to have mixed it up with the Asiatic species.

I am sorry to say that I must disagree with my friend Baker in another case of nomenclature, for he curiously misapplied the name *meena*. He called the "Indian Rufous Turtle-Dove" *Streptopelia turtur meena*. He quite correctly separated it from *orientalis*, with which so great an ornithologist as Salvadori had united it in the *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxi. p. 403.

The case of the name *meena* is as follows: In the *Proceedings of the Committee of the Zool. Soc. London*, ii. p. 149 (1832), Sykes described under the name *Columba meena* the male of the Dove with white under tail-coverts, which breeds in Central Asia and visits India in the winter; to this he added the description of a bird which he thought was the female of his *meena*, and which had the under tail-coverts grey; unfortunately this supposed female of his *meena* was not the same, but belonged to a very different race. The name *meena* cannot be suppressed, but must be used for the bird which ten years later was named *ferrago* by Eversmann, a name under which it is found in the *Catalogue of Birds*. It is against any rules, and there is no reason whatever why it should be adopted for the supposed female of the white-vented race, and the Indian grey-vented bird must be called *agricola*.

Mr. Baker has very sensibly made use in his book of the "trinomial system."



As far as the Pigeons are concerned, this was new for the Indian fauna. On the whole, Mr. Baker's attempt has been very successful, but I cannot agree with all his conclusions. He treated *orientalis*, *agricola* (under the name of *meena*), and *meena* (under the name of *ferrago*) as subspecies of *Streptopelia turtur*. It is tempting to do this, but I do not believe that it can be accepted, because in wide areas in Turkestan and Afghanistan both *S. turtur arenicola* and *S. orientalis meena* (= *ferrago*) appear to nest. Moreover it appears that the call-notes of the *turtur* and *orientalis* groups differ considerably, the latter having a "cooing" call, the former the well-known "turr-turr."

On the other hand I am certainly of opinion that *S. cambayensis* should be looked upon as a subspecies of *S. senegalensis*. As everybody knows, *cambayensis* has the upperside earthy brown, and *senegalensis* has it, to use the words of the key on page 448, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxi., "more or less reddish." This "more or less" shows already that it is not always so very red, and in fact females and young are sometimes so little reddish that they come very close to *cambayensis*. The *Cat. B.* adds also "rump bluish-lead colour" in *senegalensis*, never bluish in *cambayensis*. This, however, is not entirely correct, because some African subspecies of *senegalensis* do not have the rump bluish—i.e. *aegyptiacus* and the N.W. African form. That *cambayensis* is not so frightfully different from typical *senegalensis* is suggested by the following facts :

As late as 1876, Dresser, in his immortal work *The Birds of Europe*, vol. vii., united both forms, though in the Supplement, vol. ix., he separated them. But even there he had not quite grasped their distinguishing features. On page 306 Mr. Dresser says : "Count Salvadori does not include *T. senegalensis*, but only *T. cambayensis*, as found in Turkey ; but there is no doubt that both species occur there, as I have a specimen obtained by Mr. Pearse at Turballi which, though not quite adult, has the rump as blue as in typical *senegalensis*. I am, however, afraid that I must blame myself for this omission on the part of Count Salvadori, as I am not sure that he saw the specimen in question."

The authorities of the Manchester Museum were kind enough to send me the specimens from the Dresser Collection, for which I am much obliged to Dr. Tattersall. I find that there is an adult female and two young, all shot on May 15, and probably one family ! All three belong to the same race, and have not much to do with *cambayensis*, but belong to the Algerian race of *senegalensis* ! The young ♂ with more blue on the rump was called by Mr. Dresser *Turtur senegalensis*, the female with a less bluish rump *cambayensis*, the adult female also *cambayensis*. These specimens have, according to Mr. Dresser, been examined by Count Salvadori, and called *cambayensis*, which is difficult to believe, as he knows these birds perfectly well. I can only imagine that his notes became mixed, because there is also enumerated on page 453, as from Aintab in Asia Minor, a specimen (the first of the list) of *cambayensis*. This example was shot on February 10, 1879, near Aintab, but it is a typical *senegalensis* and could not possibly be mistaken for *cambayensis*; not even by a casual observer, and never by an eminent ornithologist. That the mistakes became printed is unfortunate, as the distribution as given in the *Cat. B.* and in Dresser's *Manual* was consequently quite wrong. As late as 1886, however, Sharpe mistook a *cambayensis* from Muscat (E. Arabia) for *senegalensis*, and the same error occurs in his *Aves* of the Second Yarkand Mission. The distribution of the various races of *Streptopelia senegalensis*, as far as I can work it out at present, is as follows :

### 1. *Streptopelia senegalensis senegalensis* (L.)

*Columba senegalensis* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, Ed. xii. 1, p. 283 (1766—Senegal, ex Brisson).

*Columba maculicollis*, Wagler, *Syst. Av.*, Columba No. 97 (1827—New name for *C. senegalensis*—partim, comprising not only *aegyptiaca* auct., but also, though doubtfully, *cambayensis*).

*Turtur senegalensis aequatorialis* Erlanger, *Journ. f. Orn.* 1905, pp. 116, 117, pl. v. (lower figure).

Characteristics of this race: Smaller than other African forms, wing ♂ ♀ 134–146 mm., rump and upper tail-coverts bluish grey; underside pinky vinous, tips of split jugular feathers more brownish, contrasting with throat and breast. Edges to inner wing-coverts and scapulars rather reddish.

Tropical Africa, from Senegambia to Nubia, Arabia, Palestine and south-eastern Asia Minor (Ain-Tab, south of the Taurus, west of Birejik), Danford coll.

### 2. *Streptopelia senegalensis sokotrae* C. Grant

*Streptopelia senegalensis sokotrae* Claude Grant, *Bull. B. O. Club*, xxxv. p. 19 (1914—Sokotra. Type in British Museum).

Strikingly smaller than *S. s. senegalensis*, otherwise not different, though generally lighter in colour, especially on head and breast. Wings, ♂ 123–133, ♀ 123–127 mm.

Island of Sokotra.

### 3. *Streptopelia senegalensis phoenicophila* subsp. nov.

Larger than *S. s. senegalensis*: wing, ♂ 145–152, ♀ 139–149 mm.; rump and upper tail-coverts bluish grey with brownish tips to the feathers, edges to inner upper wing-coverts, and scapulars more brownish, less reddish; underside less pinkish, more brownish vinous; less strongly contrasting from the tips to the split jugular feathers.

Date-palm groves south of the Atlas in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, though from the latter country information is scarce and vague. Probably also parts of Tripolitania.—In Algeria from Berryan, Ghardaïa, Guerrara, Biskra to Metlili and Onargla, but absent from El-Golea and In-Salah and farther south.

The Palm-Dove from Africa Minor used to be lumped—like *aegyptiaca*—with *S. s. senegalensis*. Not very many years ago the late Carlo von Erlanger first noticed the differences. He, however, united it with *aegyptiaca*, which he revived—many years before Cabanis had already called attention to it. This course was followed by Zedlitz and by Lord Rothschild and myself, but since I have compared a series from Egypt with one from Algeria and Tunisia, it became evident that these forms cannot be united.

The specimens in the Dresser Collection (unfortunately no adult male!) from Constantinople seem to be indistinguishable from those from Africa Minor, and they must undoubtedly have been introduced, probably from Tunis or Tripoli.

### 4. *Streptopelia senegalensis aegyptiaca* (Lath.)

*Columba testaceo-incarnata* Forskål, *Descr. Au.* p. 5 (1775—Egypt.—Forskål's work *Descr. Animalium*, etc., was not binomial, names can therefore not be accepted from that work dated 1775).

*Columba aegyptiaca* Latham, *Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 607 (1790—Egypt, ex Forskål 1775).

*Peristera rufescens* Brehm, *Vogelfang*, p. 257 (1855—Egypt); id., *Tauben*, p. 54.

*Turtur pygmaeus* Brehm, *Tauben*, p. 56 (1857—Egypt).

Larger than *S. s. senegalensis*, of about the same size as *S. s. phoenicophila*, but head and nape uniformly deeper vinous, upper back, scapulars and inner upper wing-coverts much more rufous than in *phoenicophila*, almost uniform bright

cinnamon-rufous. Rump brown! Wings, ♂ 145-148, sometimes 150-151, ♀ 136-145 mm.

Nile valley south to Wadi Halfa. All specimens I have seen from south of Wadi Halfa were typical *senegalensis*, though some from Kerman in Nubia (Hon. N. C. Rothschild coll.) and the Atbara were very pale. It would be interesting to compare larger series from these districts.

##### 5. *Streptopelia senegalensis cambayensis* (Gm.)

*Columba cambayensis* Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.* i. 2, p. 779 (1789—"Habitat in Cambaja," i.e. on the Bay of Cambay, North of Bombay. Ex Sonnerat and Latham).

Differs from all the forms of *S. senegalensis* in the uniform dull earth-brown upperside. Wing, ♂ 125-132, ♀ 121-129 mm.

Tropical India from the foot of the Himalaya to the Malabar coast, where it is rare, to the east to the rivers Hoogli and Ganges (Baker). It is a mistake to suppose that this form or *ermanni* extends to Asia Minor or Constantinople!

##### 6. *Streptopelia senegalensis ermanni* (Bp.)

*Turtur ermanni* Bonaparte, *Compt. Rend. Acad. Paris* 43, p. 942 (1856—Bokhara. Types in Berlin Museum. There is no doubt as to the form which Bonaparte described, though his description is partially misleading, as he evidently had specimens of *senegalensis*, which he called *cambayensis*, for comparison).

Exactly like *S. s. cambayensis*, but larger: wings, ♂ 135-145, ♀ 134-140 mm.

This very closely allied form is not always separable, if only single specimens—especially of doubtful sex—are compared. It inhabits parts of Turkestan (Bokhara), parts of Persia, Baluchistan and Afghanistan, and Muscat in S.E. Arabia.

There has been some uncertainty about the Yunnan form of *Streptopelia chinensis*. Mr. Ingram called it *Turtur chinensis*, but said: "These (i.e. a pair from 'Mongtse') agree with *T. chinensis* fairly well, but have indications of dark median streaks on the upper wing-coverts, and in one example the under tail-coverts are almost white; in fact, they appear intermediate between *T. chinensis* and *tigrinus*." Anderson identified specimens from Western Yunnan with *T. tigrinus*, and also Bangs and Phillips called examples from Mengtse ("Mongtse") *Spilopelia tigrina*, though also adding that they were "more or less intermediate between *tigrina* and *chinensis*."

Comparing the Yunnan specimens I was astonished to find what an excellent form, truly intermediate between *S. c. chinensis* and *tigrina*, they are; they cannot be united with either of the two nearest forms. The upper wing-coverts have dull black shaft-lines as in *tigrina*, but narrower; the edge of the wing is darker than in *tigrina*, as in *chinensis*. The under tail-coverts vary from buffy greyish-white to grey, with more or less distinct buffy tips. I propose to name this well-marked subspecies

##### *Streptopelia chinensis vacillans*, subsp. nov.

Type ♂ ad., Mengtse, Yunnan, 30. vi. 1910. No. 249, collected by Mr. Alan Owston's Japanese collectors. In the Tring Museum.

References are:

*Turtur tigrina* Anderson, *Western Yunnan Exp.* p. 665 (1878).

*Turtur chinensis* Ingram, *Nor. Zool.* 1912, p. 272.

*Spilopelia tigrina* Bangs & Phillips, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard Coll.*, Cambridge, Mass., lviii. p. 270.



II. ON *COLUMBA LIVIA* AND ITS FORMS

While there has been much divergency of opinions about the ancestors of the tame Ring-Dove, there has been none about that of our domestic Pigeon, since the Rock-Pigeon (Rock-Dove) has become known. It is true that Linné considered the Domestic Pigeon to be a domesticated race of the Stock-Dove, but this error did not long prevail. No doubt the wild Rock-Pigeon (*Columba livia livia*) is the ancestor of the European House-Pigeons, while *C. l. schimperi* and *intermedia* are those of the Egyptian and Indian domesticated birds.

The wild races of *C. livia* are not so easily disposed of, but my investigations have convinced me that neither in East Siberia, China and Japan, nor in Porto Santo, Madeira, and the Azores, are wild forms indigenous, and that all birds recorded from these countries are feral; this is, in my opinion, evident from the colour-varieties which they represent; where they vary enormously, and where a uniform type is very rare, or where spotted and rufous-barred birds are the rule, we can only have to do with feral birds.

Bannerman's *canariensis* is quite recognisable if a series is compared, though I cannot see that it is darker than *C. l. livia* on the upperside, and my wing-measurements range up to 227 mm.

*C. l. schimperi* differs by its very light mantle and small size, while the rump is not white, but whitish grey or greyish white. This form is the most distinct of all, but often interbreeds with feral Domestic Pigeons, probably descendants of the same race.

*C. l. palaestinae* is darker; but not only the birds from Palestine, but also those from Arabia belong to it. More information will be found in my book on the palaeartic birds.

*C. l. gaddi* Sarudny is like *palaestinae*, but larger. I have only compared one specimen shot in S.W. Persia by Mr. Witherby, of which I think that it must belong to this form. It is said to inhabit the provinces of Luristan and Arabistan, west of the mountains.

*C. l. neglecta* is certainly paler than the very dark typical *intermedia* from India, but in the Himalayas, near Kashgar, etc., the two forms seem to mix and intergrade. *Columba livia korejewi* Sarudny and London (*Orn. Monatsber.* 1906, p. 134) from the Semiretchie province in Turkestan is said to be larger, but I do not think that this is constant, and that the authors can have measured many typical *neglecta*.

*C. l. intermedia* is the dark, dark-rumped Indian subspecies.

The very rare *Columba livia gymnocyclus* (not *gymnocycla*!), only known from Senegambia and the rocks near Gambaga, and apparently from the Los Islands, north of Freetown, is insufficiently known, and the possibility of its being feral requires consideration. Cf. *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxi. p. 257; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* 1899, p. 406; Reichenow, *Vög. Afr.* i. p. 490; Alexander, *Ibis* 1902, p. 368.

III. ON *COLUMBA NIGRICANS*

*Columba nigricans* has been described by Buturlin (*Annuaire Mus. Zool. St. Pétersbourg* xiii. p. 324, 1908) from one single specimen shot from an apparently wild flock at "Tunzay-inzsa in the Sologow valley in Vei-chan, north of Cheng-te and east of Dolon-nor, near the head springs of Shara-muren and Liao-khe." The author describes the bird as follows:



"*Columba nigricans*—corpore supra enim uropygio ardesiaco-nigricante, sed dorso inferiore, tectricibus alarum majoribus summo apice, rectricibus extimis pogonio externo dimidio basali dilute coerulescente-canis; rostro nigricante; alis 220 millim. longis; abundat in rupibus prope Tunzanzsy, Vei-tschan."

This appears to be a totally distinct species, hitherto unknown. There is nothing in it which suggests to me that it could be a feral variety, though this suspicion easily arises with new species of the genus *Columba* from palaeartic countries.

#### IV. ON THE RACES OF THE "SNOW PIGEON"

In looking over the series of *Columba leuconota* in the Tring and British Museums it occurs at once that the examples from West China are lighter, paler on the upperside, than those from the Western Himalaya. In measuring them they also appear to be larger, certainly reaching larger dimensions than the latter, though they overlap.

I propose to name the birds from Szetschwan

#### *Columba leuconota gradaria* subsp. nov.

Head not as dark as in *C. l. leuconota*, more slate-grey, mantle paler and more greyish, upper wing-coverts lighter. Wings 239-262, as against 230-245 mm. in birds from the Western Himalaya. Type in the Tring Museum, ♂ ad. Sungpan, Sue-chan in Szetschwan, China, 6. iv. 1894, Berezowski coll.

The distribution of this race appears to be West-China (Szetschwan, Kasun) and Tibet as far west at least as the highlands north of Sikkim. While specimens from Darjiling and Lachang in Sikkim (9000 ft.) still belong to the dark form, those from Gnatong (12,400 ft.) and Gyantse belong to the eastern paler one. Those from "Native Sikkim" in the British Museum are partially intermediate between the two races. Unfortunately the exact localities and altitudes of these birds are unknown, as they were collected by the late Mandelli's Lepchas in that part of Sikkim which was beyond British territory, in Tibet.

#### V. THE LAUREL-PIGEONS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

The first notice of the existence of any of these Pigeons is in the interesting work by Ledru entitled "*Voyage aux Iles de Ténériffe, La Trinité, Saint-Thomas, Sainte-Croix et Porto-Ricco*," where we find in vol. i. pp. 177-185 the first list of birds supposed to occur on Teneriffe. There is mentioned (p. 184) "Un pigeon ramier moins gros que celui d'Europe. Bec rouge, dessus et côté du cou bronzés." An asterisk denotes that a specimen was brought to the galleries of the Natural History Museum in Paris. No doubt this short description refers to *Columba bollii*.

The next notice is that of Messrs. Webb, Berthelot and Moquin-Tandon on p. 26 of the "*Ornithologie Canarienne*" in the *Histoire Naturelle des Iles Canaries*. Here the name *Columba laurivora* occurs for the first time. It has universally been adopted for the species with the whitish tip (**not subterminal bar**) to the tail, which inhabits the islands of Palma and Gomera. Unfortunately this is impossible to accept, for the following reasons:

**Under the name *Columba laurivora* the authors describe the male of the**

**Madeiran** *C. trocaz*, merely adding that the female differs by having the throat of a more or less deep glittering green, the wings of a dark brown, the flanks and lower abdomen rufous brown, and a white terminal tail-band. No doubt this description of the supposed ♀ refers to what is now called *C. laurivora*, but the name was not given to this supposed female in particular, but to the Madeiran *C. trocaz*, and on the plate (3) the latter is figured above, *C. laurivora* auct. below. *Columbe trocaz* Heineken is quoted as a synonym, and the authors say, as an explanation why they rename the species, as follows: "Le docteur Heineken est le premier qui ait signalé cette Colombe; il l'a décrite en lui conservant le nom vulgaire de *Trocaz*, mais sans lui imposer le nom latin scientifique. Nous n'avons pas conservé cette dernière dénomination, qui nous a paru trop vague, et nous adopterons l'épithète latine de *laurivora*, qui nous paraît très-caractéristique, puisqu'elle indique une des principales habitudes de l'oiseau." It is clear that we cannot charge the authors with having named the Canary Pigeon if they in the first instance described the Madeira species and clearly say that they rename it *laurivora* because "*trocaz*" is not a Latin name!

*C. laurivora* is therefore a synonym of *C. trocaz*, and the Canary Islands species with a terminal whitish area to the rectrices is nameless; I therefore propose for it the name

—+—  
***Columba junoniae* nom. nov.**

from its habitat: La Palma and Gomera, or, as they were formerly called, Junonia Mayor and Junonia Menor (see Brown's *Madeira, Canary Islands and Azores*).

Type ♀ ad. La Galga, Palma, 20. iv. 1889, no. 15232, H. B. Tristram coll.; in Mus. Rothschild, Tring.

The other species with the slaty back and grey subterminal bar to the rectrices was probably referred to by Bolle in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, 1857, p. 329, under the name of "*Columba (Torcaza) Buvryi* Bonap.?" but the description, which was made up from verbal information, does not quite agree, and as Bonaparte in *Compt. Rend. Acad. Paris* xli. and xliii., 1855 and 1856, gave the name *buvryi* to the Madeiran *trocaz*, this name can in no case be accepted. It was, however, properly diagnosed and named *Columba bollii* by Godman, *Ibis* 1872, p. 217, from Teneriffe specimens, and this name is unassailable. The type is in the British Museum, and the description clear. Godman's spelling too must unfortunately be preserved, though Dr. Bolle declared that the name must be spelled *bollei*, as his name was Bolle and not Bollius.

*Columba bollei* inhabits Teneriffe, La Palma and Gomera, and formerly also Gran Canaria, where, according to Bannerman, it has disappeared with the laurel woods. In fact, it is just as fond of these latter, and the laurel berries, as the formerly so-called "*laurivora*," now *junoniae*.

VI. ON THE NAME AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CURAÇAO PIGEON  
*COLUMBA GYMNOPHTHALMA*

Having received the beautiful set of "*Illustrations to the Birds of South America*" of Lord Brabourne and Charles Chubb, by H. Grönvold, my attention was naturally arrested by pl. 14, the "Bare-faced Pigeon." This species is there, and on page 15 of the "*List of Birds of South America*," called *Columba corensis*

Jacq., and in a footnote is said: "We prefer to follow Count Salvadori's suggestion, as we consider that the bare space round the eye, mentioned by Jacquin, is a sufficient character to identify the species."

This deduction, in my opinion, is incorrect. Jacquin's diagnosis (*Beyträge zur Geschichte der Vögel*, 1784, p. 31) is as follows: "Columba (coreusis) cauda aequali, orbitis denudatis atro-punctatis, corpore grisea." To this is added the following description:

"Bey Koro, in dem Gebiethe von Venezuela, wohnt eine schöne Taube, welche an Grösse der gemeinen Hanstaube gleichkömmt. Sie ist durchaus schöngrau, und die hinteren Federn des Halses sind sehr schön schuppenähnlich, und obschon sie mit den übrigen gleichfärbig sind, so spielen sie doch verschiedentlich. Die rothen Augen stehen in einem kahlen mit schwarzen Puncten besetzten Flecken. Die Füße sind roth. Die Indianer nehmen die Jungen aus dem Neste, erziehen und essen sie."

This description, taken from manuscript notes made by Jacquin's father during his sojourn in Venezuela, reads, translated into English, as follows:

"Near Koro, in the country of Venezuela, lives a fine Pigeon, which agrees in size with the common domestic Pigeon. It is throughout of a beautiful grey colour, and the feathers of the hind-neck are very beautifully scale-like, and, though of same colour as the rest, they appear different in different lights. The red eyes stand in a bare space which is beset with black dots. The feet are red. The Indians take the young from their nests, rear them, and eat them."

Can this description be adopted for the species in question? In my opinion certainly not. It is certainly not "throughout of a beautiful grey colour," as the upper back and scapulars as well as the lesser and median upper wing-coverts are greyish brown, the head and most of the underside are vinous, a wide stripe along the wing and the under tail-coverts white, and one could only call the lower back and rump and the flanks "beautifully grey." The white alar stripe is so conspicuous that the inhabitants of Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire call this Pigeon the "Alablanco," *i.e.* the "White-wing." Moreover the naked space around the eyes is not exactly dotted with black. Even the feathers of the hind-neck are not really of the same colour as the rest, but the upper ones have bluish white, the hinder ones pink edges, bordered with a narrow black line, and they are not iridescent. There is therefore hardly anything in the description which agrees well with the bird—the colours of which are very well shown in Mr. Grönvold's plate—except that it has a bare space round the eye, and that the tail is equal—though I would rather call it slightly rounded.

And last but not least comes another point: the "habitat"! I cannot understand why the authors of the *List* say that it is "Venezuela," and nothing else. The fact is that it has never yet been found in Venezuela—at least there is no proof of it. For about eighty years it was only known from single specimens in four or five museums, which probably all came over alive from Curaçao—like *Amazona ochroptera*—and was haphazardly, without any proper reason, supposed to come from the "interior of Brazil," until, in 1892, I discovered its habitat—the islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire. Mr. Ernst Peters (see *Journ. f. Orn.* 1892, p. 112) said that this same Pigeon, of which he had shot two specimens, which, however, were not skinned, but taken by a cat, occurs in Venezuela, where it is called "manglera." This statement was evidently made from hearsay, and not from personal observation, and even in the latter case it would have been with-



out value, because Herr Peters was not able to name the pigeon which he had shot and lost on Curaçao. It is, of course, quite possible that *Columba gymnophthalma* occurs in Northern Venezuela, especially since it has been obtained on the island of Margarita by Mr. Wirt Robinson, but as yet it has never been proved to be found on the mainland.

This is another weighty reason for the rejection of the name "*corensis*," and it is doubtless possible that Jacquin's *corensis* is an unknown pigeon still waiting for rediscovery. Koro is close to the peninsula of Paragnana, the fauna of which is so far unknown. Connected as Paraguana is with the continent by a very narrow land-bridge, its ornithology may have many peculiarities, and among them the doubtful *Columba corensis*.

Moreover, Count Salvadori (*Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xx. p. 269) did not suggest that *Columba corensis* was the proper name of *C. gymnophthalma*, but showed clearly that he considered it undefinable, as he quoted it with a query.

Reverting again to the *List of the Birds of South America*, we must thus object to the distribution of the Pigeon in question, given as "Venezuela," and which should be: Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, and Margarita Islands. The name, as I have explained, must be *Columba gymnophthalma*, and instead of the English name "Bare-faced Pigeon," the name "Curaçao Pigeon" would be preferable, because there are other bare-faced pigeons in existence.

The plate (14) by Mr. Grönvold cannot pass without some criticism. The bare space round the eyes is painted blue, though I have (*Ibis* 1893, p. 323) carefully described it as a "large granulated naked space of a dark reddish-brown colour, somewhat like an over-ripe strawberry"; the bill is coloured bright yellow, but in life it is "of a whitish flesh-colour," while the iris is deep orange-brown (not red), surrounded by a smooth bare ring of a bluish-grey colour. The colouring of the plumage is of course rendered very well, but the tail looks too short in the front figure, though fully long enough in the flying bird on the left.

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