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Lord Brabourne F.Z.S. M.B.O.U. & Charles
Chubb F.Z.S. M.B.O.U.
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LXXV.—A Synopsis of the Genus *Tinamus*. By LORD BRABOURNE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and CHARLES CHUBB, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

OUR work in connection with the Birds of South America enables us to present the following synopsis of the genus *Tinamus*.

No work on the entire group has appeared since the publication of Count Salvadori's Monograph in the Twenty-seventh Volume of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' which was issued in 1895.

Much research, however, has since been conducted in every branch of ornithology, and this group has casually benefited. The differentiation of the species into subspecies in this genus is attended with some difficulty on account of the small number of specimens in collections.

We have, however, to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Hon. Walter Rothschild for the loan of his fine collection, whilst Prof. L. Dollo has most courteously allowed the collection in the Brussels Museum to be forwarded to the British Museum (Natural History) for comparison. The types of *T. peruvianus*, Bonap., and *T. blasiusi*, Dubois, are contained in this collection, and have been carefully examined by us. We have also to express our thanks to Dr. Otto Fuhrmann at Neuchâtel, who was good enough to send us the type of *T. kleei* for examination. Through the kindness of these gentlemen we have been able to bring together a larger and more representative collection than has hitherto been available.

As a result, we can now recognize six species occurring in South America, whilst twelve subspecies can be differentiated; and from the examination of these specimens we anticipate that, with a larger amount of material, other subspecies will be separated.

We now admit *Tinamus tao tao*, Temm., from Central and Northern Brazil; *T. t. kleei*, Tschudi, from Peru; and *T. t. septentrionalis*, subsp. n., from Guiana, Venezuela, and Colombia.

T. guttatus, Pelz., from Northern Brazil, Eastern Ecuador, and Peru, has no subspecies, yet the series at our disposal differs, more or less, from each locality whence we have specimens. The same remark applies to *T. solitarius*, Vieill., from Paraguay and South-east Brazil. Of *T. major*, Gmel., five subspecies are admitted: *T. m. major*, Gmel., Guiana and North Brazil; *T. m. ruficeps*, Scl. & Salv., Ecuador, E. Peru, and Colombia; *T. m. castaneiceps*, Salvadori, West Colombia,

extending to Panama; *T. m. serratus*, Spix, Venezuela, Central and Northern Brazil; *T. m. peruvianus*, Bonap., Peru. *T. latifrons*, Salvadori, is still represented by two examples from Western Ecuador. *T. robustus inexpectatus* is a new subspecies from N. Ecuador.

The type of *blasiusi*, Dubois (Mém. Soc. Zool. France, 1894, p. 404), is, as Count Salvadori stated (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvii. p. 498, 1895), an example of *T. tao kleei*, Bonap., but it is certainly not the bird that Bonaparte described in the 'Comptes Rendus' (Paris), xliii. p. 573 (1856). *T. blasii*, Gray (List Spec. Birds Brit. Mus. part v., Gallinæ, 1867, p. 101), is a nomen nudum, and Dubois's name must be separately treated.

We describe herewith:—

Tinamus tao septentrionalis, subsp. n.

Differs from *T. tao tao* by the absence of the broad black bars on the upper surface, which are replaced by fine vermiculations, especially on the upper back, where the general colour is olive; the underparts are also more finely vermiculated and the breast almost uniform lead-grey.

Total length 580 mm.; culmen 41; wing 281; tail 105; tarsus 77.

Type. ♀. Plains of Cumana, Venezuela; in Rothschild Museum, Tring. ♂ and other specimens in British Museum.

Tinamus robustus inexpectatus, subsp. n.

Adult male. General colour above chestnut olive-brown, barred with black; upper tail-coverts more uniform and margined at the tips with rufous-buff, tail-feathers chestnut-brown mottled with black; bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills dark brown, the secondaries mottled with rufous-brown on the outer webs, some of the innermost mottled on both webs at the tips; crown of head entirely black; sides of face and hind neck sandy-buff, minutely barred with black; ear-coverts blackish; chin dull white; fore neck more inclining to olive, with a submarginal line of black to the feathers, which gives a scalloped appearance; breast and sides of body olive-brown, with black and white frecklings on the middle of the abdomen; lower flanks and thighs pale buff, barred with dark brown; the extreme lower portion of tibia uniform brown; under tail-coverts bright rufous-buff, coarsely mottled with dark brown; under wing-coverts brown, some with pale margins; greater series and inner

edges of primaries ash-grey. "Bill black, below light grey; feet grey; iris brown" (*Miketta and Fleming*).

Total length 367 mm.; culmen 37; wing 237; tail 80; tarsus 70.

Type. ♀. Salidero, North Ecuador; in British Museum. ♂ and other specimens in British Museum and in the Rothschild Museum, Tring.

This bird is recorded by Dr. Hartert as *T. latifrons* (Nov. Zool. ix. p. 599, 1902), but it is quite different from the two examples of that species, and is undoubtedly closely allied to *T. robustus*, Sclater, from Central America.

The following key will aid to future determination:—

Key to the Species.

- A. General colour slate-blue, washed more or less with olive.
 - a. Olive wash absent; broadly barred with black on the upper surface, including the mantle and entire back; sides of abdomen faintly barred with buff *tao tao*.
 - b. Olive wash present; sides of abdomen boldly barred with buff and dark brown *tao kleei*.
 - c. Olive wash predominant; upper surface finely vermiculated, the cross-bars more obscure and restricted to the lower back and rump. *tao septentrionalis*.
- B. General colour above olive-brown or chestnut-brown.
 - d. Smaller: wing less than 200 mm.; with buffy-white spots on the wings *guttatus*.
 - e. Larger: wing more than 200 mm.; wings without buffy-white spots.
 - a'. Crown of head olive-brown; a longitudinal ochraceous line on each side of the hind neck *solitarius*.
 - b'. Crown of head bright rufous; no lines on the hind neck; back dark olive-brown. . . *major ruficeps*.
 - c'. Crown of head chestnut; back dark olive-brown; bars on wing-coverts very pronounced *major castaneiceps*.
 - d'. Crown of head chestnut; back pale olive-brown; bars on wing-coverts almost obsolete *major peruvianus*.
 - e'. Crown of head cinnamon-rufous; back pale olive-brown *major serratus*.
 - f'. Crown of head maroon-chestnut; back pale olive-brown *major major*.
 - g'. Fore part of head slate-colour; nape chestnut *latifrons*.
 - h'. Entire crown of head black *robustus inexpectatus*.

The ranges cannot be accurately determined, however, by the few specimens which we have from each locality, which show considerable variation.