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**BIRDS COLLECTED BY DR. JOSEPH F. ROCK IN  
WESTERN KANSU AND EASTERN TIBET.**

**BY OUTRAM BANGS AND JAMES L. PETERS.**

**WITH FIVE PLATES.**

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The two most recent revisers of the Kestrels (Rothschild, Nov. Zool. **33**, 1925, p. 231-232) (Stuart Baker, Bull. B. O. C. **47**, 1927, p. 102-107) are not entirely in accord in their treatment of the Asiatic races of that species. According to the former, *interstinctus* is identical with *japonicus*, but different from *saturatus* with which it had previously been united, while the latter maintains all three races as distinct. From Stuart Baker's account however we judge that *japonicus* is only very slightly different from *interstinctus*, the characters appearing only in the male. Our single female is clearly not *tinnunculus*, and we refer it to *interstinctus*, which is probably the correct name for it, whether *japonicus* (1844) is identical with *interstinctus* (1839) or not.

## BUBONIDAE

### BUBO BUBO subsp.

A nestling Eagle Owl was taken near Choni in May 1925. Neither parent was secured. The bird is still too young to show any diagnostic characters. The distribution of the central Asiatic forms of *Bubo bubo* is not sufficiently well known to identify this bird subspecifically even on geographic grounds.

### ATHENE NOCTUA IMPASTA subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Adult female, No. 239416 Mus. Comp. Zool.; grass country south of Lake Kokonor, 10,700 feet; collected September 1925 by Joseph F. Rock (orig. no. 408).

*Characters*.—Similar to *A. n. plumipes* (*Athene plumipes* Swinh., P. Z. S. 1870, p. 448, Shato, north China) in having feathered toes, but much darker; pale markings on the top of the head linear rather than guttate; light tail bands interrupted; markings below darker and more extensive.

#### Measurements

Number	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus
239416	♀ (type)	167	108	38
239417	♀	168	102	34
239418	♀ (♂?)	157	91	34

#### *Athene noctua plumipes* from Shansi

87567	♀	166	92	34.5
87568	♀ (♂?)	155	85	35

Of the specimens of our new form listed, in addition to the type, one was secured on the grasslands at the head of the Serchen valley (13,300 feet) three days east of Radja, 26 July 1926; and the third was taken in May 1925 in the forests covering the slopes of the mountains of Choni (9,000 feet). The latter specimen as might be suspected on geographic grounds, is somewhat intermediate between *impasta* and *plumipes*. It approaches the latter in having the light tail spots almost forming bands, but tends toward the former in the extent of the streaking below and in having linear pale crown-stripes — on the whole it is best placed with *impasta*.

We have not seen *Athene noctua ludlowi* Stuart Baker of southern Tibet, but that form is said to be about the color of *A. n. plumipes*. Our new form is much darker, in fact but little paler than *A. noctua noctua* of Europe. Our bird also comes from a region that is quite different faunally, and although we hesitated at first, we now see no course open but to name it.

## CUCULIDAE

### CUCULUS CANORUS BAKERI Hart.

*Cuculus canorus bakeri* Hartert, Vög., Pal. Faun. 2, heft, 7, 1912, p. 948 (Shilong).

Cuckoos were taken in the region about Choni during May and June 1925 in willow, spruce and poplar forests; a juvenal female in the red phase was secured in spruce forests at 10,000 feet on Mt. Lieuhoashan in July 1925. An adult was shot in the Yellow River gorges near Radja, 20 May 1926 and another in the willows of the Ba valley 23 June 1926.

We have come to exactly the same conclusion in regard to these cuckoos that Lönnberg (Ibis, 1924, p. 318) reached concerning birds from Aschuen and the Minshans. Our two from eastern Tibet are larger than the Tao River birds, but the entire series falls within the limits of the dimensions given for *bakeri* by its author.

### CUCULUS INTERMEDIUS INTERMEDIUS Vahl

*Cuculus intermedius* Vahl, Skriv. af Nat. Selskab. Kjöbenhavn, 4, 1789, p. 58 (Tanquebaria).

A female of this cuckoo was taken at 10,000 feet in the Choni mountains 25 June 1925.