

# The Characters of a New Race of *Lanius collurio* L from the Western Palaearctic Region

By

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Critical examination of series of specimens of *Lanius collurio* from the western Palaearctic region confirm the separability of British breeding birds, which I now elevate to full racial status under the name

*Lanius collurio juxtus*, subsp. nov. +

**Description:** ♂ adult. Differs from *L. c. collurio* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1, 1758, p. 94: Habitat in Europa — restricted to Sweden, by having a darker and less fox-red mantle, darker grey rump, and darker wings, and slightly more violaceous suffusion to the under parts. ♀ adult. Not always separable but generally duller and less fox-red above and squamations on throat and breast usually denser. Juvenile. Not examined. Averaging slightly larger, viz., ♂ & ♀ wing 96—98, culmen from base 19—21, tarsus 23—25, tail 74—80 mm against ♂ & ♀ of *L. c. collurio*, wing 89.5—96.5, culmen from base 18—20, tarsus 22.5—24, tail 69—78 mm. (24 specimens of the two races measured).

**Distribution:** Confined as a summer resident to the southern parts of Great Britain. Winters in tropical Africa.

**Type:** ♂ adult. Martlesham, Woodbridge, East Suffolk, England, 1st June, 1941. In the Clancey collection.

**Measurements of the Type:** Wing 97, culmen from base 20.5, tarsus 23, tail 78 mm.

**C o - t y p e:** ♂ adult. Martlesham, Woodbridge, East Suffolk, England. 31st May, 1941. In the collection of the Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany.

**Measurements of the C o - t y p e:** Wing 96, culmen from base 19, tarsus 24, tail 77.5 mm.

**Material examined:** *L. c. juxtus* 8 — paratypes. *L. c. collurio* 30. *L. c. kobylini* Buturlin, 1906, *L. c. taurica* Moltchanov, 1916, not consulted.

**Remarks:** The decision to separate subspecifically the British *L. collurio* population has been strongly influenced by the constant nature of the imputed colour characters in the adult male, and the additional criteria enumerated in the diagnosis are considered purely ancillary and to be of minor taxonomic importance.

West German specimens kindly donated for this work by Dr. A. von Jordans, Bonn, are typical of *L. c. collurio* and I have been unable to ascertain if *L. c. juxtus* ranges to the western European mainland, or if the extreme western Continental populations are hybrid in character. Critical study of material from France, Belgium, and the Netherlands should throw light on this question.

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Die Kennzeichen einer neuen Rasse von *Lanius collurio* aus der westlichen paläarktischen Region.

Beschreibung der Rasse *L. c. juxtus* subsp. nov., die sich von der Nominatform im männlichen Geschlecht durch dunkleren, weniger fuchsroten Mantel, dunkleren Bürzel und dunklere Schwinge unterscheidet und das südliche Großbritannien bewohnt. Westdeutsche Neuntöter gehören zu *L. c. collurio*.

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