

PSEUDOTOTANUS GUTTIFER (NORDM.).

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

(Plate X.)

Genus *Pseudototanus*¹ Hume.1875. — *Pseudototanus haughtoni* HUME, Stray Feath. VI. (p. 488.)(type *Totanus haughtoni* ARMSTR. = *T. guttifer* NORDM.).

Bill rather stout, long, longer than tarsus, culmen slightly recurved; groove on the upper mandible only reaches the middle of the bill; lower mandible with a well pronounced gonydeal angle. Malar apex reaches forward beyond the loreal apex; mental apex reaches beyond the middle of the nostrils.

Fect not very long, moderately strong; tarsus longer than middle toe with claw, scutellate in front and behind; naked part of tibiæ about the length of the two basal articles of the middle toe, scutellate at the upper end, reticulate nearer to the tibi-tarsal joint; outer and middle toes united by a large basal web, middle and inner ones by a smaller membrane as large, however, as the web usual in Totanine birds between the outer and middle toes; border of the toes distinctly serrated.

Wings pointed, normally Totanine; first primary longest.

Tail of normal length, square.

This Limicoline genus belongs to a group of the Totanine waders characterized by the semipalmated toes, and takes a position somewhat intermediate between the genera *Terekia* and *Symphemia*. The basal webs are fully as well developed as in any of these recognized genera.

Though distinct from both these genera it seems perhaps somewhat nearer related to *Symphemia* than to *Terekia*, notwithstanding the fact, that up to the present data the type species has been enumerated as a synonym of the type of the latter genus.

The three genera may be easily recognized by the following.

¹ From ψεῦδος = false and *totanus*. Before knowing of Hume's genus and the identity of Armstrong's *haughtoni* with *guttifer*, I had in my M. S. made the latter the type of a new genus named *Pseudoglottis*. This for the benefit of those authors who might feel compelled to amend the hybrid word *Pseudototanus*.

Synopsis.

*a*¹) Bill extremely long, longer than tarsus plus the two basal articles of the middle toe; naked portion of tibiæ reticulate in front; feathering on the mental angle not reaching as far forward as the feathering of the forehead or the hind border of the nostrils; groove on the upper mandible long, almost to the tip.

Terekia.

*a*²) Bill never longer than tarsus plus the first basal article of the middle toe; naked portion of tibiæ scutellate in front above; feathering on the mental angle reaches far in front of the feathering of the forehead, and beyond the middle of the nostrils; groove on upper mandible does not reach beyond the middle of the bill.

*b*¹) Culmen recurved, longer than tarsus.

Pseudototanus.

*b*²) Culmen straight, shorter than tarsus.

*Symphemia.**Pseudototanus guttifera* (Nordm.)

1835. — *Totanus guttifer* NORDMANN, in Erman's Verzeichn. Thiere, Pflanz. Reise um die Erde p. 17.
1854. — *Xenus guttifer* LICHTENSTEIN, Nomencl. Av. Mus. Berol. p. 91.
1856. — *Terekia guttifera* BONAPARTE, Comt. Rend. XLIII. p. 597.
1876. — *Totanus haughtoni* ARMSTRONG, Stray Feath. IV. (p. 344). — HARTING, Ibis 1883, p. 133, pl. IV (winter plumage).
1878. — *Pseudototanus haughtoni* HUME, Stray Feath. VI. (p. 488). — Id. Game-B. India III. (p. 403) pl. — (1880).

A new specific name was prepared for this bird, besides the new generic term, as I had not been able to find any description which would fit. Nor could I in any list detect any recognized species which it could possibly be. Swinhoe's lists of Chinese birds, Blakiston's of those from Japan, and Taczanowski's papers on the avifauna of Eastern Siberia did not contain any name with which it could be identified. Even Gray's «Hand-List» and Schlegel's «Catalogue of Scolopaces», Mus. P. B., failed. Thinking it rather improbable, however, that so conspicuous a form

should have escaped detection, as it by no means could be regarded as a form of restricted local occurrence, I, as a last refuge went through all the synonyms of Totanine birds given in the «Hand list». In going through the synonymy of *Terekia cinerea* I was struck by the suggestive name *guttifera* NORDM.

A specimen of *Terekia cinerea* was just laying on the table before me, but a glance at its dark uropygium, the gray neck slightly streaked with dusky, its whole coloration and small size as compared with the white rump and lower back, rounded black spots on the breast, the blackish coloration of the upper parts and the much superior size of my bird, which is nearly as large as *Totanus nebularius* (Gunn.) (= *glottis* BECHST.), made the idea of a confusion of these two species appear so absurd, that I proceeded further on through the list. As I did not succeed in finding what I looked for, I once more returned to *Terekia cinerea* and its synonym *guttifera*. The latter name seemed to me so inappropriate to the Terek Sandpiper, that I sent to the library for Erman's «Naturhistorischer Atlas», although I did it more in order to convincemysself, than with the hope of finding the original description of my bird.

Nevertheless, v. Nordmann's description proved to belong to it! It was my good luck to revive this very distinct and interesting form (so distinct that it constitutes the type of a well defined genus) after having been forgotten, almost completely for 49 years!

As already indicated, its resemblance to *Terekia* is so slight, that no further comparison is needed. In general style it somewhat resembles *Totanus nebularius* (*T. glottis* Bechst.) and if specimens have been collected since Erman's time, they have, in all probability, been confounded with the latter species. A closer comparison will soon show how different they are.

1. In *T. nebularius* only the outer toe is united with the middle one by a membrane; in *Ps. guttifer* both the outer and the inner toes are united with the middle one by large webs.

2. In *T. nebularius* the tarsus is longer than the exposed culmen while in *guttifer* the tarsus is shorter than the culmen.

3. In *T. nebularius* the naked part of tibia is equal in length to the middle toe without claw; in *Ps. guttifer* it is much shorter, scarcely exceeding the two basal joints of the middle toe.

It will thus be seen that *T. nebularius* stands much higher on its legs than *Ps. guttifer*.

4. In *T. nebularius* the bill is much more slender; the gonys without any distinct angle; malar apex of the feathering on the lower mandible does not proceed in front of the loral apex of the feathering in the maxilla. *Ps. guttifer* has a much stouter bill, broader and higher at the base; at the beginning of the symphysis the gonys forms a distinct angle; malar apex proceeds in front of the loral apex.

5. In *T. nebularius* the under wing-coverts are grey, or white barred or edged with dusky, while in *Ps. guttifer* all the under wing-coverts are pure white.

6. In *T. nebularius* the tailfeathers are white except the two middle ones which are grey, and all more or less transversely banded or mottled with dusky, except the lateral ones which are nearly uniform white. In *Ps. guttifer* all the tailfeathers are light grey with a narrow submarginal border of a somewhat darker grey, but without any transverse spots or bars.

7. In *T. nebularius* fore neck and throat are finely streaked with small lanceolate blackish stripes, the breast being white unspotted. In *Ps. guttifer* the fore neck and throat are similarly, but less densely streaked, while the breast is dotted with large rounded black spots.

Besides these, there are many other differences. *T. nebularius* is considerably larger, the white of the lower part of the back reaches much higher up on the back, the coloration of the dark parts of the upper surface is different etc., but the differences pointed out above will be sufficient to convince the most sceptical, that the two species are distinct, and will enable anybody to separate them with the greatest ease.

A comparison of v. Nordmann's original description with that of my bird, given below, will prove the correctness of my identification.¹

¹ As this description may be difficult to consult for many ornithologists a reproduction is herewith given :

124. *Totanus guttifer*. Nov. Spec. *Supra fusco-griseus, sparsim albido-maculatus; collo pectoreque albis, nigro guttatis, cauda alba, obsolete griseo-signata.*

Ausmessung: Länge 12'', Länge des Schnabels vom Mundwinkel beinahe 2'', Höhe des Schnabels an der Wurzel 3''', Länge der Flügel 6'' 3''', Länge des Schwanzes 2'' 3'', Höhe der Ferse 1'' 9''', Länge der Mittelzehe 1'', Länge der Hinterzehe beinahe 3'''.
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After this identification had been made, my attention was called to the description and plate of *Totanus haughtoni* ARMSTR. in the Ibis for April 1883 (p. 133—135, pl. IV).

It cannot be doubted that the bird described and figured there, is Nordmann's *T. guttifer* in winter-plumage. The structural characters given agree closely with my specimen.

We have thus been able to bring the history of this very interesting form a good deal forward. The synonymy has been cleared, the summer and winter-plumages described and figured, the habitat during summer and winter discovered. There now rests to discover the youngs and the eggs, and to fix the extent of its geographical distribution.

Descr. — (♂) ad. *U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 92808. L. Stejneger No. 2088.* — (Bering Island, May 22nd, 1883.)

Upper parts of the body, except the rump, blackish brown more and less edged with whitish, as the white edges are differently worn away; thus the crown is almost uniform brownish black with a few white streaks; the neck is more uniformly and finely streaked longitudinally, white on the back, the light edges become broader backwards; in many feathers on the latter part, the inner border of the whitish edges is wared or indented, the outline of the feather being scalloped by abration correspondingly. Among the dark feathers, and mostly concealed by these, are left a number of uniform sandy gray feathers, the remainders of the winter plumage. The other parts of the body are white; the rump and the middle of abdomen unspotted; sides of the

Am nächsten mit *Tot. glottis* verwandt, doch ist unser Vogel kleiner, der Schnabel stärker, zur Spitze nach oben gebogen, die Schwimnhaut zwischen den Zehen und die Füße bedeutend kürzer. Oberkörper grau, mit sparsamen weisslichen Flecken. Auf dem Kopf und Nacken strichförmige auf der weissen Kehle, dem Vorderhals und der Brust grosse schwarze, tropfenartige Flecke; Schnabel schwarz. Unterkörper beinahe einfarbig weiss, die spitzen, über den Schwanz hinausreichenden Schwingen schwärzlich; mittlere Schwanzfedern mit grösseren schwärzlichen Abzeichen.

Das vorliegende Exemplar dieser sehr ausgezeichneten Art wurde . . . in der Umgegend von Ochozk im Monat Juli von ERMAN erlegt. In der Sammlung der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu St. Petersburg befinden sich zwei Individuen, welche wahrscheinlich aus derselben Gegend sind. (von Nordmann, in Erman's Verzeichn. etc. p. 17.) (The type specimen, collected by Erman is probably in the Berlin Museum.)

head and neck, forehead and superciliaris heavily streaked with blackish, most densely on the lores; chin with a few faint roundish spots, throat and fore neck strongly marked with terminal, somewhat lanceolate, streaks; on the jugulum and the breast the spots become subterminal broadening so as to form rather large rounded drops with a somewhat flattened basal border; on the anterior half of the flanks the spots are still broader, almost assuming the character of cross-bars. Primaries blackish brown, from the seventh lighter brownish ash-colored, as are also the secondaries, and with white edges, which gradually increase in breadth on the interior web of the secondaries the nearer they are to the body; the white edges on the tertials have indented borders and the feathers are scalloped; primary coverts only with a very narrow white terminal edge; the other upper wingcoverts with rather broad white edges; shafts of the primaries brown; medially lighter, that of the first one wholly white; all under wing-coverts uniform pure white. Tail light-ashy grey, whitish at the base, and indistinctly mottled with darker grey along the edges which are whitish, the mottlings hardly visible on the middle pair; shafts of rectrices white, even those of the middle pair; upper tail coverts white, submarginally marked with dusky; under tail-coverts white with two or three small and irregularly placed dark spots or streaks.

Total length (287 $\frac{m}{m}$); wing 173 $\frac{m}{m}$; tail-feathers 67 $\frac{m}{m}$; exposed culmen 53 $\frac{m}{m}$; tarsus 43 $\frac{m}{m}$; middle toe with claw 35 $\frac{m}{m}$.¹

A plate representing my specimen has been prepared and is here appended, showing the summer-plumage of the species, as compared with pl. IV of the «Ibis» for 1883, which illustrated the winter-plumage.

The geographical distribution of this rare wader is still only imperfectly known. Erman collected the type specimen at Okotsk, and I myself procured a specimen at Bering Island and shot another near Petropaulski in Kamtschatka, so that in all probability it breeds on both sides of the Okotsk sea. A few specimens were collected by Dr. Armstrong in December 1875 near the mouth of the Rangoon river (the types of *Ps. haughtoni*), and two other were procured by the same gentleman in January 1877 near Amherst in British Burma, while another specimen was obtained by Mr. Hume in the Calcutta market in De-

¹ This measurement disagrees greatly with that given by v. Nordmann, 1, inch, the latter being probably only a misprint.

cember 1877. This finishes the list of specimens known to me. It will, then seem that this species passes the winter at the borders of the Bengal Sea.

It is, however, altogether likely that it has a much wider distribution, and that its rarity is mostly due to its having been confounded with *Totanus nebularius* (GUNN.)

Finally I submit the following details about my meeting the bird in Kamtschatka:

A single specimen was shot on Bering Island on the 22nd of May 1883, during my absence in Kamtschatka. It was prepared by my faithful Nicanor, one of the natives whom we usually styled «the professor». At the same time, only two days later, I myself shot another specimen in the delta of the Avatscha River, Kamtschatka, but unfortunately it was so damaged as to be completely unfit for preparation. It is most likely, however, that the bird may hereafter be observed more frequently, the attention having once been called to it.

Smithsonian Institution.

Washington D. C., July 24th, 1884.

ÜBER LANIUS HOMEYERI CABANIS.

VON JOHANN VON CSATÓ.

(Hiezu Tafel XI.)

Am 13. April d. J. unternahm ich einen kleinen ornithologischen Ausflug in die nahe liegenden Waldungen der Stadt Nagy-Enyed.

Der Himmel war unbewölkt und die Sonne, von den ersten Blüten unserer schönen Frühlingsflora begrüsst, verbreitete eine angenehme milde Wärme über die Gegend.

Um sechs Uhr Früh einen freien, nur von wenigen Bäumen besetzten Platz erreichend, erblickte ich auf der Spitze einer riesigen Eiche einen weissen Vogel. Indem er aber, obwohl ich auf Schussweite mich ihm näherte, sich nicht rührte, glaubte ich anfangs, der vermeinte Vogel sei eigentlich ein von der Sonne sehr beleuchtetes verdorrtes Blatt und



Pseudotoxanus guttifer (Nordm.) Stejneger.

Lith. W. Grund Budapest

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zeitschrift für die gesamte Ornithologie](#)

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