

latus Bp., *Nettapus pulchellus* Gould und *Podiceps tricolor* G. R. Gray Veranlassung gab.

Uebrigens haben auch die anderen, von mir gelegentlich schon in den beiden ersten Theilen meiner «Beiträge» besprochenen Arten nicht unwesentlichen Antheil an den früher erzielten Resultaten, sowohl in faunistischer, als auch in systematischer Beziehung, gehabt. Es würde jedoch zu weit führen, wenn ich diese schon früher hervorgehobenen Ergebnisse an dieser Stelle nochmals darlegen wollte.

Braunschweig, Herzogliches Naturhistorisches Museum.

Anfang Februar 1886.

ON BRACHYRAMPHUS PERDIX (PALL.) AND ITS NEAREST ALLIES.

(Plate VII).

By LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

A specimen of «Murrelet» from Kamtschatka, just received, shows that we have to remove Pallas's *Cephus perdix* from the list of synonyms. It comes nearest to *Brachyramphus marmoratus* (Gm.), having uniform dusky tail-feathers and secondaries, as well as an elongated slender bill, but the latter is somewhat longer, and the coloration of the upper parts in summer, is much more like that of *B. brevirostris* (Vig.), the species which is usually called *B. kittlitzii*. It belongs to that group of the genus, which has the tarsus shorter than the middle toe, and the under wing-coverts dusky gray in the adults. The three species belonging to this group may be distinguished thus :

a^1) Exposed culmen not more than two thirds the length of inner toe without claw; outer secondaries broadly tipped with white; outer tail-feathers more or less white.

1. *B. brevirostris*.

a^2) Exposed culmen about equal to the inner toe without claw; all the secondaries and tail-feathers uniform dusky.

b¹) Summer plumage: upper surface blackish with dull tawny and buffy cross-bars.

2. *B. perdix*.

b²) Summer plumage: upper surface blackish with cross-bars of a rusty umber.

3. *B. marmoratus*.

1. BRACHYRAMPHUS BREVIROSTRIS (Vig.)

1828. — *Uria brevirostris* Vigors, Zool. Journ., IV, 1828 (p. 357). — *Id.*, Zool. Beechey's Voy. Orn., p. 32 (1839). — *Brachyramphus b.* Ridgway, Water B. N. Am., II, p. 499 (1884).

1837. — *Brachyramphus kittlitzii* Brandt, Bull. Ac. St. Pétersb., II, p. 346 (*nec Finsch; nec Swinh., Blakist., Seeb.*) — *Id.*, Mém. Biol., VII, 1869, p. 213. — *Ridgway*, Water B. N. Am., II, p. 501 (1884). — *Stejneger*, Orn. Expl. Kamtsch., p. 314 (1885). — A. O. U. Check L., p. 81, n. 24. (1886).

1839. — *Uria antiqua* Audubon, Orn. Biogr., V, p. 100 (part: young), (pl. CCCCII, fig. 2) (*nec Gmel.*), — *Id.* Synops., p. 349 (part) (1839). — *Id.*, Birds of Am., VII, p. 263 (part) pl. CCCCLXX, fig. 2 (1844).

Hab. — Aleutian Islands and coast of Alaska northwards to Cape Lisbourne. Kuprianof sent a specimen to the St. Petersburg Museum from Sitka; the failure of later collectors to observe it there makes it probable that the specimen, like so many others sent from the same locality, was originally collected somewhere else. It seems to be a mistake when it has been reported that the type specimens of this species came from Kamtschatka (cf. Stejneger, Orn. Expl. Kamtsch. p. 314), for it is probably to these birds Kittlitz refers in his «Denkwürdigkeiten», I, p. 244, as having been brought to him from Bering's Strait by lieutenant Abaleschew (cf. also Lütke, Voy. aut. du Monde, III, 1836, p. 324). Unless the *Brachyramphus* which Mr. Taczanowski has left undetermined (Bull. Soc. Zool.

France, 1883, p. 345) really belongs here, it may be safer to exclude this species from the list of Kamtschatkan birds.

B. brevirostris is exceedingly distinct, and should at no season, nor in any stage, be confounded with *B. marmoratus*. The characters given above will serve to identify the short-billed species in any plumage; but, besides the characters there given, the two species are easily distinguished both in their summer and winter plumages. In summer *B. brevirostris* is gray above with dull buff markings, while *B. marmoratus* has the same parts black regularly barred with rusty umber. In winter the two birds are more alike, but in *B. brevirostris* the white of the under parts extends higher up on the sides of the head, including the supercilia and the earcoverts, parts which in *B. marmoratus* are dark, like the upper head. The winter plumage of *B. perdix* differs probably from that of *B. brevirostris* in the same manner as does *B. marmoratus*, but in summer the upper surface of the two former are much more alike, and in this case the characters given in the synopsis will decide most trenchantly one way or the other.

I think there can be no doubt as to the pertinency of Vigors's description: the general style of coloration; the color of the under wing-coverts and of the rectrices; the extreme shortness of the bill, and the dimensions generally; all these characters apply to no other bird of this or allied genera. That San Blas (western coast of Mexico) is given by Vigors as the locality, where the specimen was obtained, is of very little consequence in view of the fact, that in the same paper (which is entitled «On some species of Birds from the Northwest Coast of America») he also described *Coccothraustes ferreo-rostris*, which we now know originally came from the Bonin Islands, south Japan.

According to Dr. O. Finsch (Abhandl. Brem. Verein, III, 1872, p. 79) there is a winter specimen of *B. kittlitzii*, from Kamtschatka, in the Bremen Museum, but his description shows beyond a shadow of doubt, that it does not belong to this species at all; on the contrary, it is a *Synthliboramphus antiquus* in winter-plumage,

well described. The dimensions of tarsus and middle toe alone (the former 11, or 12, lines, the latter 11 lines) as compared with the corresponding measurements of *B. marmoratus* given by him, show that the bird does not belong here. Besides, the tail is described as dusky, the basal half of remiges and the under wing-coverts as pure white; the temporal feathers have fine hair-like white shaft points; the bill is light brown with dark culmen and tip, etc. etc.; the sides of the head down to the middle ear-coverts, moreover, are dusky, and the dusky color of the hind neck is not interrupted by a white band.

| U.S. Nat. Museum No. | Collector and No. | Sex and age | Locality | Date | Wing | Tail-f. | Exp. Culmen | Tarsus | Middle toe with claw. |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 73479 | Nelson 18 | ♀ ad | Unalashka, Alaska | May 26, '77 | 131 | 33 | 11.5 | 17 | 26 |
| 92186 | Mc Kay | ad | Alaska | Summer | 129 | 31 | 11.5 | 17 | 26 |
| 92185 | Mc Kay | ad | Alaska | Summer | 128 | 31 | — | 16 | 27 |
| 92184 | McKay 115 | ♀ ad | Point Etolin, Alaska | April 3, '83 | 143 | 35 | 11.5 | 16 | 27 |
| 106099 | Woolfe | — | Cape Lisbourne, « | May '85 | 137 | 32 | 11 | — | — |
| 78990 | Turner 194 | — | Unalashka, Alaska | Dec. '78 | 131 | 31 | 11 | — | — |

2. BRACHYRAMPHUS PERDIX (Pall.)

1826. — *Cephus perdix* Pallas, Zoogr. Ross. As., II, p. 351 pl. «LXXX.»

1874. — ? *Uria* sp. *Swinhoe*, Ibis, 1874, p. 166.

1875. — ? *Brachyrhamphus kittlitzii* *Swinhoe*, Ibis, 1875, p. 458 (*nec Brandt, nec Finsch*). — *Blakiston and Pryer*, Ibis, 1878, p. 210. — *Ibid.*, Trans. Asiat. Soc. Japan, VIII, 1880, p. 180. — *Ibid.*, *ibid.*, X, 1882, p. 90. — *Blakiston*, Amend. List B. Japan, pp. 8, 31 (1884). — *Seebohm*, Ibis, 1884, p. 174.

1883. — *Brachyrhamphus marmoratus* *Taczanowski*, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1883, p. 345 (*nec Lath.*). — *Stejneger*, Orn. Explor. Kamtsch. p. 314 (1885). — ? *Seebohm*, Ibis, 1884, p. 30.

1884. — ? *Brachyrhamphus wrangeli* Seebohm, Ibis, 1884, p. 31 (nec Brandt).

Hab. — Kamtschatka; northern shore of Okhotsk Sea (Tauisk: about 60° N. Lat., 150° E. Long.; Merck, fide Pallas l. c.); ? Northern Japan, south, in winter, to Yokohama.

If only examined superficially, the present species might be mistaken for *B. kittlitzii*, although its much longer bill, and uniform secondaries and tail-feathers to the careful observer will at once prove it to be different; and a closer examination will show that the similarity is only a very superficial one:

In *B. kittlitzii* the ground color of the upper surface is a delicate plumbeous gray, varied with buff, each feather narrowly terminated with black; whereas in *B. perdix* the ground color is blackish, the light markings more tawny and not edged with black; in the former the buff markings are irregular and somewhat longitudinal, while in the latter they form tolerably regular cross-bars. Underneath the difference is still greater; throat and fore neck are very similarly mottled with dusky in both, but in *B. kittlitzii* the dark markings become narrower and more distant on breast and abdomen, while in *B. perdix*, on the contrary, they increase in width and number towards the crissum; in the former fore neck and flanks are strongly tinged with tawny buff, of which only a very slight wash is perceptible in the latter species.

It is really to *B. marmoratus* that *B. perdix* is most nearly related, and without a sufficient material it would be difficult to express a well founded opinion as to its distinctness. But with a very full series of the former before me, embracing adults and young birds, summer and winter plumages, illustrating both the seasonal and the individual variation, there can be no doubt about the distinctness of the Kamtschatkan bird.

The chief distinction is in the color of the upper surface (summer plumage) which in *B. marmoratus* is barred crosswise with rusty umber, in *B. perdix* with pale tawny and dull buff. My Kamtschatka specimen of *B. perdix* is collected in autumn, and some-

body might perhaps think, that the light color of the markings is due to fading, but so is not the case, for I have before me a specimen (U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 17387) of exactly corresponding age, as the condition of the plumage testifies, in which the tips of the feathers are worn off to such an extent that the whole back is nearly uniformly brownish black with but few traces of the umber brown markings, except on shoulders and sides of rump, but these markings are still as bright and saturated rusty umber as those in the May bird just assuming the new plumage. Another peculiarity of *B. perdix* seems to be the very distinct white ring surrounding the eye, a character which is not seen in any of the specimens of *B. marmoratus* examined by me. In my example it is even more pronounced than in *B. brevirostris*, and is also very much so in Pallas's plate.

In size *B. perdix* scarcely differs from *B. marmoratus*, but the bill is markedly longer.

From the fact that the general coloration of the winter plumages of *B. brevirostris* and *B. marmoratus* are very similar it may safely be inferred that *B. perdix* also has a winter plumage gray above, with a white shoulder stripe, and pure white beneath. In this garb the two last mentioned species may be difficult to distinguish, and still more so the young birds in the first plumage. The length of the exposed culmen as compared with that of the tarsus may serve as a distinctive character, however, and judging from the summer-plumages I should think it probable, that the dark color of the upper head will not in winter reach so far down over the ear coverts in *B. perdix* as in *B. marmoratus*.

There can be no reasonable doubt as to Pallas's *Cepphus perdix* belonging here. True, he describes it as «supra fusco gryseoque lituratus», but, judging from his use of the word *gryseus* in other connections, he seems to indicate by it just a buffy gray,* and his plate

* Cf., for instance, *Emberiza miliaria* (Zoogr. II, p. 35) and many other species of *Emberiza* which he describes as «gryseo fuscoque liturata»; *Tetrao coturnix* (ibid., p. 80. «grysea fusco variegata»; etc.

certainly matches the Kamtschatkan bird before me. It is also true, that Pallas refers Latham's Marbled Guillemot as a synonym to his *C. perdix*, but it must be remarked, that he also criticizes Latham's plate as «much too black» (*nimum nigra*).

I am strongly inclined to think, that *B. perdix* takes the place of *B. marmoratus* in Asiatic waters, and that the latter is only found on the American side (unless possibly the *B. marmoratus* which Nelson, Notes Cruise Corwin, p. 116, says was found numerous at Plover Bay and northwards along the coast to Bering's Strait really belong to that species). The question arises, however, to which species belongs the Japanese birds, which Swinhoe originally determined as *B. kittlitzii*, and which Seebohm has called *B. marmoratus* and *B. wrangeli*, but finally considered «probably *B. kittlitzii*» (Ibis, 1884, p. 174). Unfortunately, I possess no specimens from Japan but something may perhaps be found in the literature, which will elucidate the question.

The simple fact that both Swinhoe and Seebohm describe the Japanese bird as having a *longer* bill than *B. marmoratus* (Ibis, 1874, p. 166; 1884, p. 31) at once precludes the possibility of it being *B. brevirostris* (*kittlitzii*), and points directly towards *B. perdix*. The color descriptions of the known Japanese specimens are very imperfect. Swinhoe, in 1875 (Ibis, p. 458), writes of a specimen collected May 18, 1873, at Hakodadi, and received from Capt. Blakiston, as follows: «*Brachyrhamphus kittlitzii*, Brandt. — The specimen now sent is a female, and like the one which I received before.... From the 'Birds' by S. F. Baird, in the 'American Railway Survey Report' (p. 917), I make out the Hakodadi birds to belong to this species». In the work quoted by Swinhoe only a reprint and translation of Brandt's original description is found, in which *B. kittlitzii* is characterized as «*Supra cinerea nigricante et pallide e fusco-flavescente undulata et submaculata*» («Above cinereous, undulated, and somewhat spotted with blackish and pale yellowish brown»). If Swinhoe's birds agree with that description and have a long bill then they almost certainly belong to *B. perdix*. Mr. Seebohm has

described the very same bird (Ibis, 1884, p. 30) as «marbled with buffish chestnut on the upper parts»; but judging from his use of the term «chestnut» in other places (as, for instance, when he describes the under wing-coverts of *Turdus iliacus* as «rich chestnut», or those of *T. naumanni* as «chestnut», Cat. B. Brit. Mus. V, pp. 190 and 264) his «buffy chestnut» color cannot be materially different from that of the light dorsal markings in *B. perdix*. In fact, I consider myself hyper-cautious in putting a ? in front of the names given by him to the Japanese bird, as done in the above synonymy.

The following detailed description of the specimen may, perhaps, not be out of place:

♀ ad. (Coll. Stejneger. Kamtschatka. August 27, 1884). Entire upper surface from the nostrils, including lores, a narrow line underneath the eyes, and the upper half of the ear-coverts of a brownish black, from the forehead backward tolerably regularly barred with dull tawny and buff; a narrow longitudinal stripe of the same light color, about 25 mm. long, in the middle of the back; scapulars at the base more or less white, and towards the tip barred with the same color so as to produce considerable white admixture to the mottlings on the shoulders; the feathers covering the base of the bill are nearly uniform blackish brown, a few white ones bordering the base of the tomia; ground color of all the under parts of the body white, very faintly suffused with buff on the flanks, mottled with dusky, darker on the anterior half and less densely on throat and sides of neck, grayer and more confluent posteriorely, especially on the abdomen which is of a dusky gray more or less transversely mottled with whitish; wing above blackish brown, underneath, including axillaries lighter grayish brown, the middle and lesser coverts distinctly margined with cinereous; all the tail-feathers above and beneath uniform blackish brown. Bill black.

| Museum | Sex and age | Locality | Date | Wing | Tail-f. | Exp. Culmen | Tarsus | Middle toe with claw. |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Stejneger | ♀ ad | «Kamtschatka» | Aug. 27, '84 | 136 | 36 | 20 | 18 | 29 |

3. BRACHYRAMPHUS MARMORATUS (Gm.)

1788. — *Colymbus marmoratus* Gmelin, S. N., I, 11, p. 583. — *Brachyramphus m.* Brandt, Bull. Ac. St. Pétersb., II, p. 346 (1837). — *Id.*, Mém. Biol., VII, 1869, pp. 208, 254. — *Dall and Bannister*, Tr. Chic. Acad., I, 1869, p. 309. — *Finsch*, Abh. Brem. Verein, III, 1872, p. 79. — *Bean*, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., V, 1882, p. 171. — *Hartlaub*, Journ. f. Orn., 1883, p. 285. — *Nelson*, Notes Cruise Corwin, p. 116 (1883). — *Ridgway*, Water B. N. Am., II, p. 499 (1884). — A. O. U. Check L., p. 80, n. 23. (1886). — *Uria m.* Kittlitz, Denkw., I, p. 244 (1858).

1837. — *Brachyramphus wrangelii* Brandt, Bull. Ac. St. Pétersb., II, p. 346. — *Dall and Bannister*, Tr. Chic. Acad., I, 1869, p. 310. — *Dall*, Notes Avif. Aleut. Isl. Unal. Eastw. p. 11 (1873).

1839. — *Uria townsendi* Audubon, Orn. Biogr., V, p. 256, (pl. CCCCXXIX). — *Id.*, Synops., p. 355 (1839). — *Id.*, Birds of Am., VII, p. 278, pl. CCCCXXV (1844).

Hab. — Seems to be less northerly in its distribution than *B. brevirostris*, and perhaps *B. perdix*, its chief breeding range being apparently from the eastern Aleutian Islands and the Mainland coast of Alaska south of 60° N. Lat. to Puget Sound, migrating south, in winter, as far as San Diego. Its alleged occurrence in Asiatic waters may be regarded as quite doubtful.

The distinguishing characters of this species, as compared with *B. brevirostris* and *B. perdix*, have already been treated of in connection with these species. Numerous specimens in transition plumage from *B. wrangelii* to *B. marmoratus*, and *vice versa*, prove beyond a shadow of doubt, that the former is only the Marbled Murrelet in winter plumage.

| U.S. Nat. Museum No. | Collector and No. | Sex and age | Locality | Date | Wing | Tail-f. | Exp. Culmen | Tarsus | Middle toe with claw. |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 81431 | Rockwell | ♂ ad | Sitka, Alaska | June 5, '80 | 130 | 32 | 17 | 17 | 28 |
| 46551 | Bishoff | ♂ ad | Sitka, Alaska | May, 1866 | 130 | 32 | 17 | — | — |
| 60157 | — | ♂ ad | Kadiak, Alaska | Winter | 119 | 28 | 17 | — | — |
| 73478 | Nelson 13 | ♀ ad | Unalashka, Alaska | May 19, '77 | 118 | 28 | 16 | — | — |
| 46554 | Bishoff | ♀ ad | Sitka, Alaska | May, 1866 | 127 | 36 | 17 | 16 | — |
| 46549 | Bishoff | ♀ ad | Sitka, Alaska | May, 1866 | 123 | 30 | 16 | — | — |
| 78192 | Cooper | ad | Sta Cruz, California | Winter | 123 | 34 | 18 | 19 | 30 |
| 66623 | Cooper | ad | Sta Cruz, California | Winter | 113 | 27 | 17 | 17 | 28 |
| 17387 | Boyling | ad | New Dungeness, Wash. Terr. | Summer | 125 | 32 | 17 | 16 | 28 |

Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C. May 1886.

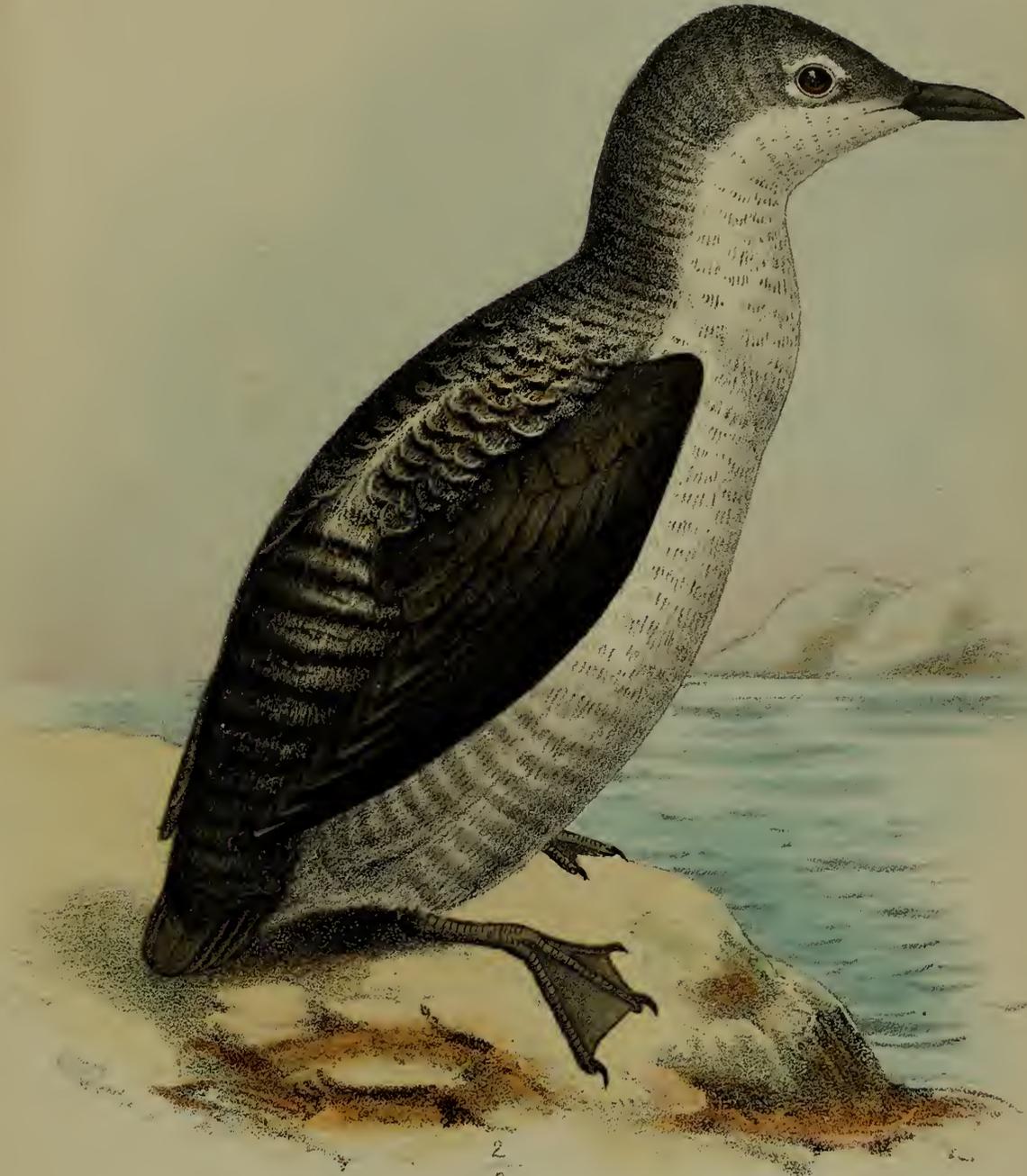
ANDROGYNIE BEI RUTICILLA PHOENICURA, LINN.

Taf. VIII.

Von VICTOR Ritter von TSCHUSI zu Schmidhoffen.

Häufiger als man gewöhnlich anzunehmen glaubt, scheint *Androgyne* oder Hahnenfedrigkeit nicht nur bei hühnerartigen Vögeln, wo sie, wie ganz besonders im Norden, beim Auergeflügel gar nicht selten auftritt, sondern auch bei Singvögeln vorzukommen, wenn es gleich auch der Fälle erst wenige sind, die sich bisher in der Literatur verzeichnet finden.

Nicht so sehr die grosse Seltenheit solcher Individuen, als vielmehr der Umstand, dass man sich im Freien meist damit begnügt, die Art der von uns beobachteten Vögel zu erkennen, ohne, selbst wenn es die Zeit erlauben würde, selbe genauer mittelst des Glases zu betrachten, weshalb schon auf geringe Entfernungen uns



Stejneger del.

Madarász lith.

BRACHYRAMPHUS PERDIX (Pall)

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