

MINISTERIE VAN ONDERWIJS, KUNSTEN EN WETENSCHAPPEN

ZOOLOGISCHE MEDEDELINGEN

UITGEGEVEN DOOR HET

RIJKSMUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE TE LEIDEN

DEEL XXXIV, No. 9

12 December 1955

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE OF ZOSTEROPS NOVAEGUINEAE SALVADORI (AVES, ZOSTEROPIDAE)

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During a recent visit to the British Museum (Natural History), I found, stored away with some unsorted white-eyes, a skin, labelled as *Zosterops* sp., which evidently represents an undescribed race of *Zosterops novaeguineae*. It may be known as follows:

***Zosterops novaeguineae magnirostris*, nov. subspec.**

Type: ♂, January 1936, Awar, N. E. New Guinea, collected by Viscount Chaplin. Brit. Mus. reg. nr. 1936. 4. 20. 94.

Measurements: Wings 54 and 54½ mm respectively; culmen from skull 14¼ mm, exposed culmen 11 mm, culmen from anterior point of nostril 8 mm. The wings are freshly moulted and perfect, the tail is damaged.

Diagnosis: Differs from all hitherto described races by its longer and heavier bill.

Differs from the nominate race as well as from *Z. n. crissalis*, *Z. n. oreophila*, *Z. n. wahgiensis*, and *Z. n. shaw-mayeri*, in its smaller wing-size (for measurements of these races, cf. Mayr, 1931; Mayr & Gilliard, 1951; Mees, 1953), and from the last mentioned four races also in having darker upper parts, without yellow on forehead and supra-loral region. I have not seen the race *shaw-mayeri*, hitherto known from the type-specimen only, which according to its describers (Mayr & Gilliard, 1951) has the bill longer than in *wahgiensis*, but more slender, whereas in *magnirostris* the bill is long and heavy.

Agrees in size and in coloration of upper parts with *Z. n. wuroi* and *Z. n. aruensis* (for measurements, cf. Mees, 1953), but besides having a

larger bill, differs in its more greenish-yellow, less yellow, throat, and in having a distinct yellow streak over the centre of the abdomen.

Discussion: The village Awar is situated on a promontory of the New Guinea mainland, opposite the island of Manam (Vulcan Island). The discovery that the species occurs not only in the lowlands of southern New Guinea and the Aroe Islands, but also in the coastal region of N. E. New Guinea, is of some geographical interest.

It is to be regretted that only a single specimen of the new race is available; but its distinctive characters are so clear and outstanding — quite apart from the geographic element — that I felt no hesitation in describing it as new.

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