

On the type specimens of *Sylvia curruca caucasica* Ognev & Bańkowski and *Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri* Shestoperov (Aves: Sylviidae)

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Ten type specimens of *Sylvia curruca caucasica* and two of *Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri* are examined, and lectotypes designated. Data on the subspecific identity, labels, plumage coloration, dimensions, and wing formula are given for all type specimens.

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Sylvia curruca caucasica Ognev & Bańkowski, 1910 – Caucasian Lesser Whitethroat

The Lesser Whitethroat from Transcaucasia was described as a separate species *Sylvia caucasica* by Ognev & Bańkowski (1910) from 14 specimens collected in 1906-1909 by V.B. Bańkowski near the Mtskheta Town, NW of Tbilisi, Georgia. The authors considered the new form to be close to *Sylvia althaea* Hume and described in detail the outer morphological characters distinguishing these two species. Later, the significant similarity between *S. caucasica* and *S. curruca* (L.) was established and the Transcaucasian birds were considered a subspecies of the Lesser Whitethroat, *S. curruca caucasica* (Snigirewski, 1929; Molineux, 1930; Loskot, 2001).

A part of Bańkowski's material was deposited at the Zoological Museum of the Moscow University (ZMMU). Kalyakin (2001) has recognized seven syntypes of *S. caucasica* among these birds and published brief data on their original labels. Due to the kind help of Dr. P.S. Tomkovich and Dr. Ya.A. Red'kin, I received for examination the skins of *S. curruca* from the ZMMU collection, including the material of Bańkowski. A three-digit number is present on the original labels of all ZMMU specimens, which apparently corresponds to the number in the Bańkowski's collection. Near this number, in parentheses, there is one of 14 ordinal numbers followed by the word "cotyp". The latter numbers correspond to those, under which the type-specimens were

listed in the table on p. 240 of the original description (Ognev & Bańkowski, 1910). These numbers are written in more intense black Indian ink and by another hand. The presence of both numbers ["N 567 – (14 cotyp)"] and an inscription "*Sylvia caucasica* Ogn. et Ban." in the same handwriting as on the labels of other type specimens allows me to include an eighth specimen (ZMMU, R-46494) among the ZMMU syntypes. Two additional, juvenile specimens from the type series of *S. caucasica* are found in the collection of Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg (ZISP, coll. of P.P. Sushkin). Their original labels bear numbers 8 and 11 written in pencil. Thus, the series of known syntypes comprises now 10 specimens.

One of the syntypes, "♂, N 559 – (2 cotyp)" (ZMMU, R-33632) is identified by me as a passage bird of *S. curruca curruca*. The presence of two taxa in the type series, considerable differences in the plumage condition and state, worn in adults and very fresh in young birds, and the bad preparation of most of the skins give grounds for designation of the lectotype.

Lectotype (designated here). "♂ [ad], Mtskheta [= Mtskheta, 41°50'N, 44°43'E, Georgia], 30.V.[12.VI.]1908, N 562 – (1 cotyp), [V.B.] Bańkowski" (ZMMU, R-4292).

The small original label (25 × 35 mm) is written in light green ink (with sex, locality, and date on its face and signature of Bańkowski on the back). There are also the later inscriptions in black Indian ink on the face: "*Sylvia caucasica*

Ogn. et Ban.” and “N 562 – (1 cotyp)”; on the back, the wing formula is written in pencil: “2>6<5”. The larger label (30 × 70 mm) is written in black Indian ink. On its face, data mainly coincide with those of the original label, but the number of Bańkowski’s collection is absent and the word “Cotyp” is underlined and given without ordinal number and parentheses; “Det. V. Bańkowski” is added in the lower left corner. The back of the label has the ordinal number of the ZMMU collection only.

In the plumage coloration and measurement, this male resembles individuals of *S. c. curruca* in moderately worn summer plumage, but it is darker dorsally, especially its “cap”, which is earthy-brown, not dull ash-grey. The mantle and uppertail-coverts are also darker and colder greyish-brown; warm light buff tint on the tips of mantle feathers characteristic of *S. c. curruca* is nearly absent. As a result of small colour differences, the nape and upper mantle are less distinctly delineated. Also, lores and ear coverts show little (if any) colour difference from upper parts of the head, being scarcely darker brown.

The under parts are white, with light brownish grey tint on the breast sides and flanks.

The remiges and rectrices are dark brown; outer vane of R6 and a narrow wedge-shaped stripe (about 18 mm long) on the edge of apical part of its inner vane are dull white; on the tip of R5, only small traces of white stripe are retained.

Measurements (here and below, in mm): wing 65.7, tail 57.3, tarsus 19.4, bill from skull 11.5, bill from feathers 9.5, bill from nares 7.6, bill depth (at the front edge of the nares) 3.2; primaries (numbered from the outermost): P1 – 33.9, P2 – 62.2, P3=P4 – 65.7, P5 – 64.6, P6 – 61.7, P7 – 58.3, P8 – 56.9, P9 – 55.1, P10 – 54.1; 1st secondaries (S1) – 54.1; 1st greater coverts (GC1) – 27.6; width of R6 – 8.4. Thus, P2>P6 by 0.5 mm and P2<P5 by 2.4 mm; wing top (P3>S1) 14.3. The outer vane on the top of P6 without notch.

The lectotype is in good condition and has all characters mentioned in the description of *Sylvia caucasica*.

Paralectotypes belonging to S. c. caucasica. Original labels of all paralectotypes are written in similar manner and include the same data as the original label of the lectotype: “*Sylvia caucasica* Ogn. et Ban., Mtskhet, [V.B.] Bańkowski”. The outer vane on the top of P6 is without notch in all specimens.

(1) “♂ [1s], 13[26].VII.1908, N 563 – (3 cotyp)” (ZMMU, R-46495). This specimen has only the small original label written in pale black

ink, with the later inscription “N 563 – (3 cotyp)” much more intense. On the back, the wing formula “2>6<5” and the number “3” are written in pencil and “R-46495”, in violet ink. Wing 65.3, tail 56.3, tarsus 18.3, bill from feathers 9.7, bill from nares 7.6, bill depth 2.9; primaries: P1 – 31.9, P2 – 62.4, P3=P4 – 65.3, P5 – 63.2, P6 – 60.5, P7 – 58.1, P8-10 – moult; S1 – 51.7; GC1 – 27.6. Thus, P2>P6 by 1.9 mm and P2<P5 by 0.8 mm; wing top 13.6. The plumage is much more worn than in the lectotype, and the bird began the postbreeding moult (third stage). R6 is also very worn and the white colour on the apical part of its inner vane is weakly developed.

(2) “♂ [ad], 18.VI [1.VII].1908, N 565 – (4 cotyp)” (ZMMU, R-4293). This specimen has two labels: small original and large, similar to that of the lectotype, written in black Indian ink. The number “4” is written in pencil in the lower right corner of the face of the small label, and the wing formula “2>6<5” (also in pencil), as usual, on its back. Wing 63.1, tail 54.3, tarsus 18.8, bill from feathers 9.7, bill from nares 7.2, bill depth 2.9; primaries: P1 – 31.3, P2 – 59.6, P3 – 63.1, P4 – 62.4, P5 – 60.9, P6 – 59.1, P7 – 56.9, P8 – 55.6, P9 – 54.1, P10 – 53.0; S1 – 51.5; GC1 – 25.9. Thus, P2>P6 by 0.5 mm and P2<P5 by 1.3 mm; wing top 11.6. The plumage is very worn, but the postbreeding moult has not begun. The white area on the inner vane of R6 is well developed, occupies the outer edge and forms a wedge-shaped stripe along the feather shaft up to the half of its length.

(3) “♂ juv., 18[31].VII.1908, N 575 – (5 cotyp)” (ZMMU, R-4294). It has two labels similar in shape to those of the lectotype, written in black Indian ink. The number “5” and the wing formula “2<6>7” are written in pencil on the back of the small original label. Wing 65.5, tail 58.9, tarsus 18.8, bill from feathers 9.1, bill from nares 6.4, bill depth 2.8; primaries: P1 – 34.3, P2 – 61.9, P3 – 65.5, P4=5 – 65.2, P6 – 62.3, P7 – 60.0, P8 – 58.1, P9 – 56.8, P10 – 55.0; S1 – 53.7; GC1 – 28.6. Thus, P2<P6 by 0.4 mm and P2>P7 by 1.9 mm; wing top 11.8. The bird is at the end of the postjuvenile moult; juvenile feathers are preserved only on the back of crown and nape. The dull white area on the inner vane of R6 is developed as in the preceding male, but the wedge-shaped stripe along the feather shaft occupies about one-third of its length.

(4) “♀ [?1s], 18[31].VII.1908, N 564 – (6 cotyp)” (ZMMU, R-4295). This specimen also has two labels: small original and large, similar to that of the lectotype, both written in black Indian ink. The number “6” and the wing formula

"2>6<5" are written in pencil on the back of the small label. Wing 63.4, tail 54.4, tarsus 18.4, bill from feathers 9.6, bill from nares 7.3, bill depth 2.9; primaries: P1 – 32.3, P2 – 60.0, P3 – 63.4, P4 – 62.3, P5 – 60.0, P6 – 58.1, P7 – 55.7, P8–10 – moult; S1 – 48.8; GC1 – 25.9. Thus, P2=P5>P6 by 1.9 mm; wing top 14.6. The plumage is very much worn and the postbreeding moult has begun (third stage). Both R6 are absent.

(5) "juv. [? sex], 18[31].VII.1908" (ZISP 120034/466-960). This specimen has three labels: small original one, the standard label of P. Sushkin's collection with rounded left margin, and the label of ZISP collection. The original label written in black Indian ink is similar to that of the lectotype, but the number of Bańkowski's collection and the ordinal number of cotype are absent, and the number "8" is written in pencil in the lower right corner of the back side. Wing 63.9, tail 56.2, tarsus 18.3, bill from feathers 8.9, bill from nares 7.0, bill depth 2.8; primaries: P1 – 31.3, P2 – 59.8, P3=P4 – 63.9, P5 – 62.7, P6 – 60.9, P7 – 58.5, P8 – 56.8, P9 – 54.2, P10 – 52.5; S1 – 50.4; GC1 – 28.0. Thus, P2<P6 by 1.1 mm and P2>P7 by 1.3 mm; wing top 13.5. The bird is at the end of postjuvenile moult: feathers of head almost finished their growth. The dull white colour on the inner vane of R6 is well developed and the wedge-shaped area along the feather shaft occupies more than two-thirds of its length.

(6) "juv. [? sex], 18[31].VII.1908, N 569 – (10 cotyp)" (ZMMU, R-4296). It has two labels, small original one with rounded left margin, and large one, similar to that of the lectotype. Both labels are written mainly in black Indian ink, but, on the back of the small label, the number "10" and the wing formula "2=6<5>7" are written in pencil, and collector's name "Bańkowski", in red ink. Wing 61.9, tail 57.9, tarsus 18.3, bill from feathers 9.4, bill from nares 7.2, bill depth 2.8; primaries: P1 – 31.6, P2 – 58.5, P3 – 61.9, P4=5 – 61.2, P6 – 58.8, P7 – 55.4, P8 – 53.9, P9 – 52.2, P10 – 50.6; S1 – 48.7; GC1 – 26.5. Thus, P2<P6 only by 0.3 mm and P2<P7 by 3.1 mm; wing top 13.2. The bird finished the postjuvenile moult; both R6 are absent.

(7) "juv. [? sex], 18[31].VII.1908" (ZISP 120033/466-960). It has three labels similar to those of the 5th paralectotype, all written in black Indian ink, only the number "11" on the face and the wing formula "2=6<5" on the back of the small original label are written in pencil. Wing 62.8, tail 55.3, tarsus 18.1, bill from feathers 8.8, bill from nares 7.1, bill depth 2.8; primaries: P1 – 33.1, P2 – 59.5, P3=4 – 62.8, P5 –

62.1, P6 – 59.5, P7 – 57.4, P8 – 55.4, P9 – 53.1, P10 – 51.5; S1 – 49.4; GC1 – 27.7. Thus, P2=P6 and P2<P5 by 2.6 mm; wing top 13.2. The bird finished the postjuvenile moult. The dull white colour on the inner vane of R6 is well developed and the wedge-shaped area along the dark brown feather shaft occupies about a half of its length.

(8) "[? sex], 1[14].VII.1907, N 567 – (14 cotyp)" (ZMMU, R-46494). It has only the elongate original label written in pale black ink, the later inscription "N 567 – (14 cotyp)" is more intense. On the back, the name of the collector is absent, the wing formula "2>6<5" and "N 14" are in pencil and "R-46494", in violet ink. Wing 61.2, tail 53.6, tarsus 18.1, top of the bill is broken; primaries: P1 – 32.4, P2 – 59.6, P3=4 – 61.2, P5 – 59.8, P6 – 57.4, P7 – 55.1, P8 – 53.1, P9 – 52.9, P10 – absent; S1 – 49.8; GC1 – 26.2. Thus, P2>P6 by 2.2 mm and P2<P5 only by 0.3 mm; wing top 11.4. The plumage is very worn and the postbreeding moult has begun (first stage). The white colour on R6 is weakly developed: in addition to the outer vane, only a narrow area (about 15 mm long) on the edge of apical part of the inner vane is dull white. The sex is not marked on the original label, but in the table on p. 240 of the original description it is given as male.

Paralectotype not belonging to S. c. caucasica.

(9) "♂ [1s], 6[19].IV.1906, N 559 – (2 cotyp)" (ZMMU, R-33632). This specimen has small original label with strongly rounded left margin. Its face inscriptions "*Sylvia curruca* L.", the Russian name of the species "Slavka-zavirushka", the locality "Polyana" and date of collecting, are written in pale black ink; later (in more intense Indian black ink), the word "*curruca*" was crossed out, "*caucasica*" put over it and "sp. n." under it, and also "N 559 – (2 cotyp)" added. On the back side, "Mtskhet" and "Bańkowski" are written in pale red ink, and the wing formula "2>6<5" and number "2" are added in pencil. The second label of this bird is the standard (37 × 57 mm) label of M.A. Menzbier's collection. On its face, inscriptions "Nomen: *Sylvia caucasica* Ogn. et Banc. Patria: Poljana. Caucasus. Date: 6.IV. 906" are written in pale black ink, "Mzchet" and "R-33632" added in intense black Indian ink. On the back side, there is a standard inscription "E coll. Prof. M. Menzbier" and "N 2" is added in pale black ink in the lower right corner. Wing 66.4, tail 59.7, tarsus 18.8, bill from feathers 9.2, bill from nares 7.2, bill depth 3.2; primaries: P1 – 31.9, P2 – 62.1, P3=P4 – 66.4, P5 – 65.8, P6 – 62.7, P7 – 59.7, P8 – 57.3, P9 – 55.5, P10 – 54.0; S1 – 51.5; GC1 – 28.2. Thus, P2<P6 by 0.6 mm and P2<P5 by 3.7 mm; wing top 14.9. The outer

vane on the top of P6 is narrow but without notch. The dull white colour in the apical third of the inner vane of R6 is weakly developed (a dark wedge-shaped area is present along feather shaft); on R5, a small white spot is retained on the tip of inner vane.

This bird, identified by Ognev and Bańkowski as *S. caucasica*, is a passage individual of *S. c. curruca*. This is evidenced by the larger size bird and typical lighter coloration of all its upper parts ("cap", mantle and uppertail-coverts); lores and ear coverts are evidently darker than crown, and the tint on the breast sides and flanks is more rufous (not pinkish).

Note. The dates given in the original description (table on p. 240) for the 3rd, 6th and 14th "cotypes" (ZMMU, R-46495; ZMMU, R-4295; ZISP 120033/466-960) do not correspond to those on the original labels (apparently, due misprints): 18.VI.1908, 13.VII.1908 and 1.VII.1909 in the table vs. 13.VII.1908, 18.VII.1908 and 1.VII.1907 in the labels.

Discussion. Recognition of the subspecies *S. curruca caucasica* Ognev & Bańkowski is quite justified: this form well differs not only from *S. althaea* Hume, to which it is similar in the rather dark upper parts (Loskot, 2001), but also from other subspecies of *S. curruca*, having lighter upper parts. The typical features of *S. curruca caucasica* are even more distinct in birds in juvenile and fresh winter plumages than in specimens in worn summer feathers. Shirhai et al. (2001: 133) mentioned some characters of *S. c. caucasica*, but erroneously considered it a synonym of *S. c. curruca*. The above-mentioned clear differences of *S. curruca caucasica* from *S. c. curruca* in the plumage coloration, its more rounded wing, isolated range (Transcaucasia) and ecological preferences (birds are restricted to mid elevation mountains only, instead of plains in *S. c. curruca*) indicate that *S. curruca caucasica* is a valid subspecies.

Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri Shestoperov, 1937 – Khorasanian Chiffchaff

Shestoperov (1937) has described a new subspecies, *Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri*, mainly from birds collected by him in the Western Kopetdag in spring. Later the subspecies was named Kopetdag Chiffchaff (Demytyev, 1948) or Khorasanian Chiffchaff (Ptushenko, 1954); the last name was accepted in the Russian literature. In Shestoperov's opinion, the Khorasanian Chiffchaff differs from the migrating in the Kopetdag birds of the Scandinavian subspecies *Ph. c.*

abietinus (Nilsson, 1819) mainly in the absence of "yellow longitudinal small stripes" on under parts of the body, and from migrating Siberian Chiffchaffs [identified by Shestoperov as *Ph. c. fulvescens* (Severtzov, 1873)] in the more greyish (without yellowish tint) upper parts and whitish under parts ("sides of neck, breast and flanks washed with light yellow brownish"), without "darker pinkish brown tint" typical of *Ph. c. fulvescens* (Shestoperov, 1937, key on p. 243). On p. 244, Shestoperov presented the following description:

"*Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri* subsp. n. Upper parts olive grey-brownish, with barely visible greenish touch. Under parts whitish, especially pure white in the middle of belly and on undertail-coverts; flanks and breast with brownish tint, sides of neck and throat with yellow brownish tint. Fringes on remiges and rectrices somewhat paler than in *Ph. c. abietinus*. It does not differ from *Ph. c. abietinus* in the colour of carpal joint, axillaries and underwing-coverts.

Apparently, it is most close in coloration to *Ph. c. subsindianus* [synonym of *Ph. c. indianus* Brooks, 1880] described by Zarudny from the Pamiro-Alai, but differs easily in the wing formula. The 2nd primary is situated usually between 7th and 8th primaries, rarely is equal to 7th. The 3rd, 4th and 5th primaries are of nearly equal length (4th hardly longer). Distance between the tips of 1st and 2nd primaries equals 25-26 mm, sometimes 23.5 mm. Outer vanes of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th primaries with distinct notches.

Wing 53.1-63.6, tail 43.8-53.5, tarsus 16.8-19.5, bill [from skull] 10.6-12.2 mm.

This is a common nesting bird in the Kopetdag. It occurs in Kara-Kala District at lower altitudes, but on the northern slopes, only in the highest mountain localities. The birds live near water in gorges and keep to upper twigs of trees. In spring, they appear in late April and immediately begin nest building. A female collected on 12.V.30 in Pir-dere gorge was already incubating".

Shestoperov did not record the number of examined specimens, but it may be concluded from the text that there were no less than three specimens, and that, judging from the size, there were also males in addition to the mentioned female. Since the holotype was not designated, specimens of the type series should be regarded as syntypes. The description was made mainly from birds collected in the late spring, with relatively worn plumage, their fresh winter plumage remaining not described. Most of the subsequent

authors writing about the Khorasanian Chiffchaff used the Shestoperov's diagnosis. Only a few of them have seen correctly identified skins of this subspecies, because they are very rare in collections.

Dementyev (1948, p. 187), who has examined a series of *Ph. c. menzbieri* from the Kopetdagh in Ashkhabad in 1941-1942, stated that there were several type specimens. He wrote that the series included "type and paratypes" and noted that the birds have "more greyish upper parts than the European ones [*Ph. c. abietinus*]". It seems that Dementyev considered as a "type" the female mentioned in the original description, but his remark about "type and paratypes" cannot be regarded as a valid designation of the lectotype, because no information on the labels, sex or collection number is given. Unfortunately, most syntypes of *Ph. c. menzbieri* kept in the Turkmenian State Museum (the former Transcaspiian Museum) perished in the Ashkhabad earthquake 1948. However, two syntypes, with subspecies identification written on the labels by Shestoperov, are preserved. In the beginning of 1945, Dementyev brought them to the ZMMU. In the registration book of ZMMU, both specimens were registered as *Ph. c. menzbieri* on 15 March 1945, accession number N 1 – 45, collection numbers R-55372 and R-55373 (Ya.A. Red'kin, in litt.). One bird (sex unknown) was collected on 28.IX.1930 near Ashkhabad by S.A. Alexandrov. It is a passage specimen and, as shown below, it does not belong to *Ph. c. menzbieri*. The second bird, male (R-55373), is a typical *Ph. c. menzbieri*; it was collected three days later in the same gorge, where the incubating female mentioned in the original description was collected, and this gives grounds to designate this specimen as lectotype.

Lectotype (designated here). "Male, [1s], gor.[ge] Pir dere [= Pordere, or Purdere, 38°15'N, 57°00' E, Balkanskaya oblast', Turkmenistan], 15.V.1930, coll. of [E.L.] Shestoperov" (ZMMU, R-55373).

The small original label (18 × 45 mm) was written by Shestoperov in black ink, but inscriptions were made in different time: locality and date on the face, sex and word "det." on the back were written earlier, now they are very light, nearly pale grey. Inscriptions "coll. of Shestoperov" on the face, "*Phylloscopus collybita menzbieri* sbsp. nova" and signature "E. Shestoperov" on the back were made later in intense black Indian ink. The back bears also three dimensions "63.7, 54.1, 19.5" (wing, tail and tarsus) written in pencil in the upper left corner. The standard ZMMU label

(17 × 70 mm) is written in black Indian ink; data given on its face coincide with those of the original label, the ordinal number of ZMMU collection is added on its right part.

Dimensions (mm): wing 64.7, tail 54.3, tarsus 20.5, bill from skull 9.3, bill from feathers 8.1, bill from nares 6.4, bill depth (at the front edge of the nares) 2.3; bill width (at the front edge of the nares) 2.0; primaries: P1 – 32.1, P2 – 58.2, P3 – damaged, P4 – 65.2, P5 – 64.5, P6 – 61.8, P7 – 58.8, P8 – 57.1, P9 – 55.1, P10 – 53.8; S1 – 52.4; 1st GC1 – 25.2. Thus, P2 < P7 by 0.6 mm, P2 > P8 by 1.1 mm, and P2 > P1 by 26.1 mm; wing top (P4 > S1) – 12.8. The notch of the outer vane on the top of P6 is well expressed.

The lectotype is in good condition and has all characters mentioned in the original description of *Ph. c. menzbieri*.

Paralectotype not belonging to Ph. c. menzbieri "[? sex, 1w], Ashkhabad, 28.IX.30, coll. [S.A.] Alexandrov" (ZMMU, R-55372). The small original label (18 × 40 mm) with rounded left margin was written by Shestoperov in black ink, and inscriptions were made in different times: locality, date and name of collector on the face, words "*Phylloscopus*" and "E. Shestoperov det." on the back were written earlier, now they are rather brown than black. The inscription "*tristis menzbieri* sbsp. nov." on the back side was added later in more intense black ink. The word *menzbieri* is underlined in violet ink, probably after Shestoperov's inscription. In upper left corner of the face, there are four dimensions "57.5, 46.1, 16.8, 5.7" (wing, tail, tarsus and probably bill) written in pencil. The standard ZMMU label is similar to that of the lectotype; data given on its face coincide with those of the original label.

Measurements (mm): wing 57.6, tail 43.2, tarsus 17.3, bill from skull 9.0, bill from feathers 7.4, bill from nares 6.6, bill depth (at the front edge of the nares) 2.2; bill width (at the front edge of the nares) 2.2; primaries: P1 – 29.2, P2 – 49.8, P3 – 56.4, P4 – 57.6, P5 – 57.1, P6 – 55.8, P7 – 53.5, P8 – 51.1, P9 – 48.9, P10 – 47.2; S1 – 43.1; GC1 – 22.4. Thus, P2 < P8 by 1.3 mm, P2 > P9 by 0.9 mm, and P2 > P1 by 20.6; wing top (P4 > S1) – 14.5. The notch of outer vane on the top of P6 is well expressed. The relatively small lengths of wing, tail and tarsus indicate that this specimen is apparently a female. Its plumage on the right side of neck and on rump is damaged.

This bird identified by Shestoperov as "*Phylloscopus tristis menzbieri* sbsp. nov." and marked by Dementyev in 1945 as a "paratype" of *Ph. c. menzbieri* in the registration book of ZMMU (Ya.A. Red'kin, in litt.) is a passage bird with

the phenotype intermediate between *Ph. c. abietinus* and *Ph. c. tristis* (= *Ph. c. fulvescens* of many authors). Its upper parts are brown, as in *Ph. c. tristis*, but lighter, without yellowish green tint, lighter and much browner than in *Ph. c. abietinus*; under parts are also much lighter, without intense rusty-fuscous colour on breast, flanks and undertail-coverts (*Ph. c. tristis*), resembling under parts of *Ph. c. abietinus*, but yellow longitudinal small stripes on the body and yellow colour on undertail-coverts are absent, and fuscous tint on the breast and flanks is distinctly lighter.

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