

## Specimens of extinct and endangered birds in the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic

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MLÍKOVSKÝ J. & SUTOROVÁ H. 2010: Specimens of extinct and endangered birds in the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic. *Acta Musei Moraviae. Scientiae Biologicae* (Brno) **95(1):** 137–142. – A list of specimens of “E&E” (extinct and endangered) species deposited in the Moravian Museum is presented. Overall, six species and 11 specimens of endangered birds were found, but no extinct species was recorded.

**Key words:** Moravian Museum, Aves, extinct and endangered species

### Introduction

Many bird species have become extinct in comparatively recent times, or are currently endangered (GREENWAY 1958; LUTHER 1986; VINOKUROV 1992; FULLER 2001, 2002). The remains of them (skins, bones etc.) that have been preserved in museum collections are thus of particular value and there is an internationally recognized need to publish lists of specimens of extinct, endangered and rare bird species (e.g. BERLIOZ 1935, MEYER DE SCHAUENSEE 1941, STRESEMANN 1954, MERTENS & STEINBACHER 1955, STEINBACHER 1959, JOUANIN 1962, HOWES 1969, BENSON 1972, FISHER 1981, VIOLANI *et al.* 1984, TORRES-MURA 1991, KNOX & WALTERS 1994, BOEV 2003, PETERS *et al.* 2004). ADAMS *et al.* (2003) recently presented a master list of species which should be included in such lists. Below we present a list of specimens of “E&E” (extinct and endangered) species deposited in the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic (MZMB).

The Moravian Museum was founded in 1817 and currently houses *c.* 23,000 skins and mounts of birds (SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997). SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997) provided a list of mounted specimens deposited in the Budišov depository of the MZMB and HANÁK (2003) provided a list of exotic birds in the collections of Moravian institutions, including MZMB. Their lists include 11 E&E species (*sensu* ADAMS *et al.* 2003) reportedly deposited in the MZMB. One of us (J. Mlíkovský) re-studied all the relevant specimens, concluding that five out of the eleven species listed by SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997) and HANÁK (2003) had been incorrectly identified. In addition, we found that some other data presented by HANÁK (2003) are mixed, unsupported or incorrect (see below). Prompted by this finding we produced a completely revised list of specimens of E&E birds in the MZMB.

Almost all E&E specimens listed below are mounted, the only exception being two specimens of *Carduelis cucullata* (MZMB 40039 and 43378), which are kept as skins.

Most of species listed below are endangered, but *Campephilus imperialis* is potentially extinct (WINKLER & CHRISTIE 2002).

Museum abbreviations are as follows:

MZMB ..... Moravské zemské muzeum (Moravian Museum), Brno, Czech Republic  
NMP ..... Národní muzeum (National Museum), Praha, Czech Republic

The current taxonomic status of avian taxa follows DICKINSON (2003). Geographical coordinates are given after the World Geodetic System 1984.

### Systematic list

#### ARDEIDAE

##### Japanese Night-heron *Gorsachius goisagi* (Temminck, 1836)

**Specimen.** MZMB 22177 (Seilern 1266), ♂, collected by an unknown collector on 4 April 1906 on Amami-Oshima, Japan.

**Remarks.** See also SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 11) and HANÁK (2003: 43). This specimen was obtained by the MZMB with a part of the Josef Seilern collection (1883–1939) after the Second World War. The original catalogue of the Seilern bird collection (deposited in the NMP) adds that the bird was obtained by Seilern from Alan Owston (1853–1915), a natural history dealer based in Yokohama, Japan.

**IUCN Red List status.** Endangered. Population trend: decreasing.

#### ANATIDAE

##### Brazilian Merganser *Mergus octosetaceus* Vieillot, 1817

**Specimen.** MZMB 02589, unsexed, no other data available.

**Remarks.** The specimen lacks any pre-MZMB label. An early MZMB label glued to the stand reads “*Mergus Brasiliensis* // Brasilianischer Säger” SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 14) and HANÁK (2003: 54) stated that the specimen originated from the Adolf Schwab Collection, which agrees with entries in the Old Catalogue of the MZMB. How Schwab obtained the specimen remains unknown. *Mergus brasiliensis* Gray, 1844 is a synonym of *Mergus octosetaceus* Vieillot, 1817 (SALVADORI 1895).

**IUCN Red List status.** Critically endangered. Population trend: decreasing.

#### PSITTACIDAE

##### Kakapo *Strigops habroptila* Gray, 1845

**Specimen.** MZMB 30872, ♀, other data not available.

**Remarks.** See also SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 24) and HANÁK (2003: 102). MZMB obtained this specimen in February 1974 from the Institute of Vertebrate Zoology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Brno, with the Karásek Collection. The Academy obtained the collection from the Agricultural University in Brno, which in turn had taken possession of the collection directly from Jaroslav Karásek (1886–1937), a Moravian ornithologist. Karásek never went to New Zealand, to which *S. habroptila* is limited, and thus had to have purchased the specimen from a dealer or exchanged it with a museum or collector. The exact origin of the specimen remains unknown.

**IUCN Red List status.** Critically endangered. Population trend: decreasing.

## GALBULIDAE

### Three-toed Jacamar *Jacamaralcyon tridactyla* (Vieillot, 1817)

**Specimen.** MZMB 22060, ♂, collected by an unknown collector on 31 March 1902 at “Victoria, Est. de Sao Paulo” [= Victoria, Brazil; 22.78°S, 48.40°W].

**Specimen.** MZMB 22060 (same number as above), ♀, collected by an unknown collector on 18 June 1902 at “Victoria, Est. de Sao Paulo” [= Victoria, Brazil; 22.78°S, 48.40°W].

**Remarks.** See also SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 30) and HANÁK (2003: 142). Both these specimens are mounted on a single stand. An inscription indicates that they were obtained from the Seilern Collection, but the original labels are missing. The NMP contains specimens obtained with a part of the Seilern Collection, collected in 1902 at “Victoria, E. d. S. Paulo”. Most or all of them were collected by Adolf Hempel (no collector was given for some specimens) and Seilern purchased them from W.F.H. Rosenberg, a natural history dealer based in London, United Kingdom. It is thus probable that both MZMB specimens were collected at Victoria, Brazil, by Hempel and reached the MZMB via Rosenberg and Seilern.

**IUCN Red List status.** Vulnerable. Population trend: decreasing.

## PICIDAE

### Imperial Woodpecker *Campephilus imperialis* (Gould, 1832)

**Specimen.** MZMB 26189, ad. ♂, collected by an unknown collector on 9 February 1900 in “Sierra Madre”, Mexico.

**Remarks.** See also SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 32) and HANÁK (2003: 152), who incorrectly listed it as an Ivory-billed Woodpecker *Campephilus principalis* (Linnaeus, 1758). This specimen lacks its original label. Zdeněk Kux (1923–1990), former bird curator of the MZMB, registered the specimen in 1959 with the remark that it originated from the J. Mrázek Collection. This is improbable, however, since Jindřich Mrázek (1886–1948) was a taxidermist for the MZMB in 1911–1945. He possessed his own collection of birds, mainly European, but *C. imperialis* was not found in the list of specimens received by the MZMB. Kux’s remark thus probably means merely that Mrázek (re)prepared the specimen. It thus remains unknown as to how it was obtained by

the MZMB. Three large mountain ranges are known as ‘Sierra Madre’ in Mexico. Considering the past distribution of *C. imperialis* (WINKLER & CHRISTIE 2002), the MZMB specimen probably originated from the Sierra Madre Occidental.

**IUCN Red List status.** Critically endangered.

## FRINGILLIDAE

### Red Siskin *Carduelis cucullata* Swainson, 1820

**Specimen.** MZMB 1884, ad. ♂, obtained from Dr. Müller; designated “*Spinus cucullata*” on an early label.

**Specimen.** MZMB 1884 (same number as above), ♀, obtained from Dr. Müller; designated “*Spinus cucullata*” on an early label.

**Specimen.** MZMB 39733, ♀, died on 12 May 1980 in captivity, keeper Z. Sedláček, Brno.

**Specimen.** MZMB 40039, unsexed ad., no date (registered in the MZMB in 1981), from captivity, keeper Z. Sedláček, Brno.

**Specimen.** MZMB 43378, ad. ♂, supplied to the MZMB in June 1981, from captivity, keeper Otakar Hudec.

**Remarks.** See also SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997: 49) for mounted specimens and HANÁK (2003: 247). The origin of both specimens labelled MZMB 1884 is unknown. Dr. Müller, who supplied these two specimens to the MZMB, was a well known bird keeper, domiciled in Brno, Jakubské náměstí Square (ZDOBNITZKY 1915. The Inventory Catalogue of the MZMB contains a remark that both Müller specimens were prepared by J. Mrázek, who died in 1948 (HUDEC 1999). Both Müller specimens thus had to have existed prior to that date. The three remaining specimens were obtained from Moravian bird keepers Otakar Hudec (Brno) and Rudolf Sedláček (Brno-Lesná). Note that HANÁK (2003: 247) mixed data on the final two specimens on the list, listing specimen MZMB 40039 with data on specimen MZMB 43378 and *vice versa*.

**IUCN Red List status.** Endangered. Population trend: decreasing.

### Rejected specimens

SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK (1997) and HANÁK (2003) recorded additional species of extinct and endangered birds (*sensu* ADAMS *et al.* 2003) from the MZMB. A revision of these specimens by J. Mlíkovský showed that Hanák (who was responsible for species identification in both papers) misidentified them and that they represent more common species. In particular, the alleged White-eared Night-heron *Gorsachius magnificus* (Ogilvie-Grant, 1899) (MZMB 22003; SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 11, HANÁK 2003: 43) is a Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* (Latham, 1790); the alleged Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* (Gmelin, 1789) (MZMB 2565; SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 12, HANÁK 2003: 45) is a Marabout Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* (Lesson, 1831); the alleged Trinidad Piping-guan *Pipile pipile* (Jacquin, 1784) (MZMB 2499; SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 16 *sub* *Aburria pipile*, HANÁK 2003: 64) is a Black-fronted Piping-guan *Pipile jacutinga* (Spix, 1825); the alleged (and extinct in the wild) Alagoas Curassow *Mitu mitu* (Linnaeus, 1766) (MZMB 2491; SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 16 *sub* *Crax mitu*, HANÁK 2003: 64) is a Razor-billed Curassow *Mitu tuberosum* Spix, 1825; and the alleged Red-

billed Curassow *Crax blumenbachii* Spix, 1825 (MZMB 2493; SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 16, HANÁK 2003: 64) is a Wattled Curassow *Crax globulosa* Spix, 1825.

### Acknowledgements

Jiří Mlíkovský was supported during the preparation of this paper by Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic grants MK 06P04OMG008 and MK 00002327201. Helena Sutorová was supported by a long term grant from the same ministry MK 00009486201.

The editors gratefully acknowledge the IUCN Red List for data derived from their intellectual property.

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