

**Type specimens of birds in the collections of the Moravian Museum,
Brno, Czech Republic**Jiří MLÍKOVSKÝ¹ & HELENA SUTOROVÁ²¹Department of Zoology, National Museum, Václavské náměstí 68, CZ-115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic;
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MLÍKOVSKÝ J. & SUTOROVÁ H. 2009: Type specimens of birds in the collections of the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic. *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **94**: 117–125. – The Moravian Museum, Brno, in the Czech Republic, houses types of two recent bird taxa: *Tetrastes bonasia horicei* Hachler, 1950 (Tetraonidae), and *Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni* Hachler, 1952 (Emberizidae). The holotype of *Calamoherpe brehmii* Müller, 1830 (Sylviidae) was also deposited in the collections of this museum, but has long been missing.

Key words. Moravian Museum, Aves, type specimens, taxonomy, nomenclature

Introduction

The Moravské zemské muzeum (Moravian Museum) in Brno, Czech Republic, houses ca. 22,000 bird dermoplasts and skins. This collection, deposited in the Department of Zoology of the museum, included types of three modern bird species, of which two are still deposited there. The museum also houses several types of fossil birds from Moravian localities (see MLÍKOVSKÝ 2002, 2003, and references cited therein). In this paper we present a catalogue of type specimens of modern birds, which are or were deposited in the MZMB, and comment on them.

Abbreviations for museums and collections mentioned below:

JSL	Josef Seilern, private collection, Lešná, Czech Republic
MZMB	Moravské zemské muzeum (Moravian Museum), Brno, Czech Republic
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria
ZMB	Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany

Nomenclatural procedure follows the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999). Current taxonomic status of avian taxa follows DICKINSON (2003).

Authors and collectors

Hachler, Emil (1910–1996): Moravian ornithologist.
Hála, Jan (1868–1953): Moravian ornithologist, teacher, father of Jaroslav Hála.
Hála, Jaroslav (1905–1978): Moravian ornithologist and professional taxidermist, son of Jan Hála.
Homberg, Richard (ca. 1886 to ca. 1967): Austrian-Czech-German ornithologist, professional taxidermist and curator of the Josef Seilern natural history collections.
Kux, Zdeněk (1923–1990): Moravian zoologist, curator of zoology at the MZMB in 1950–1988.
Müller, Anton (1799–1864): Austrian-Moravian naturalist.
Seilern, Josef (1883–1939): Austrian-Czech ornithologist.

Systematic list

Tetraonidae

Tetrastes bonasia horicei Hachler, 1950

Tetrastes bonasia horicei Hachler, 1950: 83.

Present classification. *Tetrastes bonasia styriacus* (von Jordans et Schiebel, 1944). See BAUER (1960) and POTAPOV (1985: 188).

Notes on nomenclature. The species-group name was spelled as *hořicei* by HACHLER (1950) in the main text (pp. 83, 84), while it was spelled *horicei* in both the Hungarian (p. 81) and Russian (p. 82) summaries. The version *hořicei* is thus the original spelling of the name. The presence of a letter with the diacritical mark known as a “háček” (ř) should be corrected (ICZN 1999, Art. 27 and 32.5.2.), but does not preclude the availability of the name for nomenclatural purposes (ICZN 1999, Art. 11.2). The spelling was corrected by Bauer (1960: 14).



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Tetrastes bonasia horicei* Hachler, 1950 (MZMB 8182). Photo: V. Prášek.

Holotype (Figs 1–2). “Jeřábek ♂ ad // 24. IX. 1930 // Jasina // Hala” (Jaroslav Hála’s handwriting; earlier inscription); “*Tetrastes bonasia hořicei* Hachler // (Typus)” (Emil Hachler’s handwriting; later inscription). In addition, the pedestal bears younger inscriptions “Dr. H” (“Dr.” written by Hachler, “H” written by an unknown person; “H” was probably an abbreviation indicating a Hála Collection) and “8182” (written by unknown persons; current inventory number).

Type locality: Yasinya, Ukraine [48.27°N, 24.36°E]. HACHLER (1950) spelled the name of the type locality as “Jsinia” in the English text (HACHLER 1950: 83), which is an apparent misprint for “Jasina” (so spelled elsewhere in the English text – HACHLER 1950: 82–83). The locality is now called “Бінії” in Ukrainian, which is transliterated as “Yasinya” using the currently valid transliteration rules for this language in Ukraine (The National 1996 system), and “Асиня” using the ISO 9:1995 = GOST 2002 standards (see MLÍKOVSKÝ *in press*, PEDERSEN 2009).

Remarks. HACHLER (1950) based this subspecies on a single specimen, which is the holotype. The specimen was collected at Yasinya by an unknown collector. Subsequently, it became part of the Hála Collection, created by Jan Hála and his son Jaroslav Hála. It was purchased by the MZMB from the Hála's in 1942–1943 (SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997: 57).

In spite of its title, the paper by HACHLER (1949) is just a report on the publication by KEVE (1948) and does not include any new names. HACHLER (1950: 82) acknowledged that his study in the geographical variability and systematics of the Hazel Grouses was inspired by the latter paper.



Fig. 2. Inscription on the pedestal of the holotype of *Tetraetes bonasia horicei* Hachler, 1950 (MZMB 8182). Photo: V. Prášek.

Sylviidae

Calamoherpe brehmii Müller, 1830

Calamoherpe brehmii Müller, 1830: 28.

Present classification. *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (Hermann, 1804).

Notes on authorship. The name *Calamoherpe brehmii* became known to a wider audience via BREHM (1831: 447), who attributed it to “Müller”, without citing a paper by Müller. Subsequent authors thus believed that Brehm used Müller’s manuscript name (see SCHALOW 1914), and considered Brehm (1831) as the author of the name (e.g. CABANIS 1851: 38, GIEBEL 1872: 530, HARERT 1909: 560, SCHALOW 1914). BREHM (1831) indeed derived the name from a manuscript by Müller, to which a painting of the bird was attached, because Müller sent him this material (see MÜLLER 1830: 28). It is probably the manuscript, which was later discovered in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, Germany (MÜLLER 1826–1830), by SCHALOW (1914). HEINRICH (1856: 120) and HARERT & STEINBACHER (1934: 266) correctly observed that the name *Calamoherpe brehmii* had already been created by Anton Müller, a Moravian naturalist, in his *Verzeichniss der in Mähren vorkommenden Vögel* (MÜLLER 1830: 28), and that Müller is thus its author.

Holotype. Adult specimen, collected by Anton Müller (see MÜLLER 1826–1831, SCHALOW 1914: 106) in June 1826 (see BREHM 1831: 448) at the type locality. The specimen was in Müller’s hands (i.e. in the MZMB) from 1826 (see MÜLLER 1830: 28) until at least 1833 (see A. MÜLLER in ANONYMOUS 1833: col. 508). We found no later trace of the specimen and it has to be considered lost. MÜLLER (1830) based this species on a single specimen, which thus constitutes its holotype (see also MÜLLER 1826–1830, 1830, SCHALOW 1914).

Type locality: MÜLLER (1830) mentioned no locality for the bird, but described it in a synopsis of Moravian birds, so Moravia could have been assumed to be its type locality. However, MÜLLER (1826–1830; see SCHALOW 1914: 106) specified that he caught the bird “in der Umgebung von Brünn”, i.e. “in the vicinity of Brno”. Considering that the town of Brno has expanded markedly between the 1820’s and the 2000’s, the type locality of *Calamoherpe brehmii* can be restricted here to Brno, Czech Republic [ca. 49.20°N, 16.60°E].

Remarks. Anton Müller caught the bird in June 1826 and immediately believed he recognized a new form in it (see MÜLLER 1826–1830, SCHALOW 1914: 106). Müller was

an adherent of the species notion developed by Christian Ludwig Brehm (1787–1864), a German naturalist, who distinguished even the slightest morphological differences and recognized their bearers as representatives of separate taxa (see e.g. HAFFER 1996, 2003). This explains why Müller considered the specimen a separate species, although it differed from *Sylvia arundinacea* auct. [= *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*] in only one important character, the presence of a pale bar in its tail. He reported on his discovery to Christian Ludwig Brehm in Renthendorf, Thuringia (see MÜLLER 1830: 28), and described and named the species (MÜLLER 1830: 28). BREHM (1831: 447) listed the species in his *Handbuch der Naturgeschichte aller Vögel Deutschlands*, probably on the basis of Müller's manuscript (MÜLLER 1826–1830), later discovered in the ZMB by SCHALOW (1914), and examined there by one of us (JM) in 2008. Subsequently, Müller (ANONYMOUS 1833: col. 507–508) gave a lecture on his discovery at the *Versammlung der Naturforscher und Aerzte* (Symposium of Naturalists and Physicians) in Vienna, Austria, on 26 September 1833. His view was immediately opposed by Johann Jacob Heckel (1790–1857), then an assistant in the NHMW, Austria, who suggested that Müller's new warbler was just an aberrant *Sylvia arundinacea* auct. [= *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*], recognizing the pale tail bar as what is now known as a fault bar (see e.g. STIEFEL 1985, GRUBB 1989, and BUSCHING 2005 for this phenomenon), with reference to his observations made on the moulting of unspecified cage birds (J.J. HECKEL in ANONYMOUS 1833: col. 508). Heckel added that even if further studies were to support species status for Müller's *Calamoherpe brehmii*, it would then fall into the synonymy of Bechstein's *Sylvia fasciata* (i.e. *Motacilla fasciata* Bechstein, 1795), described by BECHSTEIN (1795: 669) on the basis of a German specimen with a similar fault bar. Subsequent authors treated *Calamoherpe brehmi* as a synonym of *arundinacea* auct., *strepera* Vieillot, 1817, or *calamoherpe* Kleinschmidt, 1903 [= *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* in all cases], combining them with different genera (e.g. GLOGER 1834: 226, BONAPARTE 1850: 285, CABANIS 1851: 38, J. W. MÜLLER 1855: 199, SEEBOHM 1881: 103, KLEINSCHMIDT 1903: 492, HARTERT 1909: 560). In spite of this, BREHM (1855a: 235, 1855b: 284) continued to list *Calamoherpe Brehmii* as a separate species, though qualified by the remark “*ungewisse Art*” (= uncertain species, BREHM 1855a: 235) or “*species dubia*” (BREHM 1855b: 284). PRAŽÁK (1894: 62, 1897: 275) reported on recording *brehmi* in Bohemia and Galicia, respectively, which were apparently fraudulent statements (cf. LORENZ 1899, J. MLÍKOVSKÝ in prep.), although he could have encountered some Reed Warblers with fault bars in their tails. SCHALOW (1914) discovered Müller's (1826–1830) manuscript in the ZMB (not aware of who Anton Müller was – see TSCHUSI 1914), restudied the painting of the holotype (see SCHALOW 1914, pl. 3), interpreted the alleged distinguishing character as a fault bar (not knowing that J.J. Heckel had already done so 90 years before – see SCHALOW 1915: 506–507), and confirmed the taxonomic identity of the bird.



Fig. 3. Holotype of *Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni* Hachler, 1952 (MZMB 19949), lateral view. Photo: J. Mlíkovský.



Fig. 4. Holotype of *Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni* Hachler, 1952 (MZMB 19949), dorsal view. Photo: J. Mlíkovský.

Emberizidae

Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni Hachler, 1952

Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni Hachler, 1952: 178.

Present classification. *Emberiza schoeniclus* Linnaeus, 1758. The taxonomy of the *Emberiza schoeniclus* species complex is difficult and unresolved (HARTERT 1904, ZARUDNYJ 1917, DOMANIEWSKI 1918, PORTENKO 1929, 1960, STEINBACHER 1930, SPANGENBERG & SUDILOVSKAÁ 1954, VAURIE 1956, 1958, 1959, C. S. ROSELAAR in CRAMP & PERRINS 1994, BAUER & HAFFER 1997; see also GRAPPUTO *et al.* 1998, MATESSI *et al.* 2001). For a discussion on the taxonomic identity of Reed Buntings in Moravia and adjacent regions see also

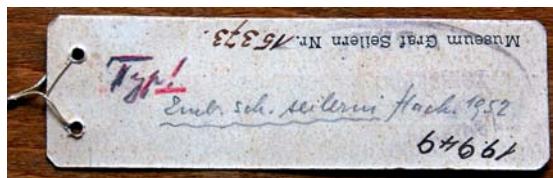


Fig. 5. Label attached to the holotype of *Emberiza schoeniclus seilerni* Hachler, 1952 (MZMB 19949). Photo: J. Mlíkovský.

(Richard Homberg's handwriting on the card face; earliest inscription) (Richard Homber's handwriting on the card back; second part of the earliest inscription); "Typ! *Emb. sch. seilerni* Hach. 1952" (Emil Hachler's handwriting; second inscription); "19.949" (Zdeněk Kuz's handwriting; third inscription). There is no indication that Hachler recognized any other types. Type locality: "u Lešné (Lukov) na Moravě" (HACHLER 1952: 178), i.e. Zlín-Lešná, Czechia [49.27°N, 17.73°E].

Remarks. In the original Seilern inventories the locality is given as "Lešná". Because the localities "Lešná" and "Lukov" are clearly distinguished in the inventories, we assume that "Lukov" as the name of a larger site has been added to the label as an explanation where Lešná lies.

The holotype was collected by Richard Homberg for the private collection of Josef Seilern (JSL). A major part of this collection was housed at the Seilern estate in Lešná, from whence it was seized from Seilern's son by the Czechoslovak government after the Second World War. Most of these bird skins were subsequently deposited in the NMP (cf. MLÍKOVSKÝ 2005), while some found a new home in the MZMB (see SUTOROVÁ & HANÁK 1997, HANÁK 2003). The latter part of the collection also included the specimen upon which HACHLER (1952) described *E. s. seilerni*.

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