

2. *tetrax* (France, Sardinia, Sicilia) : ♂ 235, 247, 248, 250 mm. ♀ 239, 246 mm.  
3. *tetrax* (Netherlands) : ♂ 241 mm.  
(Van Havre, Les Ois. de la faune belge, 1928, p. 408 and Le Gerfaut, 23, p. 175).

## Notes on *Anser fabalis mentalis* Oates

BY

K. H. VOOUS J., Zoölogical Museum, Amsterdam)  
(with two textfigures)

An extremely developed specimen of the Siberian tundra-race *Anser fabalis serrirostris* Swinhoe is preserved in the Leyden Museum. It certainly belongs to the still insufficiently known form *mentalis*, which is according to Buturlin (1934) only known from migratory specimens from southern Manchuria and the Japanese islands. The bird is characterized by the great measurements and the extraordinarily curved and very high lower mandible. The number of teeth in the upper mandible is less than in typical *serrirostris* and is usually 23. The specimen referred to here (fig. 1) has a bill, which is still longer than that of the biggest specimen known in the literature. It comes from East-Siberia and originates from the Leningrad Museum (1861).

♂. Wing 510; culmen 86 mm.

Greatest height of lower mandible 13; height of bill at base 45 mm.

Number of teeth in upper mandible 23.

The extreme measurements of *mentalis*, mentioned in the literature are: Alphéraky (1905), *mentalis*: wing 495—497.5; culmen 69.5—75 mm. Démentieff (1936), „*serrirostris*” (26 ♂ ♂): wing 422—524; culmen 59—71.5 mm. Ohfuchi (1936), „*serrirostris*”: wing 444—574 (!); culmen 60—82 mm. Kuroda (cited by Ohfuchi, 1936), „*serrirostris*”: wing 448—496; culmen 60—75 mm. Johansen (1945), *mentalis*: wing 422—525; culmen 57—71 mm.

Compared with the figure given by Alphéraky (fig. 2), which represents apparently the type specimen in the British Museum, the different, though still very heavy shape of the bill is strongly apparent. It is noteworthy that Alphéraky already called attention for the fact that the bill in *mentalis* is considerably variable in shape.

In his study on the systematics of *Anser fabalis*, Démentieff (1936) unites all Asiatic tundra-geese under the name *serrirostris*, thus including therein the races *rossicus*, *serrirostris* and *mentalis*. As the measurements of the tundra-race *rossicus* do not go beyond the following maxima — wing 455, culmen 66 mm (cf Limosa, 17, 1944, p. 49, fig. 2) — it seems rather unsatisfactory to unite under the same name these small birds, which belong to the western populations, with such extravagant large birds of the eastern populations, as does Démentieff. Although no objectively defined lines can be traced, that may separate distinct races of continental tundra Bean Geese, and measurements of wing and bill are gradually increasing from west to east, nevertheless the differences in measurements and the development of the bill between extreme western populations (*rossicus*) and extreme eastern populations (*mentalis*) are remarkable enough, when compared with Central-Siberian ones (*serrirostris*). The large bird of *mentalis* in the Leyden Museum is in support with the view that, owing to establish a practical system of nomenclature, the races *serrirostris* and *mentalis* should be kept as distinct.

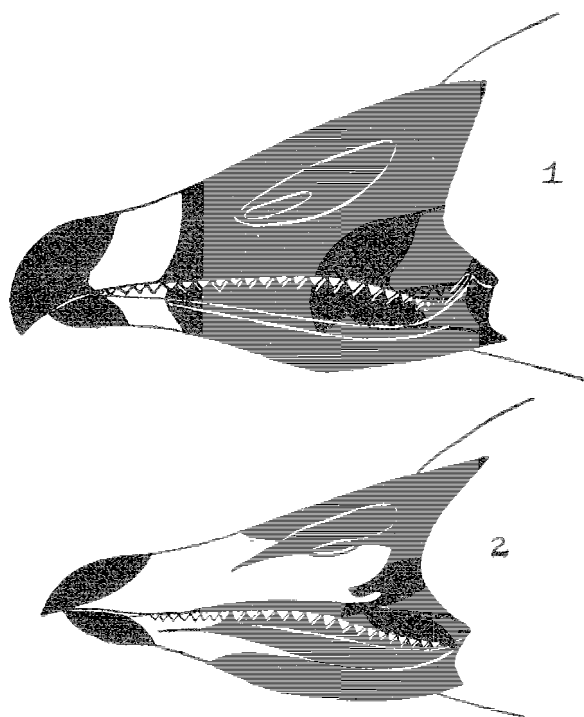


Figure 1.

*Anser f. mentalis*  
Oates. ♂ East-Siberia.  
Leyden Museum.

Figure 2.

*Anser f. mentalis*  
Oates. ♂ After Al-  
pheraky, Pl. 23.  
Both drawings are at  
the same scale.

Literature cited (see Limosa. 17, 1944. p. 51).

Johansen. H. 1945: Om Racer af Saedgaes. Dansk Ornith. For Tidsskr. (Copenhagen). 39, p. 106-127.

Ohfuchi. S. 1936: Birds from North Eastern Hondo. Japan. Saito Ho-on Kai Museum Research Bull. (Sendai). 7. p. 38.

## Ornithologie van Nederland

1945 en 1946. 1e mededeling.

DOOR

Dr C. G. B. TEN KATE.

*Nucifraga caryocatactes* (L.) — Notenkraaker. Oct. 1944, 1 zeer mak ex. te Maarsbergen (J. H. Smidt van Gelder); 9 Oct. 1945, 1 ex. in een ligusterheg bij de haven van Harderwijk (med. A. A. Tjittes).

*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes* (L.) — Apelvink. 15 April 1945, 1 ex. in het Bijenpark aan de Sloteweg te Amsterdam; voorzover mij bekend, de eerste waarneming bij Amsterdam. (J. E. Sluifers); 18 Jan. 1946. — 10 ex. in een villatuin in Baarn. (R. Tolman). 22 Maart 1946, 1 ex. in het plantsoen te Kampen (J. J. W. Polder, med. t. K.).

*Carduelis c. carduelis* (L.) — Putter. In de 2e helft van Dec. 1945 langs de Eem in Soest 5 ex., waarvan er één door een vogelvanger werd buitgemaakt. (med. R. Tolman).