



## Type specimens and type localities of birds collected during the Hemprich and Ehrenberg expedition to Lebanon in 1824

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### Abstract

The 1824 expedition to Lebanon by Wilhelm Hemprich and Christian Ehrenberg resulted in the description of at least 28 bird species new for science. Despite its importance, however, this collection has never been fully studied or published. We used manuscripts, catalogues, and specimens archived at the Museum für Naturkunde (ZMB), Berlin, to identify the type specimens, revise nomenclatural and (where appropriate) taxonomic status of species described on the basis of Hemprich and Ehrenberg's material, and determine type localities and collection dates of these taxa.

**Key words:** Aves, nomenclature, taxonomy, Lebanon, Wilhelm Friedrich Hemprich, Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, expedition 1824

### Introduction

In 1820–1825, German naturalists Wilhelm Friedrich Hemprich (1796–1825) and Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg (1795–1876) undertook an expedition to northeastern Africa (Humboldt 1826, Ehrenberg 1828, Hanstein 1877, Laue 1895, Stresemann 1954, 1962; see also Williams 1995, Bauer 2000, Klausewitz 2002, Klaver 2009). In 1824, they crossed the Mediterranean Sea and worked for a short time in the Middle East, in an area they called “Syria”. During this trip they collected 372 specimens of birds of 55 species (Stresemann 1962). Subsequently, at least 28 species-group taxa were described as new for science on the basis of this material by Hemprich and Ehrenberg (1828, 1829, 1833; see Appendix), C. L. Brehm (1828, 1831, 1842, 1845), Gourcy-Droitaumont (1829), Gloger (1833), Temminck (1835), Schinz (1840), Bonaparte (1850), Bonaparte and Schlegel (1850), Cabanis (1850, 1875), Kaup (1853), and Tristram (1884). Some of the latter authors, however, used earlier label names in the belief that they were available for nomenclatural purposes, and thereby became their authors under the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999).

Due to historical reasons (see Hanstein 1877, Laue 1895, Stresemann 1954), the “Syrian” collection has never been studied in full and no resulting paper was published, although its profound importance for the taxonomy and nomenclature of birds inhabiting the Near East has been generally acknowledged. Hemprich and Ehrenberg (1828, 1829, 1833) presented in their *Symbolae physicae* lists of species from selected families, described 13 species as new for science, and figured one “Syrian” species. Lichtenstein catalogued specimens received and included some data on them in the published catalogue of the ornithological collection of the ZMB (Lichtenstein 1854). Dresser and Blanford visited ZMB in September 1873 and revised many of Hemprich and Ehrenberg's types (Dresser & Blanford 1874). Bates (1935) discussed the type locality of *Ixos xanthopygos* Hemprich & Ehrenberg. Stresemann (1954) published an account of the Hemprich-Ehrenberg expedition, mainly on the basis of relevant letters. This resulted in the discovery that Hemprich and Ehrenberg visited only the part of “Greater Syria” now known as Lebanon. Later, Stresemann (1962, 1963) studied the then newly rediscovered field notebooks of Hemprich and Ehrenberg, and specified their expedition route. Finally, Mauersberger (1987) discussed the identity of type specimens of *Ixos xanthopygos* Hemprich & Ehrenberg and *Sylvia semirufa* Hemprich & Ehrenberg. However, none of these studies was exhaustive and free of inaccuracies.