



Farbtypen des Trauerfliegenfänger-Männchens

R. Drost

COLOUR-CATEGORIES OF MALE PIED FLYCATCHERS IN SPRING.

Professor Rudolph Drost (Über das Brutkleid männlicher Trauerfliegenfänger, *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. - *Der Vogelzug* 6, p. 179-186. 1936) was the first to devote full attention to this theme. In the numerous male Pied Flycatchers *Ficedula hypoleuca* on spring migration on Heligoland the upperparts showed considerable variation in colour. While in some males the upperpart was black throughout, others lacked black almost completely. Drost examined 237 skins from North and Central Europe, and worked out 7 colour-categories for classification. At the same time he was aware of the fact that more or different categories might be chosen. However, in the meantime these 7 categories have been generally accepted and proved to be practical.

- Category I : Upperpart uniform black
- Category VII : Upperpart uniform grey or brown
- Categories II - VI : Intermediates

Examinations of northern birds show that old males belong to colour category I - IV (m 2.97) and males of the previous year to category II - VI (m 4.2). Birds (including migrants) collected in Central Europe belong to colour-categories II - VII (adult, m 4.56) and II - VII (juvenile, m 5.17) respectively.

Males trapped on Malta and Gozo for ringing should be classified according to the 7 categories (see photograph). Adults and juveniles have to be separated. The white colouring of the forehead as well as the intensity of the white on the underparts may also have to be examined. There are correlations in this respect.

As generally known the difference in the colour of the upperparts have not yet led to recognize the northern and central European Pied Flycatchers as different races.

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UNUSUAL NUMBER OF EGGS IN A FAN-TAILED WARBLER'S NEST.

~~A nest of the Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* containing seven eggs was found at Ghejn Rihana Valley on 25th April 1984. The female was incubating the eggs. The colour of the eggs was white with reddish spots. The nest was 20cm above the ground and it was rather deep from inside.~~

~~The nest was examined again on 30th April when it still contained the seven eggs. On visiting it again on 7th May, six one-day-old pulli were present. One unhatched egg was~~