

ON THE RED GROUSE FROM IRELAND AND  
THE OUTER HEBRIDES.

BY

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THE Red Grouse from Ireland has been named by Pastor Kleinschmidt *Tetrao hibernicus* (*Falco*, XV., p. 3, 1919), and on the same page the same author has named the Red Grouse from Harris and Lewis, Outer Hebrides, *Tetrao dresseri*.

In examining the very large series of Red Grouse in the British Museum collection I was at once struck by the distinctive appearance of Grouse from Ireland, and on making a careful comparison of thirty Irish Grouse with a very large series of British Grouse it was clear that two forms must be recognized. The specimens of the Irish form examined were males and females in both winter and summer plumage and were dated from Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway and Kerry. Four males from the Outer Hebrides (Lewis, N. Uist and Benbecula) were like the Irish specimens.

As Kleinschmidt's description of *Tetrao hibernicus* appears first on p. 3 of *Falco*, XV., the name of *Lagopus scoticus hibernicus* (Kleinschmidt) must be applied to the Red Grouse from Ireland and the Outer Hebrides.

As a fuller description will appear in the last part of the *Practical Handbook of British Birds* it is only necessary here to state briefly that both sexes in winter plumage are paler and more yellowish, especially on the under-parts, which are finely and closely barred with black; there is very seldom a patch of black on the abdomen of the male, which is barred like the rest of the under-parts; the feathers of the belly and under tail-coverts have either no white tips or only narrow ones.

As is very well known there is considerable variation in Red Grouse from Great Britain and it is probably on this account that British authors, who have remarked on the distinctions of the Irish Grouse, have hesitated to separate it definitely. The British Museum collection contains a very fine and representative series of Red Grouse from Scotland, Ireland and Wales, which when arranged according to sex and season is strikingly different from the series of Irish and Outer Hebridean birds. I am also indebted to Dr. H. Gadow for Irish specimens lent from the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology to assist in my comparison.