



Designation of a lectotype for *Notiomystis cincta hautura* Mathews, 1935 (Aves: Passeriformes: Meliphagidae)

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Mathews (1935) described the population of the New Zealand endemic hihi, or stitchbird *Notiomystis cincta* (Du Bus) from Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) as the subspecies *hautura*, distinct from the nominate subspecies on the mainland of the North Island. Mathews based his description on a series in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, but did not designate a type specimen. The AMNH specimens vary in the quality of the label data associated with them, and the locality information on some is somewhat uncertain.

The North Island population became extinct in the 1880s, but the Little Barrier population has survived. Birds from Little Barrier have been used in a reintroduction program for the species on the North Island, as well as for establishing populations on other islands, including Hen, Cuvier, Mokoia, Kapiti, and Tiritiri Matangi. Research on genetic variation within the species is currently in progress (e.g., Brekke *et al.* 2011). In view of this work, and in the interest of clarifying the nature of variation between the extant Little Barrier and extinct mainland populations, it is desirable to designate a lectotype for *hautura*.

Mathews' description of the subspecies follows in full:

Notiomystes [*sic*] *cincta hautura*, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *N. c. cincta* (Du Bus) in its smaller wing-measurement, and in being more yellow on the band below the black throat. The type-locality of *cincta* Du Bus and *auritris* [*sic*] Lafresnaye is designated the mainland of the North Island of New Zealand.

Measurements.—These birds have a wing-measurement of from 110 to 117 mm., while fifteen birds from Little Barrier Island have a wing-measurement of from 96 to 107, the average being 101 mm.

Distribution.—Little Barrier Island.

Type.—In the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Rothschild collection.

AMNH has fifteen specimens with adult male plumage from the Rothschild collection (AMNH 697350, 697352, 697353, 697356, 697357, 697358, 697359, 697360, 697362, 697363, 697364, 697365, 697369, 697370, 697371). These specimens are evidently those referenced by Mathews in his description. Since he did not designate a holotype from among them, they may be regarded as syntypes for *N. c. hautura*. Mathews appears not to have considered females or juvenile males in his description, although there are three juvenile males and four females from Little Barrier among the Rothschild specimens at AMNH.

Seven of the adult male specimens listed above (697350 to 697359) have more complete label information than the others, including sex (“male”), locality (“Little Barrier,” “Little Barrier Island” or “Little Barrier Isd.”), and date (1885 or 1886). Six others (697362 to 697370) have the locality indicated (“Little Barrier I.” or “Little Barrier Is.”), but lack sex or date. One specimen (AMNH 697360), the only one formerly in Mathews' own collection (originally purchased from Gerrard), has the locality “New Zealand” printed on the Rothschild label; on Mathews' own label “New Zealand” is written in ink and “Little Barrier Island?” in pencil in Mathews' hand. One specimen (697371), formerly in the collection of Sir Walter Buller, has the locality “New Zealand” written on the label in ink, with “Barrier Islan” (*sic*) written in