Notes on Some Oriental Birds.

By

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On taking over and comparing some series of Oriental species of birds in the British Museum I found some account new to my knowledge. Although it is a short miscellaneous note but perhaps it is worth while publishing here.

Emphanis napoleonis.

A highly characterised Palawan Peacock Pheasant is I should think reasonably placed into a separate genus on account of the cock's brilliant hue and well developed crest even in the female. The following name therefore should be applied.

Genus *Emphanis* Bp.

Monotypic—C. R. XLII, p. 878 (1856).

The systematic position of this genus would be placed between *Polyplcteron* and *Chalcurus*.

Temminck described one specimen from Molucca Is. under the name *Polyplecrum emphanum*, Pl. Col. V. pl. 18 (1831) on account of having a very wide white superciliary stripe which is confluent on the nape.

Both McGregor (Bird of Philippines) or Beebe (Monograph of the Pheasant) state this character be found in Palawan, however Temminck's bird in spite of being a fully adult has a short tail (210 mm.) while among the Palawan birds it is about 20 to 30 mm. longer. Also ocelli on the tail is more purplish blue than bottle green in the Temminck's specimen. I know

of no other specimens procured from Molucca but if it is proved the bird is indigenous to this little island it would probably become a local race to the Palawan specimen.

Trochalopterus ripponi.

Specimens from Kauri Kachin dist. in Burma are much browner than the birds of Southern Shan State.

When a series are examined from those localities they will probably form two distinct races.

Argya longirostris.

The result of an examination of a series shows that one group is of a more reddish-rufous colouration especially on the head and tail, this form ranges through Nepal and Oudh to Assam, Khasia hills and Cachar to the South of the Brahmapootra. The typical race *A. l. longirostris* (Nepal) occupies the above mentioned localities and the other, a much browner bird is easily recognisable and is apparantly confined to Manipur. The name for the second race should stand as

Argya l. rubiginosa (Godwin-Austen).

P. Z. S., 1874, p. 47. Manipur.

Chlenasicus fulvifrons.

Two specimens from Nepal are very much darker than the birds from Sikkim and Darjeeling. Their racial separation will no doubt be possible when more material is examined from the type locality. Hodgson's type specimen is in the British Museum.

Prionochilus maculatus.

Northern Malayan and Siamese birds are at once

distinguished by their dark olive green back, for this race the following name should be applied.

P. m. septentrionalis Robinson & Kloss.

Jour. Fed. Malay States.

Mus. X. 1921, p. 206.

The series of Bornean skins which I examined did not show any constant variation from the Malayan bird.

Chibia and its allies with a Description of a new

genus *Dicrachibia*.

Chibia is one of the genera belonging to the so called Drongos as stated in the Catalogue of Birds it has many species. They have a very wide range through India-Assam to Malay Peninsula through Indo-Malayan islands and as far south as in the North and North East of Australia. They are also found all over the Chinese Continent in the East but it is particularly noted that the genus *Chibia* is not found in either Hainan or Formosa.

Racial characters from the various localities are chiefly based on the size in the wing, tail and bill, also the presence and absence of a hair-like crest.

C. hottentotta of India has a well developed hair-crest while *C. ceyensis* and *C. worcesteri* from the Philippines are entirely lacking in this character. While the birds from intermediate localities acquire intermediate characters. Therefore all the birds under the genus *Chibia* ought to belong to one species and the above mentioned characteristics are of no more importance than of subspecific value.

The following races may be distinguished within the Oriental Region.

Chibia h. hottentotta L.

India ranging through Burma to the Malay Peninsula.

Type Loc. Sikkim of Baker, Nov. Zool. XXVI, 1919, p. 44, but Kloss quotes type locality of *S. Central Siam* in the Journ. Fed. Malay St. Mus., X, 1921, p. 221-3.

	Bill
15 from Sikkim & Nepal	32—35.
2 S. Assam	33

Chibia h. bornensis Sharpe.

Borneo. Bongao.

Chibia h. pectoralis (Wallace).

Specimens from Sibutu Is. have a long tail and show hardly any difference from Sula Is. (Type Locality) specimens.

Chibia h. bimaensis (Wallace).

Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Pantar, Alor, Sumba.

Chibia h. manumeten (Stresemann).

Nov. Zool. XXI, 1914, p. 148.

Seran (Manusula, type loc.), Haruku?, Saparua?

Chibia h. palawanensis (Tweeddale).

Balabac, Palawan, Calamianes.

Chibia h. cuyensis McGregor.

Cuyo.

Chibia h. worcesteri McGregor.

Semirara.

Chibia h. brevirostris Cab. & H.

The above name is applied to the Hair-Crested Drongs of Chinese race by La Touche.

Their long frontal bristle falls as far back as the middle of the back in *C. h. hottentotta* while in *C. h. brevirostris* it generally terminates at the lower neck. The characteristic falcated neck feather reaches to its maximum development in the Western

race while it is very small in the Eastern; it is however in Cambodia and West Chinese bird show intermediate type or rather nearer to *C. h. hottentotta* in this respect.

Cambodian specimen has a bill 33 mm.

30 East, South-east and West Chinese birds have a bill between 27—30.

Chinese birds also have short wing and tail measurements.

13 specimens, South China.		8 sp. Eastern China.
wing	162—175	164—175
Central Tail	130—138	135—145
Rareky	140	

There is one peculiarly developed form which is confined to a small island of Tablas, one of the Philippine group. It was called *Chibia menagei* by all the previous writers, the bird resembles *C. hottentotta* in having a strong bill and a brilliant metallic tinge on the feathers and has very diminutive falcated feathers on the back which is a highly characterised feature of *Chibia* group. The tail feather of *menagei* is quite unlike its allies which is a much elongated shape of *Dicrurus* with a strongly forked twist curved outwards and slightly upwards in the outer pair. The length of the wing is about two thirds of the outer tail feather while in the *Dicrurus* the wing is about the same or a little shorter than the longest tail.

Chibia menagei has an intermediate character between *Chibia* and *Dicrurus* and it cannot reasonably be classified with *Chibia* as it used to be or into *Dicrurus* therefore this bird should have a genus of its own which should be placed between *Chibia* and *Dicrurus* :

I propose to call it *Dicrachibia* gen. nov.

Monotype—*D. menagei*.

The Philippine fauna consists of a most complicated intermediation of Oriental and Australian elements and *Dicrachibia* shows some affinities to *Dicranostreptus* of New Ireland.

第七十圖 (Fig. 70)

Tail feathers of three Genera of Drongos.

- a. *Dicrurus leucophæus*.
- b. *Dicrachibia menageri*.
- c. *Chibia hottentotta*.