A NEW RACE OF CYORNIS FROM THE JAVA SEA

by

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Cyornis rufigastra longipennis subsp. nov.

Like C. r. rufigastra (RAFFLES) of the Malay Peninsula and Borneo but larger; perhaps less bright above and below in both sexes; this different tint, however, may be due to a bleaching effect of the marine climate in which the bird lives and not truly represent the real colour of the feathers.

Type. — Adult male, collected on Karimon-Java Island, Java Sea, 15th May, 1926, by Dr. K. W. DAMMERMAN, No. 4012.

Specimens examined. — 2 adult males, 3 adult females and 2 juvenile females, all from the Karimon-Java Islands, compared with thirty-six examples from the Malay Peninsula, Rhio Archipelago, Sumatra (one), and Borneo — all of which we regard as C. r. rufigastra: and six skins from Sebesi Island in the Sunda Strait which may represent rhizophorae of STRESEMANN (cf., Bull. Raffles Mus., No. 2, 1929, p. 39).

Remarks. — The wings of the small series of adults before us measure 80, 82 (type); 75, 77 and 79 mm. This range seems sufficiently distinct from that of C. r. rufigastra in which the wing gives a range of 71 - 77 mm in males and 68 - 73 mm in females. The islands of the Bornean area seem to produce the largest birds among those we regard as rufigastra: and two from Banguey Island, North Borneo have the wing measuring male 80, female 74 mm (t.c.s., p. 37).

The wing measurements given by ROBINSON and KINNEAR 1) for their C. b. beccariana (= our C. r. rufigastra) are exactly the same as those given by us for a different series 2).

A large form, at present only known by one male, also occurs in the Karimata Islands, off south west Borneo. This is C. r. karimatensis OBERHOLSER: it is stated to have the underparts of an deep colour. Birds from Banka Islands (calocephala OBERH.) and those from the mainland of Java (rhizophorae STRESEM.) are small.

We are indebted to Dr. DAMMERMAN, Director of the Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg, Java, for the opportunity of examining these skins.