PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSES OF NEW BIRDS FROM MALAYSIA.

By

F. N. CHASEN

(Director, Raffles Museum, Singapore).

Pteruthius flaviscapis leuser subsp. nov.

Female like the continental aeralatus above, that is with less chestnut on the inner secondaries, than in the Sumatran cameranoi, but the under parts deeply buff as in this last named race.

Type. — Female, collected on Mt. Leuser, Atjeh, North Sumatra, 900-2000 metres, on 8th February, 1937. Mus. Buitenzorg, No. 10200.

Specimens examined. — A male and a female, compared with long series of the two most closely allied races. These North Sumatran birds seem to represent a race exactly intermediate in characters between the two races found on the Malayan and South Sumatran mountains.

Oriolus maculatus edgari subsp. nov.

Like O. m. maculatus of Java, but the bill larger.

Type. — Adult female, collected on Singapore Island, on 26th April, 1937. Raffles Museum.

Remarks. — Although it has not hitherto been realized, there is a breeding race of this oriole in the south of the Malay Peninsula. In winter its range is invaded by large numbers of the migratory diffusus. This breeding race is very like the resident bird of Java. Mr. Hoogerwerf's collection now confirms the conclusion arrived at by Dr. G. C. A. Junge and myself in Leiden last year that the Sumatran race is also the large-billed form. In this case I have selected a Malayan bird as the type as it seems that the racial character is slightly more pronounced in Malayan than in Sumatran examples. Mr. A. T. Edgar was the first to find the nest in the Malay States.

Cyanoderma rufifrons sarawacensis subsp. nov.

Nearest to C. r. poliogaster of the Malay States and Sumatra, but the crown slightly more orange and less chestnut; and the lores and anterior part of the supercilium grey, not whitish.

Type. — Adult male, collected on Mt. Poi, West Sarawak, 4-5000 ft., by E. Banks. Sarawak Museum.

Remarks. — Mr. Hoogerwerf was fortunate in getting an example of this very rare babbler on his expedition. The fresh skin has enabled me to adjudge the degree to which the few available skins are likely to have been altered by

fading. A second Bornean specimen comes from the Ulu Trusan in North Sarawak.

Terpsiphone paradisi madzoedi subsp. nov.

Nearest to *T. p. insularis* of Nias Island, but the abdomen white, not grey. *Type.* — Adult male, collected at Lesten, Atjeh, North Sumatra, 700 metres (c.), on 18th March, 1937. Mus. Buitenzorg, No. 11594.

Remarks.—The finding of a grey-headed race of this flycatcher on the mountains of North Sumatra is another of Mr. Hoogerwere's more interesting discoveries. Two males and a female (all in the brown phase) have the entire head, neck and breast grey, with the crown only slightly darker than the cheeks and throat. In the adjacent lowlands of North-East Sumatra a black-crowned race is found (T. p. indochinensis).

At Mr. Hoogerwerf's request I have associated this new race with the name of a diligent Sundanese collector who accompanied the expedition to Atjeh.

Erpornis zantholeuca saäni subsp. nov.

Nearest to the Bornean race E. z. brunnescens, but the upper parts less yellow and more deeply green: cap, darker.

Type. — A female collected near Pendeng, Atjeh, North Sumatra, 500-800 metres, on 19th February, 1937. Mus. Buitenzorg, No. 10300.

Remarks. — This specimen seems to be the first recorded example of the species from the island of Sumatra. It needs no comparison with its nearest neighbour, the very much yellower interposita of the Malay Peninsula. It has been compared with long series of brunnescens.

The subspecific name is in recognition of the valuable services rendered by another of Mr. Hoogerwerf's collectors.