

## BULBULS

### Family PYCNONOTIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 200; Vol. II., p. 155.

As a family the bulbuls are hard to define and the limits of the group are vague. For instance, some ornithologists include as bulbuls the leaf-birds, here regarded as constituting a family by themselves, the *Ægithinidæ*.

The bulbuls are medium-sized birds, the largest of which has the bulk of a large thrush, although most of the species are smaller. The bill varies in shape, but in the great majority of the species it is short, fairly straight and rather weak. The nostrils are exposed and not covered by small feathers. The legs are short and the feet are weak.

The plumage on the rump is full and thick, recalling the cuckoo-shrikes, but the shafts of the feathers are not noticeably thickened as in that family. A noteworthy feature is the presence of some long hair-like feathers on the nape. The short and rounded wing has ten primaries. The tail is of medium length and, more often than not, square or slightly rounded.

The plumage is usually dull and the sexes are alike; young birds are very much like the adults. In most of the species the feathers on the top of the head are modified to form a crest, although this is often not very conspicuous and consists only of the very slightly lengthened feathers of the crown being pointed and erectile.

Typically the nest is placed in bushes and trees and is rather loosely made and cup-like. In the Malay Peninsula a common clutch is two or three heavily marked eggs.

The bulbuls are represented in Palestine and there are a number of African species. Nevertheless the present headquarters of the family are in the Oriental Region, and no less than twenty-five species are found in the Malay Peninsula, where many are common birds of the forests and scrub of the lowlands. Only one species is strictly confined in range to the mountains. They are mainly arboreal in their habits, and feed on fruit, berries and insects. Some species have pleasing songs.

## KEY TO THE MALAYAN LOWLAND BULBULS

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Throat heavily and conspicuously streaked with bright yellow                          | } | <i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni</i> , p. 257           |
|   | Under tail coverts, bright red  |   | <i>Otocompsa jocosa erythrotis</i> , p. 264                |
|   | Throat, white; breast, bright yellow, sharply contrasted                              | } | <i>Alophoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus</i> , p. 255     |
| 1 | Breast, squamate, the feathers deep black with white fringes . . .                    |   | <i>Rubigula squamata webberi</i> , p. 264                  |
|   | Head, neck all round, breast and abdomen, pale grey                                   | } | <i>Rubigula cyaniventris cyaniventris</i> , p. 263         |
|   | Head and neck all round, black . . .  |   | 2  |
|   | The remainder . . .   |   | 4  |
|   | Plumage, brownish black with a large white wing patch . . .                           |   | <i>Microtarsus melanoleucus</i> , p. 252                   |
| 2 | Plumage, grey . . .   |   | <i>Brachypodius atriceps atriceps</i> (grey phase), p. 250 |
|   | General plumage, yellowish green . . .  |   | 3  |
|   | Tail quills with broad yellow tips . . .  |   | <i>Brachypodius atriceps atriceps</i> , p. 250             |
| 3 | Tail quills without yellow tips . . .   |   | <i>Otocompsa flaviventris minor</i> , p. 264               |
|   | Top of head, golden yellow . . .  |   | <i>Trachycomus zeylanicus</i> , p. 257                     |
| 4 | Top of head, glossy black . . .   |   | <i>Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster</i> , p. 258           |
|   | Top of head, grey, brown or green . . .   |   | 5  |
|   | Throat and breast heavily streaked with white . . .                                   |   | <i>Ixos malaccensis malaccensis</i> , p. 245               |
| 5 | Throat, white, sharply contrasted against pale grey breast . . .                      |   | <i>Ixos cinereus</i> , p. 245                              |
|   | With broad, white eye-stripes and yellow under tail coverts . . .                     |   | <i>Pycnonotus goiavier analis</i> , p. 257                 |
|   | Not as above . . .  |   | 7  |
|   | Entire under parts, dirty white washed with brownish grey . . .                       |   | <i>Euptilosus eutilotus</i> , p. 249                       |
|   | Entire under parts, greenish yellow . . .   |   | <i>Criniger finschii</i> , p. 254                          |
| 6 | Throat, white; under tail coverts, cinnamon; breast and abdomen, dull greenish yellow | } | <i>Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys</i> , p. 254           |
|   | Throat, white; breast, etc., dull greyish buff . . .                                  |   | <i>Criniger ochraceus</i> subsp., p. 253                   |
|   | Throat and upper breast, whitish; breast, etc., pale yellow . . .                     |   | <i>Tricholestes criniger criniger</i> , p. 256             |
|   | Ear coverts with paler shaft stripes . . .  |   | 8  |
| 7 | Ear coverts uniformly brown . . .   |   | 9  |

- |    |   |  |   |  |
|----|---|--|---|--|
| 8  | { | Under parts, creamy buff; iris, grey;  | { | <i>Pycnonotus blanfordi robinsoni</i> ,    |
|    |   | little green wash on wings and tail    |   | p. 258                                     |
| 8  | { | Under parts, greyish brown; iris, red; | { | <i>Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus</i> ,      |
|    |   | much green wash on wings and tail      |   | p. 258                                     |
| 9  | { | Feathers on crown slightly lengthened  |   | <i>Iole olivacea</i> subsp., p. 247        |
|    |   | and lanceolate . . . . .               |   |  |
|    |   | Feathers of crown normal . . . . .     |   | 10   |
| 10 | { | Iris, white; under parts paler, almost | { | <i>Pycnonotus simplex simplex</i> , p. 260 |
|    |   | creamy on abdomen . . . . .            |   |  |
|    |   | Iris, red; size larger, wing 3.1 to    |   | p. 261                                     |
|    |   | 3.5 in.; throat, buffy                 |   |  |
|    |   | Iris, red; size smaller, wing 2.8 to   | { | <i>Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos ery-</i>    |
|    |   | 3.1 in.; throat, greyish               |   |  |

*Ixos cinereus***The Ashy Bulbul**

Vol. II., p. 157.

Upper parts, dark brownish grey (perhaps grey-brown would be a better description of old skins), brownest on the wings and tail, and pure grey on the forehead. Chin, throat and abdomen, white; across the breast a broad grey zone, extending to the flanks, fairly sharply defined against the white throat. A blackish patch below the eye.

Total length, about 7.7 in.; wing, 3.8 in.

In the Malay States this is essentially a submontane species frequenting the tall old forest, but it also occurs in the vicinity of the hills, locally, at little more than sea-level, and I have specimens from the lowlands of South Johore. Nidification unknown.

*Ixos malaccensis malaccensis***The Streaked Bulbul**

PLATE 14 (lower figure)

Vol. II., p. 158.

*Hypsipetes malaccensis* Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiv., 1845, p. 574 (Malacca).

*Hemixus malaccensis*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 52; Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 307.

*Iole malaccensis*, Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 283.

*Iole malaccensis malaccensis*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 404; Stuart Baker, *Nid. Birds Ind. Emp.*, i., 1932, p. 385.

*Ixos malaccensis*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v. 1924, p. 265.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—A largish bulbul with the upper parts dark brownish olive.

Throat and breast, ashy grey streaked with white. Abdomen, white. Feathers of the crown pointed and narrowed. Rather like *Ixos maccllellandi peracensis* (a mountain form), but the upper parts much darker, not so bright green, the abdomen whiter and the sides of the breast not tinged with brown. Crown olive, not brown, with pale shaft streaks.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts, dark brownish olive; wings and tail, blackish brown, the outer edges of the feathers very narrowly dark olive; ear coverts, greyish olive, streaked with white; lores, greyish; chin, throat and breast, ashy grey, heavily streaked with white, and faintly tinged with olive on the sides of the neck and breast. Remaining under parts, white, the flanks washed with ashy grey and faintly tinged with olive. Axillaries white; under wing coverts and edge of wing, white, often faintly tinged with yellow.

**Immature.**—The youngest bird examined is changing from the juvenile to the adult plumage. The remains of the former plumage, on the crown and wings, are rather bright brown, without any olive tinge.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, ochraceous, orange, brown or red; bill, brownish horn to very dark brown, occasionally dark greenish slate; culmen darker, sometimes black, the lower mandible often paler; feet, pinkish brown, brown, sooty or blackish.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 8.5 to 9 in.; tail, 3.6 to 3.7 in.; wing, 4 to 4.35 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 1 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—The whole length of the Peninsula on both sides from north to south, but not on any of the small islands except Telibun just off the west coast of Peninsular Siam.

**Extralimital Range.**—Extends up into Tenasserim to about the latitude of Mergui, but on the Siamese side the limit seems to be at about the Pakchan estuary. The species has been recorded from French Indo-China.

**Nidification.**—A nest with two eggs, taken in Perak on 17th June by Mr W. A. T. Kellow and described by Mr Stuart Baker, was found in a horizontal fork of a high bush. It is described as "a shallow saucer made of fine twigs, a leaf or two and some grass, lined with fine roots and well covered outside with spiders' webs." The two eggs, which measured about 0.9 by 0.66 in., are described as follows: "The ground-colour pale bright pink, freely speckled all over with pale pinkish red, slightly more numerous at the larger end, but not forming a cap. There are a good many secondary indistinct freckles of pale neutral tint, rather more numerous also at the larger end, where they give, more in one egg than in the other, a sub-grey tinge to the red markings."

**Habits.**—Essentially a bird of the drier, lowland forests, this bulbul seems to be rather rare and local in Peninsular Siam, but farther south in the Malay States it is much commoner, though still rather local in its distribution. It is numerous on the foothills of the main range and on the hills in the south of the Peninsula, but it disappears at about 3000 ft. and is not common at that altitude. It is largely a fruit-eater.

The bird figured in the plate is a female from Kuala Teku, Pahang.

*Iole olivacea olivacea*  
**The Southern Malayan Olive Bulbul**

PLATE 15 (*lower figure*)

Vol. II., p. 160.

*Iole olivacea* Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiii., 1844, p. 386 (Singapore); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 55.

*Iole olivacea olivacea*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 266.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—A dull-coloured species difficult to characterize. Upper parts, olive-brown; under parts, paler, becoming almost creamy yellow on the abdomen. Crown feathers, narrow and pointed (lanceolate).

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts, dull olive-brown, slightly richer brown on the crown and very faintly rufescent on the upper tail coverts and tail quills, especially in worn plumage. Concealed parts of wing quills, dark smoky brown. Lores, an indistinct supercilium, and ear coverts, buffy olive. Under parts, buff, washed with pale grey-brown on sides of the breast and flanks, and brightening to almost yellowish cream on the middle of the abdomen and on the under tail coverts, which are indistinctly streaked with brown and sometimes slightly tinged with fawn. Under wing coverts and edge of the wing, whitish yellow.

**Immature.**—Very like the adult. The youngest specimen examined is changing from juvenile to adult plumage. The remains of the former plumage on the back and wings suggest that it was a paler, less olive, more rufescent brown than in adults.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, dirty white, greyish white to grey-brown; upper mandible, dark grey to blackish brown; lower mandible, paler, greyer, often flesh-colour or pale brown at the base. Feet, grey-brown, brown or olive-brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 7.3 to 7.7 in.; tail, 2.75 to 3 in.; wing, 3.2 to 3.5 in.; tarsus, 0.75 in.; bill from gape, 0.9 to 1 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From the state of Trang, in Peninsular Siam, where it seems to be rare, the dominant form there being the northern race, next to be described, down both sides of the Peninsula south to and including Singapore Island. I have also seen undoubted specimens from Bandon, and there is, therefore, a considerable overlap in the ranges of this form and *Iole o. propinqua*.

**Extralimital Range.**—Sumatra; the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago; Banka and Billiton; the North Natuna Islands. Other very similar subspecies occur in the Anamba Islands and Borneo.

**Nidification.**—According to Mr A. T. Edgar this bulbul breeds in January, March, May and June. The nests are placed from five to six feet from the ground in bushes and saplings in jungle thickets and glades in scrub jungle. One nest was on top of a palm frond in fairly open jungle. Another was twenty feet up on the outer branch of a small tree. The nest is of the usual bulbul type, a shallow cup, made variously of dry rootlets, pieces of palm

frond, dead or skeleton leaves, dry blades of lalang grass, strips of fibrous bark, and sometimes bound with dry tendrils. It is always lined with fine fibre or rootlets. Sometimes there is a little cobweb on the outside and often it is ornamented with blobs of green moss or tree cotton. The clutch is usually two eggs, which average 0.90 by 0.62 in. They are generally long, pointed ovals, but sometimes blunt ovals. The ground-colour is pinkish; the markings are variable, purplish brown, reddish brown or pinkish brown, with an equally variable amount of grey or lilac undermarkings. The shell is tougher than that of *Pycnonotus analis*.

**Habits.**—A very common bird in the lowlands of the Peninsula, where it is found in a variety of forest (with the possible exception of mangrove) and in secondary growth, orchards on the outskirts of villages, and even the gardens of bungalows where these are near to jungle. It is, however, normally a bird of forest-land and not of the cultivated areas and towns. I have never seen it on the ground. The food consists of berries, other fruits and insects.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Kledang Hill, Perak.

### *Iole olivacea propinqua*

#### The Northern Malayan Olive Bulbul

*Criniger propinquus* Oustalet, *Nouv. Arch. Mus.*, 4th ser., v., 1903 (Tonkin).

*Iole virescens cinnamomeoventris*, Stuart Baker, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxxviii., 1917, p. 16 (Tenasserim); Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 407.

*Iole olivacea cinnamomeoventris*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 266.

**Description.**—So like the foregoing race that a detailed description is unnecessary. In the present form the upper parts are slightly paler, rather more olive and less brown; the under parts are rather darker with more brown wash on the flanks and abdomen, and the under tail coverts are pale cinnamon-buff—that is to say, more richly coloured than is the southern race.

**Soft Parts.**—As in the southern race.

**Dimensions.**—Very slightly smaller than the southern race. Wing, 3 to 3.3 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Occurs only in Peninsular Siam from the northern limit at the Isthmus of Kra south to Nakon Sritammarat and the state of Trang, where the typical subspecies has also been collected. Inhabits also several of the small coastal islands off the west coast of Peninsular Siam and Junk Zeylon.

**Extralimital Range.**—North to South Tenasserim, South-East Siam and French Indo-China, where, according to Messrs Delacour and Jabouille, it is the form found from Tonkin to Cochin-China. A very slightly different subspecies, *I. o. lonnbergi*, described from North Siam, is found in Tenasserim north of the range of *propinqua*, the Shan States, Yunnan and East Siam.

Another subspecies, *virescens*, extends the range of the species through South and Central Burma to Tippera and Cachar.

**Nidification.**—Unknown.

**Habits.**—" This is a forest bird, but occurring also in thin jungle and even well-wooded gardens. It is met with singly or in pairs, foraging about the trees and living chiefly on berries, and never, I believe, descending to the ground. They are rather lively birds, moving about a great deal, and having a pleasant soft whistling note, something like that of *Ixos finlaysoni*, but distinguishable at once " (Tenasserim, *Davison*). I have never seen the bird in life.

### *Euptilosus eutilotus*

#### The Crested Brown Bulbul

*Brachypus eutilotus* Jardine and Selby, *Ill. Orn.* (new ser.), 1836, pl. 3 (Singapore).

*Pinarocichla euptilosa*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 62; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 279; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 399.

*Euptilosus euptilosus*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 267.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—A distinct crest on the head. Upper parts, brownish olive; lower parts, whitish; plumage on the rump curiously thickened, the shafts of the feathers slightly spinous and with the black bases of the feathers showing through in patches.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Crown, sides of neck and nape, brownish grey, darkest and greyest on the crown, where the feathers have darker centres. Remaining upper parts, brownish olive, tinged with ochraceous on the wings, the concealed part of the wing quills smoky black, the innermost edges whitish. Upper tail coverts and tail, ochraceous-brown with a ferruginous tinge, the three outer pairs of tail quills tipped with white and with an obsolete subterminal dusky band. Rump patched with black, owing to the dark bases of the feathers showing through; a few of the feathers covering the lower flanks, black, tipped with white. Lores and ear coverts, brownish grey, the ear coverts finely striped with white. Under parts, white, washed with grey on the breast and sometimes tinged with yellowish buff on the abdomen and under tail coverts. Edge of the wing, under wing coverts and axillaries, white, tinged with yellow.

**Immature.**—I have never seen a young bird, but Sharpe records that a young female can be distinguished from the old birds by its " browner bill, generally paler coloration and less distinct white-tipping to the tail feathers and long flank feathers."

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, red; bill, black; feet, dark grey to black. According to Davison, the iris is crimson in males and varies from wood-brown to litharge-red in females.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 8.1 to 8.4 in.; tail, 3.4 to 3.6 in.; wing, 3.6 to 3.8 in.; tarsus, 0.8 in.; bill from gape, 0.85 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From the northern limit at the Pakchan estuary down both sides of the Peninsula to the extreme south of Johore. The locality "Singapore" needs confirmation.

**Extralimital Range.**—North to the south of Tenasserim. Sumatra, Banka and Borneo.

**Nidification.**—Unknown.

**Habits.**—This bulbul is by no means a common bird in the Malay Peninsula and it is very local in distribution. It is purely a lowland species. Near Kuala Tembing, in Pahang, I have collected it in secondary growth not far from Malay houses, and in South Perak Robinson met with it in "low undergrowth in dense jungle, climbing about with restless and jerky movements, alternately raising and depressing its crest." Specimens in the local museums are from Bandon, in Peninsular Siam, and various parts of Selangor and Perak. Davison obtained specimens in Malacca and Johore. In the neighbourhood of the Pakchan the same collector found it confined to open land and scrub jungle. He writes: "This species seems to avoid the forests, and affects small clumps of trees or bushes, or patches of scrub jungle in open or cultivated country. It is only seen singly or in pairs, and is a very scarce bird, even where it does occur, in the extreme south of Tenasserim. It is remarkable that I have not yet met with this species anywhere farther south in the Peninsula. Its note is more that of an *Otocompsa*, a whistled 'kick pettigrew,' and not a bit of the chirping chatter of *C. griseiceps* and the other forest *Crinigers*. The situations, too, in which you find it are rather those to which *Otocompsa* would resort." The only occasion on which collectors of the local museums have ever found it abundant was in the month of July, at Rawang, in Selangor, when numbers of the birds were attracted by a fruiting *Ficus* tree.

*Brachypodius atriceps atriceps* ✓

**The Malaysian Black-headed Bulbul**

PLATE 15 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 160.

*Turdus atriceps* Temminck, *Pl. Col.*, 147, 1823 (Java).

*Micropus melanocephalus*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 65; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 294.

*Microtarsus melanocephalus melanocephalus*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 423 (pt.).

*Brachypodius atriceps atriceps*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 267.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—A small, greenish-yellow species, with the head black and the tail tipped with bright yellow.

**Adult male.**—Head all round sharply defined, glossy black, with faint violet and green reflections. Above and below, olive-yellow, darkest and



greenest on the back, slightly paler and yellower on the wings and breast, and lightening to deep yellow with a faint green wash on the rump, abdomen and upper and under tail coverts. Under wing coverts and axillaries, lemon-yellow. Wing quills and primary coverts, black, narrowly white on the inner edge, the outer edge of the secondaries and the whole outer web of the innermost feathers, olive-yellow. The rump feathers, black at the base, and even in the undisturbed plumage the rump is patched, or indistinctly barred, with black. Tail quills, olive-yellow, subterminally broadly black, and broadly tipped with yellow, increasing in amount from the centre feathers outwards.

*Adult female*.—Usually darker, that is greener and less yellow, than the male, and often with a slightly narrower yellow tail-tip, but there is much variation among males, either dependent on age or merely individual, even in one locality, and the sexes are not always separable. Some males are as dull as any female, but I have never seen a female as bright as the yellowest of males.

**Soft Parts**.—Iris, pale china-blue; bill, black; feet, slaty black, brown-black or black.

**Dimensions**.—Total length, 6·7 to 7·1 in.; tail, 2·5 to 2·7 in.; wing, 2·9 to 3·1 in.; tarsus, 0·6 in.; bill from gape, 0·8 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula**.—The whole of the Peninsula, including the islands off the west coast of Peninsular Siam; Langkawi Island; Penang; Singapore Island; Koh Samui, off the north-east coast.

**Extralimital Range**.—North to at least Koh Lak in South-West Siam, and birds from the southern part of French Indo-China are similar. A larger race (*cinereoventris*, syn. *major* Robinson and Kloss) is found in Eastern Bengal, Assam and, at least, most of Burma. It occurs sporadically as far south as the Pakchan estuary, but Tavoy is probably nearer the southern limit of the true range. Reasonable limits for the range of the two forms in Burma and Siam have yet to be fixed.

*Brachypodius a. atriceps* also occur in Sumatra, Banka, Billiton, Nias, the Mentawi Islands, Borneo, Java, Bali and Palawan. Other subspecies have been described from the Andaman Islands, Simalur Island off the west coast of Sumatra; Bawean Island in the Java Sea; and Maratua Island off the east coast of Borneo.

*Note*.—A striking mutation or “sport” of this species is not rare. In it the yellows and greens of the normal plumage are replaced by pale grey. In Cachar, according to Mr Stuart Baker, grey and yellow birds are found in the same flock. In many other parts of the range of the species grey birds are unknown, and I have never seen one from the Malay Peninsula, where the species is very common. Both grey and yellow “phases” are found in Java, and on Bawean Island in the Java Sea. From the Maratua Islands only grey birds are as yet known, but these also differ from the typical form in other ways, and they merit recognition as a separate subspecies.

**Nidification**.—At the end of January Mr A. T. Edgar has found eggs of this species in Perak. The nest was well hidden and four feet from the ground at the base of a palm growing in scrub at the foot of hill forest. This nest

was made of dead and skeleton leaves and strips of bark, bound with lengths of dry fern stalks and lined with fine grass. The edges of the nest were felted with cobwebs. The two eggs measured 0.82 by 0.63 in. Mr Edgar describes them as blunt ovals, very highly glossed, and with very fragile shells. One egg was very darkly marked with purple and purplish brown: the other had much smaller and finer markings. Both eggs had grey undermarkings. In Selangor, Mr G. C. Madoc had seen eggs in February, in a nest eight feet from the ground in a fork near the end of a branch on the edge of a jungle clearing. This nest was a shallow cup of bamboo leaves, dry bark and fibres, lined with black fibre. Mr Madoc describes the eggs as finely spotted with a darker shade on a paler background of pinky brown.

In March he examined four more nests with eggs, all within one hundred yards of each other, in a Sakai rubber-holding in the jungle. Three of the nests were from four to eight feet from the ground in a thicket of saplings on the edge of the jungle. The fourth nest was about twenty-five feet up in one of the topmost forks of a rubber-tree.

Mr V. W. Ryves, working in Perak and Negri Sembilan, gives the season as from March to July, and says that the nest is usually in the fork of a shrub or sapling in secondary jungle.

**Habits.**—This handsome bulbul is very common in the Malay Peninsula wherever there is forest and secondary growth. It also enters gardens and cultivated areas, although not those in the immediate environs of large towns. Occasionally it is seen in pairs, the two birds keeping close together, but more usually it is met with in small flocks in fruiting trees, especially wild figs. The food consists, at least to a great extent, of fruit. Occasionally the small flocks can be seen working through the low bushes near the ground. It is a tame little bird, allowing a close approach. Robinson records it as one of the few birds at all numerous in the patches of heavy jungle on the hills of Koh Samui, an island off the north-east coast of the Peninsula. It has also been recorded as swarming in gardens at Chong, in the state of Trang, Peninsular Siam. It still clings to one or two wooded spots in Singapore Island. On Penang Hill it is common. It is essentially a bird of the lowlands, but ascends the hills to about 3000 ft. According to Davison, its notes are unlike those of other bulbuls. He describes the ordinary one as a "lively, sharp, but pleasant single chirp," and another note, uttered only when sitting, as a "melancholy double whistle."

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Penang Hill.

*Microtarsus melanoleucus*.

**The Black-and-White Bulbul**

Vol. II., p. 161.

Entire plumage, in adults of both sexes, sooty black, except for the upper and under wing coverts, which are largely white.

Young birds are quite different and have the plumage brown, darker on the upper parts, and with the tail feathers very narrowly tipped with white.

Without being rare, this is one of the least common of the Malayan bulbuls, and very little is known of its habits. It has been taken in heavy forest at high altitudes on the mountains and also in scrubby forest on the coast of Selangor. The nidification is unknown.

*Criniger ochraceus ochraceus*.

**The Northern Crested Bulbul**

*Criniger ochraceus* Horsfield and Moore, *Cat. Birds, Mus. East Ind. Coy.*, i., 1854, p. 252 (Tenasserim).

*Criniger gutturalis* (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 80; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 256.

?*Criniger salangæ*, Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 309.

*Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 362.

*Criniger gutturalis ochraceus*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 269.

**Malay Name.**—Merbah bĕrjanggut.

**Description.**—A large pale brown bulbul with a conspicuous white throat. Head, markedly crested. Extremely like the southern race, *Criniger ochraceus sacculatus*, described in Vol. II. of this work (p. 161), but the under parts rather paler, more ochraceous and less washed with brown on the flanks: under tail coverts nearer buff and less deeply tawny.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Feathers of the hind part of the crown, long, narrow and pointed. Upper parts, including wings, olive-brown, greenest and greyest on the mantle, less olive on the head and turning to rufescent brown on the tail. Concealed portions of the wing quills, dull hair-brown, the innermost edges smoky white. Lores, and an ill-defined supercilium, grey; sides of the head, grey-brown. Chin and throat, white, fairly sharply defined against the breast, the feathers slightly lengthened into a short beard. Remaining under parts, dull buff, washed with brown on the breast and flanks and turning to almost creamy buff on the middle of the abdomen and under tail coverts, the latter very faintly rufescent. Edge of the wing, axillaries and under wing coverts, pale yellowish buff.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, chocolate to brownish red; bill, plumbeous, slightly paler on the lower mandible and blackish on the culmen; feet, horny pink to plumbeous, with pinkish soles (*Robinson*).

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 8·7 to 9·1 in.; tail, 3·7 to 3·9 in.; wing, 3·95 to 4·3 in.; tarsus, 0·8 in.; bill from gape, 0·95 in. Females run rather smaller: wing, 3·8 to 4 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From the northern limit of our area at the Isthmus of Kra south to Perlis and Langkawi Island on the west coast, and to Nakon Sritammarat, and no doubt much farther south, on the east coast. Junk Zeylon.

**Extralimital Range.**—North to Moulmein and North Siam. Also found

in South Annam and Cochin-China. A closely allied subspecies inhabits Cambodia.

**Nidification.**—Nests and eggs from Perak described by Mr Stuart Baker are certainly not of this form. An egg from Junk Zeylon (19th May) is described by Oates as of “a pinkish cream-colour, sparingly marked with some round spots of chestnut and some specks and irregular spots of underlying lavender.” Size, 0.85 by 0.65 in. I doubt the correctness of the identification.

**Habits.**—A rather shy, but noisy, bird of the forests found in small parties in trees, feeding largely on berries and rarely descending to the ground. Unlike the southern subspecies (*sacculatus*) it is a lowland bird, ascending the hills to just over 3000 ft.

*Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys* ✓

**The Malay Crested Scrub-Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 209; Vol. II., p. 163, pl. 13.

Top of the head, brown; back, dark brownish green, browner on the wings and chestnut-brown on the tail. Eye-stripes and sides of the head, grey; chin and throat, white; remaining under parts, yellowish buff, washed with pale brown on the flanks, with grey on the breast and cinnamon on the under tail coverts; on the breast some indistinct brighter yellow streaks.

Total length, about 8.75 in.; wing, 3.7 in.

This large bulbul is common in heavy forest throughout the lowlands of the Peninsula, but it is rarely seen in secondary growth, or cultivated areas except where these are on the outskirts of the old forest. The eggs have been recorded from Perak, but I am not certain that the identification is correct.

*Criniger finschii* ✓

**Finsch's Bulbul**

Vol. II., p. 163.

*Criniger finschii* Salvadori, *Atti. R. Accad. Torini*, vi., 1871, p. 128 (Borneo); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 84, pl. 6, fig. 1.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—The smallest species of the genus. Olive-brown above and greenish yellow below. Not unlike *Iole olivacea*, but rather smaller and the under parts much yellower.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts, dark olive-brown, brownest on the crown, very slightly greener on the upper tail coverts; tail quills, dull hair-brown, very faintly rufescent, especially in worn plumage, the edges of the feathers narrowly edged with olive. Concealed parts of the wing quills, dull hair-brown, the inner edge of the feathers, smoky. Lores and sides of the face, olive-brown. Point of the chin, greyish; remaining under parts, greenish yellow, brightest and almost pure dark yellow on the centre of the abdomen and under tail coverts; the sides of the neck, the breast and flanks washed with dusky olive. Under wing coverts, axillaries and edge of the wing, pale greenish yellow, the outer wing coverts with a patch of brown.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, yellowish brown to brown; upper mandible, black or brown-black; lower mandible, grey to pinkish brown; feet, yellowish brown or brown (*Kloss*).

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 7.3 to 7.7 in.; tail, 2.75 to 3 in.; wing, 3.25 to 3.5 in.; 3.25 in two females; tarsus, 0.65 in.; bill from gape, 0.8 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Known only from a few localities in Lower Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Malacca and Johore.

**Extralimital Range.**—Sumatra and Borneo.

**Nidification.**—Unknown.

**Habits.**—This is a rare bird and little is known of its habits. It is certainly a forest species and known to ascend the foothills of Gunong Tahan to an unknown height over 2000 ft. In Lower Perak and in South Johore it has been collected in swamp jungle in the lowlands. Davison, who obtained it in Johore, records that it "is essentially a forest bird, and even where it was obtained it was apparently rare. Like the rest of its congeners at the time it was found to be feeding greedily on a small berry." And again: "The note is that of the *Crinigers*, and it has the same habit of puffing out the feathers of the throat, that is so conspicuous in these."

*Alphoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus*

**The Crestless White-throated Bulbul**

PLATE 14 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 163.

*Ixos phaeocephalus* Hartlaub, *Rev. Mag. Zool.*, 1844, p. 401 (Malacca).

*Criniger phaeocephalus*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 74.

*Alphoixus phaeocephalus*, Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 259; Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 309; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 368.

*Alphoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 271.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.

**Description.**—Distinctive in appearance. Head, grey; throat, white; back, olive; wings and tail, brownish; under parts, yellow.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Top of the head, dark grey, the centres of the feathers rather darker; ear coverts and sides of the neck, paler and purer grey; lores, nearly white; chin and throat, white, sharply defined against the breast; remaining under parts, including axillaries and wing lining, lemon-yellow, washed with brownish olive on the sides of the breast and flanks. Mantle, back and rump, brownish olive, tips of the rump feathers, yellowish, usually concealed, but sometimes showing as an ill-defined bar of colour; upper tail coverts and tail quills, rufescent brown; wings, brown, less rufous than the tail, the concealed parts of the feathers, dull blackish brown; innermost edge of the wing quills, whitish.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, brown to crimson; bill, grey, the upper mandible sometimes almost black; feet, usually flesh-colour, but sometimes tinged with yellow.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 7·5 to 7·8 in.; tail, 3·1 to 3·3 in.; wing, 3·4 to 3·8 in.; tarsus, 0·8 in.; bill from gape, 0·9 in. Females average very slightly smaller than males.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From the northern limit down both sides of the Peninsula to the extreme south of Johore. Penang Island. It has also been recorded from Singapore Island, but I know of no recent occurrence.

**Extralimital Range.**—North to the extreme south of Tenasserim. Sumatra, the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago and Billiton. The North Natuna Islands. Other subspecies are found in Borneo.

**Nidification.**—Oates describes two eggs taken by Davison in Johore in July as “of a regular oval form, and with little or no gloss. They are pinkish white, uniformly spotted and blotched with pale chestnut and underlying lavender. They measure, respectively, 0·9 by 0·6, 0·82 by 0·6 in.”

From Perak Mr A. T. Edgar reports a nest in April. It was placed about four feet from the ground in a palm in a thicket near the coast. The nest was shallow, with a foundation of dead leaves and broad strips of coconut fibres, a layer of smaller strips of bark and fibre, and lined with fine coconut fibre. The rim was strengthened with dry stalks of a creeper, fine rootlets and very small twigs. The two eggs (0·90 by 0·64 in.) were of the usual bulbul type, but very pink. The smears and freckles of red-brown and purplish brown were evenly distributed, but the lilac and grey undermarkings were more concentrated at the larger end of the egg.

**Habits.**—A common bird in the lowlands of the Peninsula, ascending to a height of slightly more than 2000 ft. on the hills. Referring to the neighbourhood of the Pakchan, Davison writes: “I have almost always found this bird in pairs or singly, very seldom more than two together, in thick forest and thin tree jungle, but never in clearings or gardens. Its note differs much from that of the other Bulbuls, but is yet quite characteristic of the group. It is a very noisy bird.”

The bird figured in the plate is a female from Bandon, Peninsular Siam.

### *Tricholestes criniger criniger*

#### **The Hairy-backed Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 203, pl. 20; Vol. II., p. 164.

A small species with very long hair-like feathers growing from the nape. Upper parts, pale olive, becoming brownish on the crown and wings. Tail, pale chestnut-brown. Chin and throat, white; breast, mixed white and yellow; abdomen, pale yellow, washed with olive on the flanks.

Total length, about 6·7 in.; wing, 3 in.

Common in secondary jungle throughout the inland lowlands, but less numerous in the tall old forest.

The nest and eggs are unknown. Mr Stuart Baker has described some eggs from Java, but they can scarcely belong to this bird, as no form of the species is known from the island.

*Trachycomus zeylanicus***The Yellow-crowned Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 201, pl. 20; Vol. II., p. 164.

This is the largest of the Malayan bulbuls and in appearance it is quite unmistakable. Top and sides of the head, golden yellow; upper parts, grey-brown, with an olive tinge and conspicuous white shaft stripes. Wings and tail, externally, olive-green. A black moustachial stripe. Throat, white; under parts, grey-buff, the under tail coverts yellower, and the breast streaked with white.

Total length, about 11.25 in.; wing, 4.8 in.

A common bird in the Malayan lowlands, where its beautiful, liquid, bubbling song is heard, usually from trees in fairly open country standing near the banks of large rivers and even tidal creeks. In the south of Johore it is common in the mangrove belt.

Mr G. C. Madoc has seen a nest in a rubber estate about half a mile from the Klang river in Selangor. It was placed on a fork far out on a branch about fifteen feet from the ground. The nest was a shallow cup, rather untidily made entirely of lengths of a creeper with small fleshy leaves. It was lined with leafless pieces of the same creeper. On 26th May this nest contained two eggs. One measured 1.10 by 0.77 in.

*Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni***The Southern Stripe-throated Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 206, pl. 21; Vol. II., p. 164.

Forehead, sides of the head, chin and throat, yellow, with conspicuous, brighter yellow shaft stripes. Upper parts, greyish olive, the wings and tail, externally, almost pure green. Edge of the wing, bright yellow. Breast and flanks, pale greyish brown, lightening to almost creamy on the centre of the abdomen. Under tail coverts, yellow.

Total length, about 7.5 in.; wing, 3.2 in.

Although very common on the coasts and in lowland secondary forest in the north of the Peninsula, this bulbul becomes local in distribution, or even rare, in the Federated Malay States, and from the extreme south of the Peninsula there are no well-authenticated specimens. The nest and eggs are known from the north.

*Pycnonotus goiavier analis***The Yellow-vented Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 204, pl. 21.

Crown, very dark brown; a broad band over the eye, white; upper parts, dark brown, with a faint green wash on the wings. Vent and under tail coverts, pale yellow; remaining under parts, white, washed with pale brown on the flanks, and rather more noticeably so on the sides of the breast.

Total length, about 7.5 in.; wing, 3.4 in.

VOL. IV.—R

This bulbul is one of the commonest birds throughout the whole length of the Peninsula, except in old forest on the hills. It nests freely in town gardens. Mr G. C. Madoc has seen the nest in a hanging fern, which was watered daily, on the verandah of a bungalow.

The golden-vented bulbul of Java, *Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster*, has been introduced into Singapore Island, and a few pairs may be seen in odd places. In the field it can easily be confused with the yellow-vented bulbul, but the rump shows up as a white patch in flight. Top of the head and the chin, black; rump, white; under tail coverts, orange; tail, brownish black; back and wings, brown; remaining under parts, creamy white, tinged with buff.

*Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus.*

**The Large Olive Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 207; Vol. II., p. 164.

Upper parts, dull brown, washed with olive, and becoming more strongly green on wings and tail and rather grey on the crown. Under parts, dull, pale greyish brown, darkest on the flanks and tinged with saffron on the under tail coverts. Irides, reddish brown to red.

Total length, about 8 in.; wing, 3.4 in.

This sombrely clad bulbul is one of the commonest of Malayan birds, although it is not numerous in the tall old forest, preferring the areas of secondary growth, the lowland swamps and the edges of cultivation. It is not commonly seen in gardens. The cup-shaped nest is usually placed in a bush in secondary jungle. Mr A. T. Edgar gives the nesting season in Lower Perak as from January to June.

*Pycnonotus blanfordi robinsoni*

**Robinson's Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus robinsoni* Ogilvie-Grant, *Fasc. Malay.*, iii., 1906, p. 85 (Patani, Peninsular Siam).

*Pycnonotus plumosus robinsoni*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 420.

*Pycnonotus blanfordi*, Herbert, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, vi., 1923, p. 94.

*Pycnonotus blanfordi robinsoni*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 274; Stuart Baker, *Nid. Birds Ind. Emp.*, i., 1932, p. 402.

**Malay Name.**—Unascertained.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pahang Malays refer to many inconspicuously clad bulbuls and babblers of the jungle as *murai rimba*, but according to my experience, the name is more often applied to the dull-coloured bulbuls of the present group (*plumosus*, *simplex*, etc.) than to other birds. It is also used, commonly, for the small babblers of the genus *Horizillas*. Mr A. T. Edgar contends that in Perak dull-coloured bulbuls and babblers are *merbah*, and that *murai* (specifically used for the Straits robin) implies a bird of pied plumage when used generically.



**Description.**—A dull brown bird very like *P. plumosus* (Vol. I., p. 207), but much paler and with much less green wash on the wings and tail. The ear coverts are more conspicuously streaked with white, and the iris is usually grey, not red or rich brown.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts, pale dull brown with a very faint greyish-olive wash, the outer edges of the wing and tail quills very slightly more olive. Concealed parts of the wing feathers, blackish brown, the wing quills smoky white on the innermost edges. Ear coverts, dull brown, finely, but conspicuously, streaked with white. Lores, buff. Under parts, buff, whitest on the malar region and chin, washed with brown on the breast and flanks, and almost creamy buff on the centre of the abdomen. Thighs and under tail coverts tinged with saffron. Edge of the wing, yellowish buff. Under wing coverts and axillaries, white, tinged with brownish buff.

**Immature.**—Like the adult, but paler.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, at all ages usually grey; in adults often whitish and, rarely, pale brown; bill, horn-colour to blackish, paler at the base; feet, grey-brown or brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 7·6 to 8·1 in.; tail, 3·2 to 3·5 in.; wing, 3·2 to 3·5 in.; tarsus, 0·7 in.; bill from gape, 0·7 to 0·88 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Known only from Peninsular Siam. Specimens are from Bandon; Trang; the Perlis-Singora border; and Tanjong Patani and Jalor in Patani.

**Extralimital Range.**—The present subspecies is common at Koh Lak in South-West Siam and at Bangkok. It also occurs in South-East Siam, and in the southern parts of French Indo-China about as far north as Tourane, in Annam. It seems not to enter the southern part of Tenasserim, and I do not know exactly where in North or Central Siam *P. b. robinsoni* meets the typical Burmese race, which is found in Pegu and thence north through Burma.

**Nidification.**—There appears to be no record from the Peninsula. In Bangkok Mr E. G. Herbert found it nesting commonly in gardens from January to September, the hot weather and the early part of the rains being the more general time. The cup-like nest of grass, etc., is usually placed in a small tree or creeper within easy reach of the ground, and contains two, rarely three, handsome eggs, which show much variety in colour. Mr Herbert describes them as "the ground-colour is pale pink or pinky white, with markings in deep red or reddish brown, and secondary markings of pale purple." Size about 0·86 by 0·6 in. Mr C. J. Aagaard states that in Bangkok the nests are often found in bushes or even pot-plants on verandahs.

**Habits.**—This bulbul is described by Messrs Robinson and Kloss as very common in the scrubby country round Koh Lak in South-West Siam, but it is rarer nearer the southern limit of its range in Patani, where Robinson once found it in the littoral belt of casuarina trees in flocks of four or five. In Bangkok, where it is very common, it is found in gardens and near houses.

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus***The Malayan Brown Bulbul**PLATE 16 (*lower figure*)

Vol. II., p. 166.

*Pycnonotus brunneus* Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiv., 1845, p. 568 (Malacca).

*Pycnonotus simplex* (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 153; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 292.

? *Pycnonotus simplex*, Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 320.

*Pycnonotus simplex simplex*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 421.

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 275; Stuart Baker, *Nid. Birds Ind. Emp.*, i., 1932, p. 403.

**Malay Name.**—Murai rimba.

**Description.**—Plumage entirely brown, paler on the under surface. It is much like Robinson's bulbul described above and also *P. p. plumosus*, but it lacks the green wash on the wings and the pale streaks on the ear coverts. The iris is orange or red.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts and sides of the head, dull earthy brown, the rump and upper tail coverts very slightly brighter, turning to blackish brown on the tail and on the concealed parts of the wings. Under parts much paler; the chin, throat and centre of the abdomen, pale buff; under tail coverts, ochraceous to tawny-buff, the feathers with slightly darker centres. The fore neck, breast and sides of the body are darker, ranging from brownish buff to pale brown. Edge of the wing, deep yellowish buff; axillaries and under wing coverts, paler yellowish buff.

**Note.**—Like the other olive bulbuls this bird fades very quickly, and museum skins and living birds in worn plumage are lighter and more uniform in colour than the newly moulted bird, in which in certain lights a faint olive sheen can sometimes be detected on the upper parts and wings.

**Immature.**—Like the adult, but dingier.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, orange or red; eyelids, dark brown; bill, black or very dark brown, in the latter case the under mandible a trifle paler and perhaps dark slaty brown; feet, brownish flesh, pinkish brown or mid-brown, with a tinge of purple.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 6.85 to 7.4 in.; tail, 2.8 to 3 in.; wing, 3.1 to 3.45 in. in males and 3.1 to 3.3 in. in females, but the minimum measurements quoted are rare; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.8 to 0.85 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—The whole length of the Peninsula on both sides. Islands of Junk Zeylon, Terutau, Langkawi, Penang and Singapore. A very slightly larger race (*P. b. zapolius*) inhabits Tioman Island.

**Extralimital Range.**—Tenasserim north to about the latitude of Mergui. Sumatra and the West Sumatran islands of the Banjak group and Nias. Borneo, Banguay Island and the Karimata Islands. The slightly larger

subspecies found on Pulau Tioman, off the east coast of the Peninsula, was first described from the Anamba Islands in the South China Sea.

**Nidification.**—All authors who have hitherto written about the nidification of the olive bulbuls seem to have confused this species and *P. simplex*, and to accept uncritical records of either is merely perpetuating confusion. The only certain record known to me is communicated by Mr V. W. Ryves and confirmed by a bird shot off the nest. Mr Ryves found two eggs in a nest of the usual bulbul type in thick secondary forest, in Perak, on 2nd July. Unfortunately, we cannot, at the moment, describe the eggs, or compare them with those of *Pycnonotus simplex*.

**Habits.**—Common almost everywhere in the lowlands in all kinds of forest and in secondary growth, but I have never seen it in mangrove. It ascends the hills to about 3000 ft. It is still numerous in Singapore, and sitting under one tree, I have in a single morning obtained specimens of this species together with *P. simplex*, *P. erythrophthalmos*, *P. plumosus* and *Iole olivacea*, all very much alike in plumage. It is common in the vicinity of villages.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from the Selangor-Pahang boundary.

*Pycnonotus simplex simplex*.

**Moore's Olive Bulbul**

PLATE 16 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 165.

*Pycnonotus simplex* Lesson, *Rev. Mag. Zool.*, 1839, p. 167 (Sumatra); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 153 (pt.); ? Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 320.

*Pycnonotus simplex simplex*, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 276.

**Malay Name.**—Murai rimba.

**Description.**—This bird is so much like the Malayan brown bulbul (*P. b. brunneus*) dealt with above that, unless museum specimens are in the best of condition, specific identification is not always easy. In the flesh the two birds are easy to distinguish. The present species is much lighter on the under parts, which are far less brown than in *brunneus*, and almost creamy white on the centre of the abdomen and on the under tail coverts. The iris in adults is white, not orange or red.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts and sides of the head, dull earthy brown, the rump and upper tail coverts very slightly brighter, turning to blackish brown on the tail and on the concealed parts of the wings. Under parts much paler; the chin, throat, centre of the abdomen and under tail coverts, creamy buff. The tail coverts usually have rather darker, brownish centres. Fore neck, breast and sides of the body, darker buff and tinged with brown. Edge of the wing, axillaries and under wing coverts, pale yellowish buff.

**Immature.**—Like the adult, but paler.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, snow-white to yellowish white in adults, pale brown in young birds; eyelids, pale brown or yellowish brown; bill, dark brown, the lower mandible often paler and tinged with grey; feet, fleshy brown or brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 6.85 to 7.4 in.; tail, 2.65 to 2.75 in.; wing, 2.9 to 3.2 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.63 to 0.75 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From Trang and Bandon in Peninsular Siam down both sides of the Peninsula to Singapore Island.

**Extralimital Range.**—I have seen no specimens of this species from north of the places in Peninsular Siam mentioned above. There are records from places in Tenasserim as far north as Mergui, but these almost certainly refer to *P. b. brunneus*.

Sumatra and the West Sumatran island of Nias. The Rhio Archipelago and Banka. A slightly larger race is found in the Anamba and North Natuna Islands; a red-eyed race inhabits Borneo, the South Natuna Islands and Billiton, and yet another subspecies occurs in Java.

**Nidification.**—See remarks under *P. b. brunneus* above. According to Mr A. T. Edgar, who knows this species well, it nests in Perak in light jungle, in January and April. The shallow nests, which are placed from five to six feet from the ground, on lateral branches of saplings, are neatly made of dry leaves, fibre and fibrous bark, with a lining of well-teased fibrous material, the rim being strengthened with fine rootlets and bound with cobweb. The nest is about four inches across and one and a half inches deep. The two eggs are glossy and, for bulbuls' eggs, the shell is tough. In colour they are pale pink, boldly and handsomely marked all over with brown, reddish brown and purplish brown, with undermarkings of purplish grey. At the larger end of the egg the markings are deeper in colour and more profuse, forming a zone. Measurements, 0.88 by 0.62 in.

**Habits.**—Common almost everywhere in the lowlands of the Peninsula wherever there are patches of forest and secondary growth. I have never seen it in mangrove.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Perlis.

### *Pycnonotus erythroptalmos erythroptalmos*

#### The Small Olive Bulbul

Vol. II., p. 166.

*Ixos erythroptalmos* Hume, *Stray Feathers*, vi., 1878, p. 314 (South Tenasserim).

*Pycnonotus pusillus* (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 155; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 293.

*Pycnonotus salvadorii* Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 401.

*Pycnonotus erythroptalmos erythroptalmos*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1922, p. 422; Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 276; Stuart Baker, *Nid. Birds Ind. Emp.*, i., 1932, p. 404.

**Malay Name.**—Murai rimba.

**Description.**—This is the last and smallest member of the group of olive

bulbuls. In general appearance it is very similar to the other species, but it is distinctly paler, greyer, on the under surface, especially on the breast, which is pale grey and only occasionally even tinged with buff. There is no distinct green wash on the upper parts, and the ear coverts are not streaked. The eye is red, and in life the fleshy, brightly coloured edge of the eyelid forms an orange circle round the eye. Bill, small and black.

**Adult.**—Sexes alike. Upper parts, earthy brown, faintly olive in fresh plumage, especially on the wing coverts, the tail very slightly ferruginous; concealed parts of the wing quills, dark brown with the innermost edges smoky. Lores and side of the head, brownish grey. Under parts, pale grey, turning to dull whitish buff on the under tail coverts; the chin and throat sometimes almost white; flanks and sometimes the side of the breast, faintly brown. Occasionally the whole of the under parts is suffused with buff, especially strong on the centre of the abdomen. Edge of the wing, buffy; axillaries and under tail coverts, white, tinged with yellow.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, red; eyelids, yellow to orange; bill, black; feet, pale brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 6.5 to 6.75 in.; tail, 2.6 to 2.75 in.; wing, 2.8 to 3.1 in.; tarsus, 0.6 in.; bill from gape, 0.65 to 0.7 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From the northern limit at the Pakchan estuary down both sides of the Peninsula to the extreme south. Singapore Island and the small islands in the Straits of Johore.

**Extralimital Range.**—Occurs also in South Tenasserim, Sumatra and Billiton. Other subspecies are found in Borneo and the West Sumatran islands of the Banjak group and Nias.

**Nidification.**—I can trace no really reliable account of the nest and eggs.

**Habits.**—Found in all sorts of lowland forest, including dense bamboo jungle and secondary growth, but not commonly, if ever, in mangrove. It is not a bird of the civilized gardens, but I have collected it near Malay villages, and it clings to isolated patches of trees within a few hundred yards of main roads in Singapore. It ascends the hills to a height of about 2600 ft. Although not rare, it is local in its distribution and never by any means as common as the ubiquitous *Pycnonotus b. brunneus* and *P. s. simplex*.

### *Rubigula cyaniventris cyaniventris*

#### The Grey-bellied Bulbul

Vol. II., p. 168.

Head and neck all round, breast and abdomen, pale grey; under tail coverts, bright yellow; upper parts, bright yellowish olive-green.

Total length, about 6 in.; wing, 2.9 in.

A common bird in the lowland forests of the Peninsula. The nests have been found in low bushes in forest.

*Rubigula squamata webberi***Webber's Scaly-breasted Bulbul**

Vol. II, p. 169.

Top of the head, black ; tail, black, the outer feathers tipped with white ; remaining upper parts, golden olive-green. Chin, throat and centre of the abdomen, white ; under tail coverts, bright yellow ; breast and flanks, black, the feathers fringed with white, producing a scaled effect.

Total length, about 5·7 in. ; wing, 2·9 in.

Not uncommon in the lowland forest, but more numerous in submontane districts and not yet recorded from south of Malacca. It is rather local in distribution and little is known of the habits. The nest and eggs are unknown.

*Otocompsa flaviventris minor***Kloss's Black-crested Yellow Bulbul**

Vol. II., p. 166.

Head and neck all round, and a long crest on the top of the head, shiny black. Upper parts, yellowish olive-green ; wing and tail quills, brown, edged with olive. Under parts, deep yellow, washed with olive on the sides of the breast.

Total length, about 7 in. ; wing, 3·2 in.

Locally distributed but common in certain localities in the Malay States. This bulbul is usually found on the mountains, but it also turns up in the lowlands occasionally, and farther north, in Peninsular Siam, it lives at sea-level.

Mr A. T. Edgar has found the nest on the Cameron Highlands at about 3500 ft. in March. It was a rather neat, deep cup, slightly conical in shape owing to the somewhat pointed bottom, placed in a bushy shrub four feet from the ground. The two eggs measured 0·88 by 0·62 in. They were white, but with the ground-colour almost obscured by a profusion of confluent markings of brown, purplish brown and pinkish claret, with undermarkings of grey. A greater number of undermarkings at the larger end give the impression of a dark cap. One egg was pointed, the other rather blunt. The shells were very fragile and slightly glossy.

*Otocompsa jocosus erythrotis***The Southern Red-whiskered Bulbul**

Vol. I., p. 210.

A crest on the top of the head, crown and a patch on each side of the neck, black ; upper parts, pale earthy brown ; cheeks and under parts, white ; under tail coverts, red. Outer tail feathers tipped with white. A small crimson patch of feathers under each eye.

Total length, about 8 in. ; wing, 3 in.

In the north of the Peninsula, south to Perlis and Kelantan, this bulbul is very common in the lowlands in gardens, open country and secondary growth, but it is not fond of the old forest. South of about the latitude of Penang it is rare, but liberated cage birds have established a stock on Singapore Island. It nests in bushes.