

Noteworthy Records of Birds from Perak

By F. N. CHASEN

During the past few years I have often identified, or confirmed the identification, of bird-skins sent to the Raffles Museum by Mr. A. T. Edgar who has been active in investigating the avifauna of Sitiawan in Lower Perak, and the adjacent parts of the territory known as the Dindings on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula. Some of the specimens examined seem to merit published notice and, if in some cases the addition to our knowledge seems insignificant, it can be remembered that the distribution of birds in the Malay States is now, generally, so well known that extensions of range within the area are especially interesting.

1. The minimum basal length of full-grown skulls is probably rather more than 67 mm. The smallest skull is the series recorded by Lyon is said to have the teeth only slightly worn and the basioccipito-sphenoid suture distinctly open.

² *c.f.* Lyon *l.c.s.*, p. 453 and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, ii, 1917, p. 298.

Sphenocercus seimundi seimundi Rob.

Two females of this rare pigeon, which has recently been recorded from Bangkok (Journ. Siam Soc., Nat. Hist. Suppl., viii, 1932, p. 341) were obtained at Tanjong Katak in the Dindings in August 1933.

(a) "Bill, blue, apical one-third greyish horn; irides, inner ring blue, outer ring fawn; orbital skin, blue; feet, crimson, soles, yellow, claws, brown" (A. T. E.).

(b) "Outer ring of iris, pink" (A. T. E.).

Wings, 147, 152 mm.

Cenopopelia tranquebarica humilis (Temm.).

Although this species has been recorded from "Malacca", records from so far south in the Malay Peninsula almost certainly refer to specimens originally imported as cage-birds. The species certainly occurs in a naturally wild state as far south as the Isthmus of Kra, but it seems that its status in the Malay States must still be a matter for consideration as a nest with eggs was found at Sitiawan, Lower Perak, in March 1933, the skin of one parent being sent to Singapore for identification.

Crocethia alba (Pall.).

A specimen in winter plumage, collected on 19th December 1933 in the Dindings, adds the species to the avifauna of the Malay Peninsula. Although it is said to be common, in season, along the China coast, the Sanderling is apparently rare along the coasts of Burma and French Indo-China and unrecorded from Siam. There are bare records from Borneo, Java and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

Dissoura stormi (Blas.).

A head of this rare stork of which few specimens are known was sent from Sitiawan in Lower Perak. The species was originally described from Borneo and has since been collected on the east coast of Sumatra: the present is the first continental, and most northerly record.

The culmen, which is strongly recurved and with a marked basal boss, measures 168 mm. in length: the bill appears to have been orange-red in colour.

Peters ("Check List of Birds of World", i, 1931, p. 128) regards this form as the Bornean subspecies of *D. episcopus* and although several authors have emphasized that it is a distinct species, re-examination of "*episcopus*" from Borneo and Sumatra may prove that *stormi* is, after all, only a geographical race of *episcopus*. In the Malay Peninsula *D. e. neglecta* is only known from the north. All the *Dissoura* I have seen from Borneo

(including the British Museum series) are *stormi* and it is doubtful if any other form occurs on the island.

Accipiter badius poliopsis (Hume).

The remains of an adult female of this hawk were forwarded from Sitiawan where the bird was picked up, injured, in December 1932. The species is common in Siam but very rare in the non-Siamese portion of the Peninsula.

Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus (Blyth).

A female was collected at Sungei Batu in the Dindings. Its occurrence in the lowlands so far south in the Malay Peninsula, is interesting as in the southern parts of its range this race has hitherto only been recorded from high elevations in the mountains.

Picus vittatus vittatus Vieill.

The curious gap in the distribution of this species (*vide* Kloss, Ibis, 1926, p. 688) has been slightly shortened by the discovery of this race at Sitiawan in Lower Perak. Previously, the race was only known from as far north as Kuala Selangor on the coast of Selangor.

Chotorhea chrysopogon laetus Rob. & Kloss.

The altitudinal range of this barbet is unusually large for it is found in the lowlands of Perak, the Dindings, Selangor and Malacca, more commonly in submontane districts throughout the Peninsula, and up to 5,000 feet on Gunong Kerbau in Perak.

An interesting point brought out by a recently acquired specimen from the Dindings is that although the differences between the Malayan *laetus* and typical *chrysopogon* of Sumatra are very well marked when birds from the Malayan mountains are compared, the distinction is usually less obvious in the case of birds from the Malayan lowlands.

Xantholama hæmatocephala indica (Lath.).

This barbet, common in Peninsular Siam, does not occur in the south of the Malay Peninsula. Specimens in the Raffles Museum from the Nerus River in the north of Trengganu, and from Lenggong and Kuala Kangsar in Perak, were hitherto the most southerly known examples and breeding birds at Sitiawan, Lower Perak, therefore represent a slight but interesting extension of the range southwards.

Dicrurus longicaudatus intermedius Blyth.

Specimens from the Dindings and Sitiawan mark a notable extension of range as the species was only known as far south as Kedah and Penang.