

## Nine New Races of Natuna Birds

By F. N. CHASEN

The following diagnoses are based on birds collected by myself in the northern islands of the Natuna group in the South China Sea in 1928, and by Mr. P. M. de Fontaine, of the Raffles Museum, in the southern islands, in 1931. A detailed account of the collections will appear at a later date. Dr. H. C. Oberholser<sup>1</sup> has recently published an account of the Natuna avifauna including the descriptions of a number of new forms. Some of the undermentioned species were not represented in the collection he reported on: in other cases the material appears to have been inadequate for description.

*Treron fulvicollis oberholseri* subsp. nov. 287 3. 3534-3549

*Osmotreron fulvicollis*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 482 (Bunguran).

*Dendrophassa fulvicollis*, Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 30 (Bunguran).

Like *T. f. fulvicollis* of Sumatra<sup>2</sup> and the Malay Peninsula but larger.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 11th September 1928 by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 266 mm.; tail, 86 mm.; wing, 153 mm.; tarsus, 20 mm.; bill from gape, 21 mm.

Iris, red; lids, orange and yellow; bill, pale greenish grey; cere and base of lower mandible, red; feet, red.

*Specimens examined*.—Three males and two females from Bunguran.

*Wings*.—♂, 153 (type); 152, 155; ♀, 151, 155 mm.

*Remarks*.—The difference in size between the Bunguran race and the typical form is not great but is sufficient to indicate a slightly modified, insular subspecies as in the case of *Treron vernans*. Males from the Malay Peninsula have a wing-range of 142–151 mm. (the latter figure is not common); Tenasserim, 138–147 mm.; Borneo (not including *T. f. baramensis*) 141–144 mm.; Sumatra, 138–141 mm.; Bintang Island, Rhio Archipelago, 141–152 mm.; Billiton, 151 mm. The three Natuna males are very green on the abdomen, but one from the coast of Selangor is similar.

<sup>1</sup> "The Birds of the Natuna Islands", Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, pp. 1-157.

<sup>2</sup> "Sumatra", restr. type loc., Rob. and Kl., Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc., Siam, V, 1921, p. 30.

*Spilornis cheela natunensis* subsp. nov. 286 3. 1201-1210

*Spilornis pallidus*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 482 (Bunguran).

*Spilornis pallidus* subsp., Hart., Nov. Zool., II, 1895, p. 475 (Bunguran).

*Spilornis cheela salvadorii*, Swann, Syn. List Acc., 2nd ed., 1922, p. 135 (Bunguran).

*Spilornis cheela pallidus*, Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 18 (Bunguran).

Like *S. c. pallidus* of Sarawak, but smaller and in fresh plumage darker on the mantle and under parts: breast, greyer and less brown. The dark bars on the thighs and under tail coverts conspicuously darker: pale band on the tail narrower.

*Type*.—Adult female, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 1st September 1928, by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 478 mm.; tail, 220 mm.; wing, 324 mm.; tarsus, 73 mm.; bill from gape, 38 mm.

Iris, and bare skin on head, yellow; bill, bluish grey; feet, yellow.

*Specimens examined*.—Two females and one unsexed bird, probably a male.

*Wings*.—♀, 324 (type); 313; ? ♂, 307; tails, ♀, 220, 213; ? ♂, 200 mm.

*Remarks*.—I have not seen *salvadorii* of Nias Island, West Sumatra: it was originally said to be like *pallidus*<sup>1</sup>, but smaller but Swann (l.c.s.), adds that it is "much paler (especially on wing coverts)." It is impossible that birds from Nias and Bunguran can belong to the same race. Natuna birds have a wing-range of 295–324 mm.<sup>2</sup>, and *vide* Swann, Nias birds are about the same: Berlepsch gives 290–304 mm. for *salvadorii*.

Males of *pallidus* have the wing down to 321 and 325 mm. in length which makes them about the same size as females of *natunensis*: females of *pallidus* run up to 350 mm. in wing-length. The immature bird from the Anamba Islands, recorded as *Spilornis cheela* subsp.<sup>3</sup> does not belong to this form and is best placed with the Malayan subspecies.

*Psittacula longicauda defontainei* subsp. nov. 286 3. 3580-3595

*Palaeornis longicauda*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 481 (Bunguran and Sirhassen); II, 1895, p. 474 (Bunguran and Pulau Laut).

*Psittacula longicauda*, Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 35. Bunguran, Sirhassen, Subi).

<sup>1</sup> Berlepsch, Nov. Zool., II, 1895, p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> c.f. Hartert, l.c.s.

<sup>3</sup> Journ. Mal. Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., VI, pt. 3, 1928, p. 54.

Like *P. longicauda* of the Malay Peninsula but larger: red on the head often slightly deeper in colour in both sexes.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 29th August 1928, by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 376 mm.; tail, 226 mm.; wing, 160 mm.; tarsus, 15 mm.; bill from gape, 19 mm.

"Iris, double; inner ring, greenish brown; outer ring, yellowish white; upper mandible, rose-pink; lower mandible brown; feet greenish grey.

*Specimens examined*.—Seventeen, from the islands of Bunguran, Sirhassen and Subi.

*Wings*.—Bunguran, ♂, 160 (type); 164, 156 (imm.); ♀, 152, 149, 146 (imm.); Sirhassen and Subi, ♂, 157, 164, 164, 168, 160, 158, 165; ♀, 154, 156, 156 mm.

*Remarks*.—Topotypical males of *P. l. longicauda* have the wing measuring 150, 152, 152, 152, 150, 150, 147, 144, 143=143–152 mm. against 157–168 mm. in Natuna birds. The wings of female *longicauda* measure 141, 135, 145, 139, 147, 149=135–149 mm. against 149–156 mm. in *defontainei*. A few birds from Sumatra and some from Borneo all fall within the wing-ranges given for *longicauda* above. Unsexed birds cannot be used for comparison as some young males, in the plumage of the female, have rather longer wings than females.

Birds from Bintang Island in the Rhio Archipelago, with wings measuring 154–165 mm. in males and 152–156 mm. in females, are best placed with the new race although they average paler on the pink areas of the head than true *defontainei*.

*Zanclostomus javanicus natunensis* subsp. nov. 290-31-3600-3604

*Zanclostomus javanicus*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 481 (Bunguran); II, 1895, p. 475 (Bunguran); Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 34 (Bunguran).

Like *Z. j. pallidus* of the Malay Peninsula but the grey of the under parts so strongly washed with rufous-buff that the line of demarcation between the colour-zones on the under parts is obliterated: lores more extensively rufous as in typical *javanicus* of Java.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 3rd September, 1928, by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 428 mm.; tail, 274 mm.; wing, 140 mm.; tarsus, 33 mm.; bill from gape, 39 mm.

Iris, brown, lids, blue; bill, red; feet, grey.

*Specimens examined*.—Seven from Bunguran.

*Wings*.—Bunguran, ♂, 140 (type); 146, —, 143, 149; ♀, 147, 140 mm.

*Remarks*.—We now recognise three Malaysian races of this cuckoo. The typical form has the rufous of the breast and the grey of the abdomen fairly sharply defined. *Z. j. pallidus* Rob. and Kloss<sup>1</sup> has the grey of the under parts paler and washed with buff, but the breast remains well defined from the grey area: the lores are less extensively rufous than in *Z. j. javanicus*. The third form is that described above. Of the seven specimens before us the female is probably not separable from *pallidus*: one of the males is also very near *pallidus* but the remaining birds, all males, have the centre of the abdomen rufous-buff and continuous with the colour of the breast. Some of them show a tendency for the rufous of the lores to be continued over the anterior part of the supercilium.

*Chalcopteria singalensis pallida* subsp. nov. 290-31-4430-4432

*Chalcopteria singalensis*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 475 (Bunguran).

*Chalcopteria singalensis borneana*, Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 112 (Bunguran).

Nearest to *C. s. singalensis* of the Malay Peninsula but the male with the rufous of the under parts less intense, less sharply defined, and not so extensive.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 28th August 1928, by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 112 mm.; tail, 40 mm.; wing, 53 mm.; tarsus, 17 mm.; bill from gape, 15 mm.

Iris, red; bill, black; feet, olive.

*Specimens examined*.—Four from Bunguran.

*Wings*.—♂, 53, 55, 55 mm.; ♀, 53 mm.

*Charitociris maculata natunensis* subsp. nov. 290-31-4573-4575

*Prionochilus maculatus*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 474 (Bunguran).

*Charitociris maculata maculata*, Oberh., Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 159, 1932, p. 118 (Bunguran).

Like *C. m. maculatus* of the Malay Peninsula but the under parts brighter and yellower, and with the dark markings more olive and less grey; throat more washed with yellow.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, on 28th August 1928, by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 94 mm.; tail, 24 mm.; wing, 51 mm.; tarsus, 13 mm.; bill from gape, 12 mm.

<sup>1</sup> Journ. Fed. Mal. States Mus., X, 1921, p. 203 (Kedah Peak, Malay Peninsula).

Iris, red; upper mandible, black; lower mandible, bluish grey; feet, leaden.

*Specimens examined*.—Three males and one female from Bunguran compared with about fifty skins of *C. m. maculata* from the Malay Peninsula.

*Wings*.—♂, 51, 51, 52 mm.; ♀, 51 mm.

*Remarks*.—The female is only doubtfully separable from an exceptionally bright female of *C. m. maculata* from the Malay State of Perak, but this latter bird is unique in the Malayan series which contains specimens taken throughout the year.

*Piprisoma agile bungurense* subsp. nov.

Like *P. a. sordidum* Rob. and Kloss, of the Malay Peninsula but larger.

*Type*.—Adult male, collected on Bunguran Island, North Natuna Islands, South China Sea, on 7th September 1928 by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 109 mm.; tail, 32 mm.; wing, 63.5 mm.; tarsus, 13 (c) mm.; bill from gape, 11 mm.

Irides, yellow; upper mandible, dark grey; lower mandible, blue grey; feet, blackish brown.

*Specimens examined*.—One (the type). Compared with three examples of *P. a. sordidum* from the Malay Peninsula and Bintang Island in the Rhio Archipelago, and eleven examples of *P. a. everetti* from Sarawak.

*Remarks*.—The wings of the four known specimens of *sordidum* measure 59, 60, 60 and 60 mm. and the wings of a small series of *everetti*, 56, 57, 58, 59, 59 and 60 mm. The single example of *sordidum* available for comparison (recorded in Journ. Mal. Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., III, 1925, p. 102) differs from the *everetti* series in being generally rather greyer and less brown both above and below, but the two forms are very close. The Natuna bird and two recent skins from Bintang Island are alike and compared with *sordidum* are darker above and below: they differ from *everetti* (all old skins) in having the upper parts darker, and the lower parts greyer and less brown and more heavily streaked. It is probable that these colour differences depend, largely, on the age of the skin and fresh skins of *everetti* are needed for comparison.

*Zosterops palpebrosa erwini* subsp. nov. 200 30 4594-4606

Nearest to *Z. p. williamsoni* Rob. and Kl., of Siam and the Malay Peninsula but the yellow parts rather paler, less brightly golden and more greenish. The under parts faintly shaded with grey, especially on the flanks, and never with cream or buff. Bill usually larger than in *williamsoni*.

*Type*.—Adult female, collected on Pulau Panjang, South Natuna Islands, South China Sea, on 9th August 1931 by P. M. de Fontaine.

"Irides, hazel; bill, brown, blue at the base of the lower mandible; feet, greenish blue."

*Specimens examined*.—Thirteen from the island of Panjang and the neighbouring islet of Kordu.

*Wings*.—♂, 51, 52, 52, 52, 52, 53, 53, 53; ♀, 50, 50, 52, 53 mm.

*Remarks*.—The females average slightly paler on the throat than the males. The genus *Zosterops* has not hitherto been recorded from the Natuna Islands. This new form is named in honour of Dr. Erwin Stresemann.

*Aethopyga siparaja natunæ* subsp. nov. 200 30 4285-4297

*Aethopyga siparaja*, Hart., Nov. Zool., I, 1894, p. 475 (Bunguran); II, 1895, p. 469 (Bunguran and Pulau Laut).

*Aethopyga siparaja ochropyrrha*, Oberh., 1932, p. 117 (Bunguran and Pulau Laut).

Like *A. s. siparaja* but the grey under parts paler.

*Type*.—Adult male collected on Sadanau Island, North Natuna Islands, on 21st September, 1928 by F. N. Chasen.

Total length, 110; tail, 41; wing, 50; tarsus, 13; bill from gape, 17 mm.

*Specimens examined*.—Twelve males and two females from Bunguran and Sedanau Islands.

"Iris, bill and feet, dark brown."

*Wings*.—♂, 51, 51, 52, 50, 50, 50, 49, 49, 51, 52, 52, 50 mm.; ♀, 46, 46 mm.

*Remarks*.—The grey under parts of *A. s. siparaja* are very variable but the Natuna series of twelve beautiful adult males is very different from that obtained in the Anamba Islands, the Malay Peninsula and elsewhere.

In typical *siparaja* the dark grey under parts almost invariably have an olive wash, although the extent of this varies greatly: there is also a conspicuous darkening of the grey, often as an irregular patch, next to the red breast.

In the Natuna series five specimens are very pale below, with little if any olive wash and without the slightest indication of a dark patch. They are in fact just like *A. s. cara* on the under parts and can be picked out at once from a series of more than fifty fully adult males of *siparaja*. In the remainder of the Natuna series the black patch is much reduced, but one or two birds are not separable from pale examples of *siparaja*. It is interesting to note that there is no tendency to enlargement of the bill in this form.