

Mammals and Birds from the Maga Mountains in Borneo

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IN 1939, I spent a fortnight in the Maga mountains which form the watershed between the Trusan River in Sarawak and the Padas River in North Borneo, in Lat. $4^{\circ}20'$ N., and Long. $115^{\circ}50'$ E.

The interest in these mountains lies in their geographical position between the Kinabalu mountain system of North Borneo in Lat. 6° N. and the Mulu, Murud, Tama Abo and Dulit mountain systems in Sarawak in Lat. $3^{\circ}30'$ N. Many mountain animals are subspecifically distinct in North Borneo and in Sarawak, for which reason it was desirable to ascertain to which subspecies the Maga Mountain mammals and birds were inclined.

These mountains are the long range of apparently flat-topped hills, seen behind the Lawas Valley from various points in Brunei Bay. In the interior they rise to 5,500 feet high, with a flat, marshy, narrow plateau wherein rises the Maga river, to flow away into the Padas. To reach this high area some five days walk are necessary up the Trusan valley, branching off into the headwaters of the Lupin River to the last Murut house where guides and supplies of rice can be obtained. The ensuing up-and-down walk for the next five days through uninhabited country brings the party to the small, flat scrub covered plain I have mentioned. It is most difficult to maintain a party there for long, owing to the problem of relaying sufficient supplies and although the fauna is fairly well represented, the locality is most difficult to visit for any worth-while length of time.

I was indebted to the late Mr. F. N. Chasen when Director of the Raffles Museum, for the loan of two Dayak collectors, Nonong and Kadir.

Very few Maga mountain mammals were collected. *Sciurus jentinki* agreed with the typical race from Kinabalu and from Mulu in Sarawak, not with *subsignanus* from East Borneo. *Drenomys everetti* has not been divided into geographical races, *Tupaia montana* belonged to the Kinabalu and Murud *baluensis*

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and *Dendrogale melanura* agreed with the Kinabalu, Mulu and Tama Abo mountain race *batuensis* and not with typical *melanura* from Mount Dulit.

The following birds were obtained from the Maga mountains:—

- Arborophila javanica hyperythra* (Sharpe). 2
Haematortyx sanguiniceps Sharpe. 3
Ducula badia (Raffles). ✓
Harpactes whiteheadi Sharpe. 2
Harpactes oreskios (Temm.). ✓ (47)
Cyanops oorti (S. Müll.). ✓ (4, 35)
Dendrobiastes hyperythra malayana (Grant). 3
Rhipidura a. albicollis (Vieill.). ✓
Rhinomyias gularis Sharpe. 6
Seicercus m. montis (Sharpe). 1
Stoparola indigo (Horsf.). ✓
Coracina personata (S. Müll.). normani? (Sharpe) 1
Pachycephala h. hypoxantha (Sharpe). ✓
Chloropsis cochinchinensis flavocincta Sharpe. 1
Garrulax palliatus (Bp.). schistochlamys sharpe 5
Pycnonotus flaviventris (Tick.). murudis (Sharpe) 1
Rhinocichla treacheri damnata Harr. and Hartley. ✓ 6 (1-6)
Napothera brevicaudata (Blyth). crassa? (Sharpe) 5
Myiophoneus borneensis Slater. 1
Enicurus leschenaulti (Vieill.). ✓
Hemipus p. picatus (Sykes). ✓
Chlorocharis emiliae moultoni Chas. & Kloss. ✓
Dicaeum sanguinolentum Temm. nauticum sharpe 1
Oriolus cruentus (Wagl.). vulnereatus Sharpe 1
Dendrocitta occipitalis (S. Müll.). ✓
Kitta chinensis (Bodd.). affinis (Sharpe) 1

The geographical races of *Rhipidura*, *Dendrobiastes*, *Seicercus* and *Pachycephala* resemble those from Kinabalu and Murud and are distinct from those on the Poi range further west. The races of *Arborophila* and *Rhinocichla* resemble *hyperythra* and *damnata* respectively of the Murud and Dulit range and not *erythrophrys* and *treacheri* of Kinabalu. The series of *Chlorocharis* was most instructive and the late Mr. F. N. Chasen wrote that they were not true *moultoni* from the Poi range and

certainly not *emiliae* from Kinabalu. They differed from the former in the darker caps, greener underparts and less yellow sides to the head, being in fact, with specimens from Mount Mulu, intermediate in colour between typical *emiliae* of Kinabalu and *moultoni* of Poi, but nearer to *moultoni*.

Three mammals and four birds on the Maga mountains were represented by the same geographical races as on Kinabalu, two birds by the Murut and Dulit mountain races, and only one bird had a clearly intermediate geographical race.

The mountain fauna on the Maga range also bears comparison with that on the Poi range. Far away in Western Sarawak is an isolated range in Lat. 110° E. and Long. 1°30' N., with peaks Berumput, Kanji and Poi, some 5,500 feet high and there, cut off by extensive lowlands, live some of the mountain fauna.

Present on the Poi range are *Tupaia montana*, *Dendrogale melanura*, *Drenomys everetti* and *Nannosciurus whiteheadi*, absent only *Sciurus jentinki* and *Lariscus hosei*, of all the peculiar Bornean mountain mammals. The Malaysian *Petaurista elegans*, *Helictis* and two or three species of mountain rats are all absent.

But birds are just the opposite. Only two of Borneo's peculiar mountain species are found on the Poi range, *Pachycephala hypoxantha* and *Chlorocharis emiliae*. None of the other peculiar Bornean mountain species are found, *Haematortyx* and *Harpactes* are absent and so are *Calyptomena whiteheadi*, *Rhinomyias gularis*, *Chlamydochera*, *Pycnonotus leucops*, *Tesia whiteheadi*, *Geocichla everetti*, *Arachnothera juliae* and *Oriolus hosei*. Of the birds from the Sumatran and Malayan mountains only *Izos cinereus* and the two *Seicercus* are found on the Poi range, *Napothera*, *Cyanops oorti*, *Pericrocotus montanus*, *Rhinocichla*, *Melanocichla*, *Erythura* and *Caloperdix*, all are lacking. Of Sumatran and Bornean mountain birds not one is found on the Poi range, no *Cettia*, *Turdus*, *Coracina*, *Stoparola*, *Brachypteryx*, *Dendrocitta* or *Garrulax*.

Found on the Poi range are only the Indo-Malaysian *Ducula badia*, *Cuculus poliocephalus*, *Dendrobiastes*, *Muscicapula*, *Rhipidura*, *Pterythius*, *Dicrurus* and *Hemipus*. Lacking are still *Arborophila*, *Otus spilocephalus*, *Phyllergates*, *Geocichla citrina*, *Oriolus cruentus*, *Kitta*, *Psarisomus* and *Pycnonotus flaviventris*.

The Poi range seems to lack nearly all the Bornean and Malaysian mountain species of birds and has only an impoverished Indo-Malaysian fauna. Geographically a part of Borneo, faunistically the range scarcely belongs to the rest of the island.

If one looks at the structural map of the East Indies by Brouwer (1) or the geotectonic maps of van Es (2) and van Bemmeln (3) it is clear that the western extremity of Borneo in the vicinity of the Poi range is discontinuous geologically from the north-east and central portion. This separation is reflected in the mountain avifauna of the Poi mountains, which lacks so many of the birds peculiar to other Bornean mountains and has peculiar geographical races of so many others, such as *Dendrobiastes*, *Rhipidura albicollis*, *Pachycephala*, *Chlorocharis* and *Seicercus trivirgatus*.

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