

The Correct Name for the Malayo-Sumatran Race of the Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (Cuculidae)

By H. G. DEIGNAN,

United States National Museum

The currently accepted name, *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris erythrognathus* Bonaparte, 1850, is derived from *Phaenicophaeus erythrognathus* Bonaparte (Conspectus Generum Avium, vol. 1, 1850, p. 98), with type locality "Sumatra."

There is, however, an earlier homonym, *P[haenicophaeus]. erythrognathus* Hartlaub, 1844 (Syst. Verzeichniss naturhist. Samml. der Gesellschaft Mus. [Bremen], abth. 1, 1844, p. 95), with type localities "Java" and "Malacca." This is unaccompanied by a description, but "*Cuc. melanognathus*, Raffl." (Trans. Linn. Soc. London, vol. 13, 1821, p. 287) is cited as a synonym.

Cuculus melanognathus Raffles, applied to a Sumatran bird, was a new nomenclatural combination, but was not intended as a new name; a footnote on p. 287 refers back to *Phaenicophaeus melanognathus* Horsfield, same volume, p. 178, applied to a bird from Java.

In short, *erythrognathus* Hartlaub, 1844, at its first appearance was made a synonym of *melanognathus* Raffles, which was considered by Raffles to be identical with *melanognathus* Horsfield, and Hartlaub's type localities indicate that he was not separating a Sumatran race, but was merely emending Raffles's and Horsfield's name. Since *Phaenicophaeus melanognathus* Horsfield was later shown to be the same bird as *Cuculus curvirostris* Shaw, 1810, *P[haenicophaeus]. erythrognathus* Hartlaub must likewise fall into synonymy with *curvirostris*.

The existence of Hartlaub's prior homonym in synonymy with *curvirostris* of Java causes invalidation of *Phaenicophaeus erythrognathus* Bonaparte for the race of Sumatra, and the name of the Malayo-Sumatran form of *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris* must now be derived from *Rhamphococcyx curvirostris singularis* Parrot (Abhandl. der K. Bayer. Akademie der Wiss., kl. 2, band 24, abt. 1, 1907, p. 186), described from Sumatra.