

HONEY GUIDES

Family INDICATORIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 149.

THE salient features of this family have already been given ; the only Malayan species is here described.

Indicator archipelagicus

The Malaysian Honey Guide

Indicator archipelagicus, Temm., *Pl. Col.*, 1832, pl. 542, fig. 2 (Borneo) ; Shelley, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, xix., 1891, p. 4 ; Robinson and Kloss, *Ibis*, 1911, p. 44 ; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, v., 1913, p. 19.

Indicator malayanus, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1878, p. 794 ; Hume, *Stray Feath.*, viii., 1879, p. 155 ; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 180.

Indicator archipelagicus inornatus, Neumann, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxi., 1908, p. 97.

Malay Name.—Musoh lebah.

Description.—*Adult male.*—General colour above, earthy brown, with a slight olive tinge ; the feathers of the rump with whitish edges ; the primaries, secondaries and greater wing coverts, with pale brown margins ; lesser wing coverts along the inner edge of the wing, bright lemon-yellow ; inner aspect of wing, brownish, with pale margins to the inner webs of the quills, the under wing coverts and axillaries, creamy ; tail feathers, brown, paler at the base, the three outer pairs largely whitish on the inner webs, the three inner pairs edged with white on their inner webs only ; lower surface, dirty-white ; the breast and upper abdomen, dull ashy ; the lower flanks broadly streaked with dull blackish brown.

Adult female.—Similar, but without the yellow patch on the lesser upper wing coverts.

Soft Parts.—“ Iris, crimson ; maxilla, horny ; mandible, fleshy, tip, blackish ; feet, dark grey, claws, slate ” (*Jacobson*).

Dimensions.—*Male*: total length, 6·5 to 7 in. ; wing, 3·8 to 4 in. ; tail, 2·8 in. ; tarsus, 0·55 in. ; bill from gape, 0·6 to 0·65 in. ; culmen, 0·5 in. *Female*: total length, 5·8 in. ; wing, 3·4 in. ; tail, 2·6 in. ; tarsus, 0·5 in. ; bill from gape, 0·5 in. ; culmen, 0·45 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Known from six specimens only: a female from Trang, Peninsular Siam; another female from Klang, Selangor, and one from Ginting Bidei on the Selangor-Pahang boundary; a trade skin from Malacca—probably an immature male—and two males: one from Kuala Teku, at the foot of Gunong Tahan, and the other from 3000 ft. on the same mountain.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and Borneo. As shown in the synonymy, the Malay Peninsular birds have been separated from the typical form, but there is not yet sufficient material to show that any differences that exist are not due to age or sex, and not to locality.

Nidification.—The nesting habits of this and the other Asiatic species, *I. xanthonotus*, of the Himalayas, are quite unknown. The African species lay rather rounded white eggs in the deserted nesting holes of barbets and woodpeckers.

Habits.—This is a bird of extreme rarity in the Malay Peninsula, and all our specimens have been obtained by Dyak collectors in our absence. Those from Tahan were obtained near water when the nerum-trees (*Dipterocarpus oblongifolius*) were in flower, and frequented by incredible multitudes of bees, which made life a burden to those travelling in their vicinity. One of the two specimens known from Sumatra, obtained by Heer E. Jacobson, was shot in swampy jungle, perched on a very high tree, uttering incessantly its call note, which consisted of the sound “è” repeated several times, followed by a whizzing “rrrrr.”