

NEW BIRDS FROM THE INDO-CHINESE SUB-REGION¹

BY H. G. DEIGNAN

I

MAYR has suggested (*Ibis*, (14) 2: 313-314, 1938) that the Spotted Owls of Siam may be separable from *pulchra* (Pegu) by their greater dimensions, but has left them unnamed. My material indicates that in Siam, we are, in fact, concerned with two forms, one large and the other small. Ten specimens from the southwestern districts (north to Raheng, east to Siracha, south to Ratburi) have the length of the flattened wing from 138 to 152 millimeters; thirteen from northern and eastern Thailand, from 152 to 163 millimeters. The short-winged birds are *pulchra* (cf. Kinnear, apud Mayr, loc. cit.). The long-winged examples, agreeing in size with *indica*, but in color with *pulchra*, are here named

Athene brama mayri subspecies nova

Type, an adult male, U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 313161, collected at Udon, northeastern Thailand, March 19, 1929, by H. M. Smith.

The type specimen comes from a locality near the northeastern periphery of range and has the wing length 163 millimeters.

II

A study of the Orange-breasted Trogan of the Indo-Chinese countries has shown that birds occurring north of the Isthmus of Kra are separable from the Malayan form, *Harpactes oreskios uniformis* (Robinson), by their having a markedly longer tail.

The tails of seven adults from the Malay Peninsula south of the Isthmus measure 142-156 millimeters; of twenty-two adults from northern, eastern, and southeastern Thailand, Cochin-China, and Cambodia, 158-179 millimeters. The tail of the type specimen, from a locality near the northern periphery of range, measures 176 millimeters.

Examples in moult, or with the tail otherwise imperfect, have not been considered. I find no significant difference between the two mainland forms in coloration or in length of wing.

For the long-tailed northern race I propose the name

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Harpactes oreskios stellae subspecies nova

Type, an adult female, U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 331917, collected at Chiengdao, north-western Thailand, January 29, 1932, by H. M. Smith.

The northernmost localities on record for *stellae* (and for the species as a whole) are Mu'ang Len, Kengtung, Southern Shan States (De Schauensee), and Ban Nam Khuang, French Laos, on the Me Khong between Chiengsen Kao and Chiengkhong (Delacour and Greenway). All Burmese birds, except in the southernmost districts, are probably of this long-tailed form.

III

Hume long ago pointed out (*Stray Feathers*, 6: 111, 1878) that "specimens of [*Rhyticeros*] *undulatus* from Cachar and Sylhet have larger bills than the largest of our extensive South Tenasserim series, and are altogether somewhat larger birds. . . ." Blanford observed (*Fauna Brit. India, Birds*, 3: 148, 1895) that "Tenasserim birds are smaller than those from Assam."

I find that more northern examples of this species are so much larger than the nominate birds of Java that they may properly be subspecifically separated. A series of sixteen adult and sub-adult males from Java, Sumatra, and the Malay Peninsula north to Victoria Point, have the wing length from 440 to 495 millimeters, the bill length (from nostril to tip of maxilla), 177 to 205 millimeters. Three adult males from northern Siam have the wing length from 504 to 510 millimeters, the bill length from 224 to 227 millimeters. Hume states that a male from Cachar had the wing length 528 millimeters.

Since no name seems to be available for these larger birds of the North, I propose that they be called

***Rhyticeros undulatus ticehursti* subspecies nova**

Type, an old-adult male, U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 336836, collected at Huai Oi (14 kilometers north of Ban Pak Li), Nan province, eastern North Siam, April 4, 1937, by H. G. Deignan.

IV

I have been unable to examine topotypical material of *Cyanops australis cyanotis* (Arakan) but, according to Stuart Baker (*Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, 3: 430-431, 1919) and Robinson and Kloss (*ibid.*, 3: 100-101, 1919), Robinson's *orientalis* (southeastern Siam) is, if not identical in every particular with *cyanotis*, at least near enough to have been synonymized therewith by those authors. I suspect, however, that *orientalis* will prove to be a perfectly valid form by its more robust bill, even if not by color characters.

From *orientalis*, the birds of northern Siam differ exactly as does *Cyanops au. stuarti* (peninsular Siam); the most obvious distinctions are the less massive bill of the latter, the rather lesser admixture of yellow in the scarlet of the malar patch, and the deeper color of the red patches above and below the ear-coverts. From *stuarti* itself, the northern birds are perhaps separable only by their greater wing length: six adult males of the former have the wing length from 73.2 to 79.1 millimeters; six adult males of the latter, from 80.7 to 86.7 millimeters. Thus the birds of northern Siam agree with *cyanotis* in wing length (and size of bill?), with *stuarti* in coloration and size of bill. I suggest that they be called

***Cyanops australis invisa* subspecies nova**

Type, an adult male, U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 336982, collected at Pang Ma:kham Pong (foot of Doi Pha Sa:keng), northwestern Thailand, December 29, 1936, by H. G. Deignan.

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*U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.*