

NOTES ON THE INDIAN TIMELIIDES AND THEIR
ALLIES

(LAUGHING THRUSHES, BABBLERS, &c.)

BY

LT.-COL. H. H. HARRINGTON, Indian Army.

Part III.

Family—TIMELIIDÆ.

“Sexes alike; solitary or occurring in very small troops; not noisy; legs and feet strong; wings short and rounded; habits, skulking in bushes or on the ground; evading observation; colour of eggs, with few exceptions, spotted.” (Oates).

The above is the only definition I can find which attempts to define what should constitute membership of the *Timeliidæ*, but it does not cover all the numerous genera, which at present go to make up this very mixed assembly of small birds. Many of these have nothing in common, except that they are non-migratory and consequently have short rounded wings. ¶ ¶

However Mr. Oates's definition is very good as far as it goes, and covers a great number of genera which are thoroughly Timeliine both in structure and in habits. Others on the other hand, are just the reverse in habits, being gregarious, by no means shy or retiring, and instead of haunting the ground, frequent trees and bushes. Unfortunately these characteristics are not sufficient to divide the family, as we find nearly allied species in the same genera differing greatly in habits, some being essentially Timeliine whilst others are the reverse. This being the case in the *Aleippe*, which contains birds very similar in structure, colouration, and nidification, but differing remarkably in habits.

As many of these genera appear to grade into each other and to be nearly related, I have attempted to group them together. By so doing, I do not wish to imply that birds so grouped should belong to the same genus, but to try and show that a relationship appears to exist, and thereby possibly forming sub-families.

In some of these groups the relationship is well marked, the grading of one genus into another most noticeable. In others this is not so apparent, and I am probably wrong in grouping some together. I hope, any mistakes I have made in my attempt to sort out the “Ornithological Waste-paper Basket” may be pointed out.

Besides my attempt at Grouping, I have made out a “Key” based on that of Mr. Oates in the Fauna.

Note.—I think something should be done to give suitable English names to the numerous small “Babblers” which are included in this very large family.

KEY.

- A.—Wing, short, rounded, and fitting close to the body; tarsus long and strong.
- a. Tail much longer than the wing.
- a¹. Shafts of the feathers of the crown soft, (*i.e.*, not separable from the web).
- a². Wing about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times length of tarsus, bill notched *Gampsorhynchus*.
- b². Wing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times length of tarsus, bill not notched.. .. . *Pyctorhis*.
- b¹. Shafts of the feathers of the crown, rigid and glistening.
- c². Bill stout and black *Timeliia*.
- d². Bill more slender, and pale coloured .. *Dumetia*.
- b. Tail, equal to, or slightly shorter than, the wing.
- c¹. Shafts of the feathers of the forehead soft.
- e². Tail greatly graduated, the outer pair of tail feathers falling short of the middle pair by more than one inch.
(Bill slender and very straight) *Elaphrornis*.
- f². Tail not greatly graduated, the outer pair of tail feathers falling short by less than one inch.
- a³. Bill stout and straight, rather deeper at the genys (middle) than at the nostrils.
- a⁴. Nostrils long, and protected by an overhanging membrane.
- a⁵. Rictal bristles very short; nostrils not overhung with hairs.
- a⁶. Wing and tail about equal; underplumage streaked .. *Pellorneum*.
- b⁶. Tail shorter than the wing; underplumage not streaked.. *Scotocichla*.
- b⁵. Rictal bristles well developed; nostrils overhung with hairs .. *Drymocataphus*.
- c⁵. Rictal bristles very long and strong; no hairs overhanging nostrils *Gypsophila*.
- b⁴. Nostrils, small, oval, exposed, and pierced in the anterior corner of the membrane *Malacocincla*.
(*Turdinus*.)
- b³. Bill stout, culmen gently curved throughout to the tip; *bill deepest at the nostrils*.
- c⁴. Outer edge of the primaries uniform.
- d³. Nostrils long, and overhung by a membrane.
- c⁶. Small bristles overhanging the nostrils; tail less graduated, outer tail feather less than $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch shorter than middle pair *Alcippe*.

- d*⁶. Nostrils not overhung with
bristles; outer feather more
than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shorter than
middle pair *Schoeniparus*.
- e*⁵. Nostrils, oval, exposed, pierced in
the anterior corner of the mem-
brane *Rhopocichla*.
- d*⁴. Outer edge of the primaries cons-
piciously particoloured.
- f*⁵. Nostrils not overhung by hairs.
- e*⁶. Tail scarcely graduated. (Tail
shorter than the wing.) .. *Pseudominla*.
- f*⁶. The two outer pair of tail feather
only graduated *Siva*.
- g*⁵. Nostrils overhung with numerous
small hairs. (Tail strongly
graduated.)
- g*⁶. Bill narrow; hind-claw as long
as hind-toe *Proparus*.
- h*⁶. Bill broad; hind-claw not long
as hind-toe *Lioparus*.
- e*³. Bill conical and sharply pointed,
culmen straight. (Nostrils covered
by a membrane.) *Stachyrhidopsis*.
- d*¹. Feathers of the forehead stiff shafted.
- g*². Space round the eye not naked.
- d*³. A conspicuous scale overhanging the
nostril *Stachyrhis* and
Thringorhina.
- f*³. Nostrils, oval, exposed, pierced in the
anterior portion of the membrane .. *Mixornis*.
- h*². Space round the naked *Cyanoderma*.
- c*. Tail very much shorter than the wing. (Upper
plumage squamated.)
- e*¹. Bill moderate and straight *Turdinulus* and
Corythocichla.
- f*¹. Bill long and curved *Rimator*.
- B.—Wing, long, not rounded, nor fitting close to
the body.
- d*. Wing more than 3 times length of tarsus .. *Setaria*.
(Malacopteron.)
- e*. Wing less than 3 times length of tarsus.
- g*¹. Tail more than twice tarsus *Erythrocichla*.
- h*¹. Tail equal to twice tarsus *Aethostoma*.
(Trichostoma.)

GROUP I.

GAMPSORHYNCHUS.

This group consists of only one species and its geographical races; and is a most unsatisfactory one to have in the *Timeliidæ*, both on account of its size and structure. The colour of its eggs at once precludes it being placed in the *Crateropodidæ*, and as Mr. Oates says "Pending a better acquaintance, their position at present appears to be in the *Timeliinæ*."

It has the following characteristics, tail much longer than the wing and greatly graduated; a powerful hooked bill, and is chiefly noticeable for the adult having a considerable amount of white on the head, which it appears to require two years to assume.

GROUP II.

PYCTORHIS.

This consists of two well-marked species, and their sub-species, which appear to form connecting links with the *Paradoxornithidæ*.

They also have a tail much longer than the wings; and a short deep bill with no notch at the tip.

One species (*P. sinensis*) consists of birds inhabiting the open country, and having a flight rather reminding one of a "Butcher-bird;" the other (*P. altirostris*) are birds only found in high grass along river banks. The eggs of the former are well known, and are some of our most beautiful Indian eggs, those of the latter, I believe, have not yet been described.

GROUP III.

ELAPHRONIS.

This group consists of one species, peculiar to the Island of Ceylon, which in my opinion is undoubtedly a Warbler, showing some affinities to the African *Cisticola*; and has only been temporarily included in my list.

It has the wing and tail about equal in length, the latter being greatly graduated; a slender longish bill, and the plumage very soft and dense.

GROUP IV.

TIMELIHA.

In this I have placed *Timeliha* which consists of one species and its geographical races, and *Dumetia*, the last being peculiar to the Peninsula of India, and consists of three sub-species.

The characteristics of this group are, tail much longer than the wing, and greatly graduated; the shafts of the feathers of the crown rigid. In *Timeliha* the bill is very stout and massive, and intensely black; whilst *Dumetia*, has a more slender bill, which is pale in colour. Both species build dome-shaped nests, which are placed near the ground, and their eggs are white covered with numerous spots.

GROUP V.

PELLORNEUM.

I have grouped the following together, *Pellorneum*, *Scotocichla*, *Drymocataphus*, and *Rhopocichla*, they are all thoroughly Timeliine in habits; differing from the last group, in having a shorter tail; and the shafts of the feathers of the crown soft. The type of eggs of this group, with one exception, are very like those of the last, in *Drymocataphus* the eggs are of a totally different type, being either a very bright pinkish-red, or dark greenish with dark brown spots.

GROUP VI.

GYPSOPHILA.

This group also contains only one species, the habits and nidification of which nothing appears to be known. Its chief peculiarity is, as in *Gampsorhynchus* and *Acanthoptila*, that the adult has a considerable amount of white on the head, otherwise in structure it appears to be allied to the *Pellorneum* group.

GROUP VII.

MALACOCINCLA (Turdinus).

This is only represented by one genus within Indian limits, others are found in the Malay Peninsula and Islands. It is thoroughly Timeliine in appearance and habits, and is characterised by its short tail and oval and exposed nostrils. The eggs of our only Indian species are very handsome and approach in colour some of the *Alcippe*.

GROUP VIII.

ALCIPPE.

This is rather a large group, the members of one genus grading into those of the next; in habits, they range from those which are thoroughly Timeliine, (*Schæniparus*), up to the *Sivas*, which are arboreal in habits. In it I have placed the following, *Schæniparus*, *Alcippe*, *Pseudominla*, *Proparus*, *Siva* and *Lioparus*. I have been unable to find any definite characteristics of this group, the wing and tail are about equal, that is one not conspicuously shorter than the other, and the bill, small and slightly curved. The majority build cup-shaped nests and lay highly coloured eggs.

GROUP IX.

STACHYRHIS.

In this group I have placed *Thingorhina*, *Stachyrhis*, *Stachyrhidopsis*, *Mixornis*, and *Cyanoderma*. Members of the first three genera grades vary naturally from one into the other, this is most noticeable in the bill, which ranges from rather a coarse notched one in *Thingorhina*, to a slender pointed one in *Stachyrhidopsis*. The last two differ from the first in the shape and formation of their bills, but show a remarkable resemblance in their colouration and style of plumage. In habits they are not Timeliine but given to haunting trees; in nidification the first two are peculiar in being the only two genera in the *Timeliinæ* which lay spotless white eggs, the other members of this group all lay white eggs spotted with reddish.

GROUP X.

TURDINULUS.

This is a very compact group consisting of the three Wren-like genera, *Turdinulus*, *Corythocichla*, and *Rimator*, the last being remarkable for its extremely long bill. The members of this group are characterised by their short tails and squamated upper plumage. In habits they appear to be very Wren-like (*Troglodytes*), haunting hillsides and brushwood, and being solitary. They all build dome-shaped nests which are placed on or near the ground, and lay white eggs profusely spotted with reddish-brown.

GROUP XI.

SETARIA.

I have placed *Setaria* (*Malacopterum*), *Erythrochichla* and *Æthostoma* (*Trichostoma*) in this group, they are hardly Indian and belong really to the Malayan Fauna, only coming within our limits in the extreme south of Tenasserim. Very little has been recorded, about their habits and nidification, which might help us to their classification, and from their long wings and short tarsi, I think, should be removed from amongst the *Timeliinæ*.

They have the following characteristics, a fairly long wing, which does not fit close to the body; tail equal to or shorter than the wing, a short tarsus; bill stout, straight and very strong; rictal bristles extremely long; habits strictly arboreal.

GROUP I.

GAMPSORHYNCHUS, Blyth, 1844.

Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 134.

This group consists of one species which is confined to the eastern portion of the Empire and the Malay Peninsula, and has been divided up into three sub-species.

Their characteristics are a long graduated tail; short rounded wings, the first four primaries graduated; a powerful shrike-like bill; and their rictal bristles well developed. General colour rufous-brown with white heads and breasts; the young appear to take two years to assume the white and to breed in the immature stage.

From their structure they seem to approach the "Laughing-Thrushes" but differ from them in the colour of their eggs, which Mr. Stuart Baker has shown in one sub-species are spotted. They differ from all other Timeliides, with exception of *Gypsophila*, and *Acanthoptila*, in the young being differently coloured, and in almost the same particulars as in those two genera.

It would help immensely if specimens of this genus were sent home in spirits, so that they could be anatomically examined, and their true position determined.

GAMPSORHYNCHUS RUFULUS RUFULUS, Blyth.*

The White-headed Shrike Babbler.

Gampsorhynchus rufulus, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xiii., p. 371, 1844; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 386; Oates, F. B. I., p. 135; Baker, Ibis, 1895, p. 53; *ibid* Ibis, 1906, p. 96; *ibid*, J. B. M. H. S., viii., p. 179.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—The lower ranges and valleys of Sikhim, Sadiya and Tippook in Assam; the Daphla Hills, and Garo Hills; Arracan. (Oates). I procured two specimens at the Jade Mines in the Myitkyina District of Upper Burma, these are now in the Society Museum.

Habits and Nestings.—Mr. Stuart Baker is, I believe, the only one who has recorded anything about the nidification of this interesting species. In habits, they appear to go about in parties like Laughing-Thrushes. Their nests seem to be very untidy, cup-shaped affairs of a shrike-like appearance which are placed in bushes and saplings. The eggs "have a ground colour of very pale-yellow stone and the superior markings consist of freckles, specks, and tiny blotches of reddish-brown; these are scattered fairly numerous all over the egg, but more thickly towards the larger end, where in two eggs they form a pretty distinct ring, and in a third an indistinct cup. The secondary markings are of the same character and distribution, but pale lavender and purple grey in colour and measured .91" × .67". †

GAMPSORHYNCHUS RUFULUS TORQUATUS, Hume.

The Ring-necked Shrike Babbler.

Gampsorhynchus torquatus, Hume, Proc. A. S. B., 1874, p. 107; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 387; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 136.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Nothing is known about the habits or nidification of this species.

Distribution.—Toungoo Hills, Karennee, and Tenasserim.

GROUP II.

PYCTORHIS, Hodgson, 1844.

This genus at present only contains two species and their geographical races, and is practically confined to the Indian Empire and Ceylon, one species *P. sinensis* extending into Yunnan and Siam.

They have the following characteristics: a small rounded wing, and long graduated tail; a short deep bill without any notch; oval and exposed nostrils and weak rectal bristles.

NOTE.

Pyctorhis gracilis, Styan, Ibis, 99, p. 295. Is only a synonym of *Moupinia pæcilotis* (Verr.), which I think should be included in this genus.

*GAMPSORHYNCHUS RUFULUS SATURITIAR, Sharpe.

The Malay Shrike-Babbler.

Sharpe, P. Z. S., 1888, p. 273.

Habitat.—Perak, Malay Peninsula.

† The nest of *G. rufulus* is not unlike the Shrikes of the *Voloc ivora* group, but the eggs are quite different in character, very like, in fact, *Drymocataphus tickelli* in the *Timeliinae* and *Copsychus* amongst the *Merulidæ*.—E. C. S. B.]

KEY.

- A.—Bill black; forehead plain rufous.
a. Nostrils yellow *P. s. sinensis.*
b. Nostrils black *P. s. nasalis.*
- B.—Bill yellowish-brown; forehead blackish with grey margins.
c. Upper plumage reddish-brown.
a' Chin, throat and upper breast whitish .. *P. a. altirostris.*
b' Chin, throat and upper breast grey .. *P. a. griseigularis.*
d. Upper plumage earthy brown, chin and throat only white *P. a. scindicus* sub-sp. nov.

PYCTORHIS SINENSIS SINENSIS, Gm.

The Indian Yellow-eyed Babbler.

Parus sinensis. Gm., Syst. Nat., i., p. 1012 (1788).

Pyctorhis sinensis. Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 510; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 117

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Note.—Birds from dry localities and the plains are much paler than hill specimens, some of which are very dark and richly coloured.

Distribution.—Every portion of the Indian Empire, except south of Moulmein; it extends into Yunnan and Siam.

PYCTORHIS SINENSIS NASALIS, Legge.

The Ceylon Yellow-eyed Babbler.

Pyctorhis nasalis, Legge, A. M. N. H. (5), iii., p. 169 (1879); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 512; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 138.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—Confined to the Island of Ceylon.

KEY TO Sub-species of *P. altirostris.*

—	<i>P. a. altirostris.</i>	<i>P. a. griseigularis.</i>	<i>P. a. scindicus.</i>
<i>Type locality</i> ..	Thyetmyo, Burma.	Assam	Sukkur, Sind.
<i>Distribution</i> ..	The Plains of Lower Burma.	The Plains of Assam and Upper Burma.	(Probably the Indus basin).
<i>Chin and Throat.</i> ..	Whitish ..	Ashy grey ..	Whitish.
<i>Upper breast</i> ..	Whitish ..	Ashy grey ..	Pale ochraceous.
<i>Lower breast, flanks and abdomen.</i>	Pale-fulvous ..	Rufous	Pale ochraceous.
<i>Upper plumage.</i> ..	Reddish-brown, darkest on the wings and tail.	Reddish-brown, darkest on the head	Fulvous; reddish-brown on the wings and tail. Head the same colour as the back.

Note.—I can find nothing recorded as to the habits or nidification of any of the above sub-species. Their distribution is also very imperfectly known, and as they inhabit dense high grass most probably have often been overlooked; their distribution is therefore most probably much wider.

PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS ALTIROSTRIS, Jerdon.

Jerdon's Babbler.

Chrysomma altirostre, Jerdon, Ibis, 1862, p. 22.

Pyctorhis altirostris, Sharpe, Cat., B. H., vii., p. 512; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 139.

Description.—"Forehead and a broad stripe to the eye hoary-grey with black centres; lores grey; sides of the head and neck greyish-brown, tinged with rufous, more hoary round the eye; whole upper plumage deep reddish-brown, darkest on the wings and tail; chin, throat, cheeks, and upper breast whitish; lower breast, flanks and abdomen ochraceous." "Upper mandible pale horn-colour, lower pinkish flesh-colour; iris hazel-brown; eyelid and orbital skin greenish-yellow; legs and feet pinkish-brown." "Length, about 6.5"; tail, 3.3"; wing, 2.4"; tarsus, .9"; bill from gape, .55" (Oates).

Wing, 57-61 mm. Average six specimens, 60 mm.

Distribution.—Thayetmyo and the plains of Pegu, in Lower Burma.

Habits.—Nothing is known about the habits or nidification of this species, it is only found in long elephant or kine grass.

PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS GRISEIGULARIS, Hume.

Hume's Babbler.

Pyctorhis griseigularis, Hume, St. Frs., v., p. 116. (1877); Harington, Bull. B. O. C., xxxiii., p. 47.

Description.—Similar to *P. a. altirostris*, Jerdon, differs, in having chin, throat, and upper breast, grey, instead of white; the lower breast, abdomen and flanks, dull rufous, instead of pale-fulvous.

Wing, 62-64. mm. Average of seven specimens, 63. mm.

"Bill pale horny, nearly white towards base of lower mandible; legs pale fleshy or orange-brown; feet darker." (Hume.)

Distribution.—Assam, and the Butan Doars.

Four specimens procured by me at Bhamo Upper Burma, in February and June, and now in the Tring Museum, are very similar to the above, in having the abdomen dull rufous and breast grey; but have the throat white instead of grey, and therefore appear to form a connecting link between the Assam and Pegu birds. I found these birds very common in the dense "Kine-grass" around Bhamo, it is probably to be found inhabiting similar localities throughout Northern Burma.

PYCTORHIS ALTIROSTRIS SCINDICUS, Sub-sp. nov.

The Sind Babbler.

Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 513.

It is not always advisable to describe a new species from a single specimen, but as the only one, I have been able to examine from Sind, differs entirely from *P. a. griseigularis*, Hume, from Assam its nearest geographically, I think it advisable to give it a name. Dr. Sharpe, in the "Catalogue of Birds," notices the difference between the Sind bird and *P. altirostris*.

Description.—Similar to *P. a. altirostris*, Jerdon, from Pegu, differs in having its upper plumage fulvous, instead of reddish-brown; its chin and throat white, breast and remainder of lower plumage ochraceous.

Wing, 65. mm.; culmen, 12 mm.; bill from gape, 13. mm.

Type.—In the British Museum.

Habitat.—Sukkar in Sind.

GROUP III.

ELAPHRORNIS, Legge, 1879.

This genus contains one species which is confined to the mountains of Ceylon. Nothing appears to be known about it and to what family or group it should belong. Mr. Oates placed it amongst the *Brachypterygineæ*, but for

what reasons he does not state. To me it appears to be more nearly allied to some of the warblers, and until it has been anatomically examined and its true position determined, afraid it must still remain amongst the miscellaneous list of *Timeliidæ*.

It has the following characteristics: a long delicate black bill equalling the hind-toe and claw in length, and perfectly straight; rictal bristles weak; no hairs overhanging the nostrils; the nostrils long narrow slits, not covered by a membrane; a rounded wing, the first four primaries graduated; wing and tail equal, the latter also very much graduated; under plumage not streaked; the whole plumage is very soft and approaching the *Luscinola* in texture, in fact the bird looks much more a warbler than a babbler. There is also reason to believe that the young, and possibly the sexes vary, a very non-Timeline feature.

It is hoped that members in Ceylon will collect a series of this bird and also a few specimens in spirit.

ELAPHRORNIS PALLISERI, Blyth.

Palliser's Warbler.

Brachypteryx palliseri, Blyth, T. A. S. B., xx., p. 178 (1851).

Elaphrornis palliseri, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., VII., p. 517; Oates, F. B. I., I p. 191; Hale, Bull. B. O. C., xxxiii., p. 91.

Description.—As in Oates, Fauna, B. I.

Distribution.—Ceylon.

Until recently nothing seems to have been known about the nidification of this interesting species, which appears to be allied to some African warblers. Mr. T. P. Aldworth was lucky enough to procure a nest with parent bird, and has given me the following note. The eggs are most remarkable, and are intermediate between those of *Tribura* and the pale type of Bulbul. In fact Mr. Stuart Baker has received eggs from Ceylon reputed to be of this species, but owing to their similarity to Bulbul's eggs, hesitated to accept them as authentic, but now thanks to Mr. Aldworth's eggs, which agree with those received by Mr. Stuart Baker, all doubt has been removed. I may add Mr. Stuart Baker has generously given me a pair of these interesting eggs.

Note by Mr. T. P. Aldworth.

"*Elaphrornis palliseri*, Pallisers' Warbler: found the nest of this bird on 10th April 1911 while it was being built, in a small shrub of the laurel family?, at about 3 feet from the ground, situated in a small open patch, in the dense jungle on the bank of a stream flowing from the Horton Plains to the Boga-want-alawa valley. The nest which was composed of coarse grass-stalks, moss, and fine twigs, lined with skeleton leaves and grass fibres, was deeply cupped and fairly solid. It was completed on about the 23rd. I took the two eggs on the 23th, as though I visited the nest on several occasions, I failed to see any sign of the bird until she had commenced to sit. From the construction of the nest, I was rather surprised to only get two eggs, but have since seen two more clutches, belonging to Mr. Stuart Baker, both of two eggs, so conclude this is the probable normal amount, moreover, there seems to be little variation among them, as the eggs in each of these sets were almost identical; of a pinkish-white ground colour, thickly freckled with purplish-brown, with mauve or grey under markings, and one or two hair like lines at the larger end."

GROUP IV.

TIMELIA, DUMETIA.

This group consists of *Timelia* and *Dumetia*. Their characteristics are: tail much longer than the wing, and greatly graduated; the shafts of the feathers of the crown rigid and glistening.

TIMELIA,* Horsfield, 1821.

Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 507; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 131; Hartert, Nov. Zool., viii., p. 53.

This genus consists of only one species, and at present represented by three geographical races, which extend from Nepal along the Himalayas into Assam, Burma, S. China, the Malay Peninsula, and Java.

It holds the proud position of having given its name to what has been most aptly termed the "Ornithological Waste-paper Basket," for into this so-called family numerous genera have been cast, presumably because they have been refused admission to other better known ones.

They have the following characteristics: a short rounded wing, fitting close to the body; tail much longer than the wing, and greatly graduated; the feathers of the forehead stiff, with glistening shafts; bill coarse and intensely black.

KEY.

—	<i>T. p. pileata.</i>	<i>T. p. jerdoni.</i>	<i>T. p. bengalensis.</i>
<i>Locality</i>	Java	Burma	India.
<i>Abdomen</i>	Pale buff.. ..	Rusty buff	Fulvous, or dull buff.
<i>Flanks</i>	Buff tinged with olive.	Dark olive	Dark olive, sides of the breast very grey.
<i>Forehead and supercilium.</i>	Very narrow	Wider than <i>pileata</i> .	Broader than <i>jerdoni</i> .
<i>Crown</i>	Bright chestnut	Bright chestnut	Darker than the other two.
<i>Upper plumage</i>	Pale olive-brown.. ..	Darker than <i>pileata</i> .	Darker than <i>jerdoni</i> .
<i>Tail</i>	Pale, not distinctly barred.	Ditto	Dark, and distinctly barred.
<i>Wing measurements.</i>	"67 mm. to 73 mm." (Hartert).	Average of— 13 spec. 64 mm. Max. 68 mm. Min. 61 mm.	16 spec. 61 mm. Max. 64 mm. Min. 55 mm.

* TIMELIA PILEATA PILEATA, Horsfield, 1821.

The Java Red-capped Babbler.

Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc., xiii., p 151 (1821); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 507; Hartert, Nov. Zool., viii., p. 53.

Description.—"Java birds have abdomen pale buff; the side of the breast and flanks buffy-olive, the crown rather lighter rufous, the whole back, rump and upper tail-coverts much paler and more buffy; the tail much paler and less distinctly barred." (Hartert.)

"Wing, 67mm. to 73 mm. (or 2·65'' to 2·87''); the males being larger than the females."

Habitat.—Java. There are specimens in the British Museum from Siam, Saigon and Molucca, which are, I think, referable to this sub-species.

TIMELIA PILEATA BENGALENSIS, Godwin-Austin.

The Bengal Red-capped Babbler.

Timelia bengalensis, Godwin-Austin, J. A. S. B., xli., part 2, p. 143 (1872); Hartert, Nov. Zool., viii., p. 53; Oates, N. & Eggs, i., p. 91.

Timelia pileata, Oates, F. B. I. p. 132 (part).

Description.—"The form from the Himalayas and Assam is considerably smaller, much darker above, the tail much darker and more distinctly barred. The abdomen is of a dirty buff, the sides of the breast and flanks are deep brownish-olive. This colour extends much further towards the middle of the breast and abdomen, so that the pale area is much more restricted." (Hartert.)

"Wing 59 to 61 mm. (2.3" to 2.4")."

Distribution.—Along the lower hills, from Nepal to Sikkim, Bengal, Bhutan and Assam.

Habits.—Haunts damp low-lying localities. Placing its nest on or near the ground; this is composed of grass and leaves, untidily put together into a loose ball; the breeding season is from April onwards. The eggs are white profusely spotted with brown, and measure from .69" to .75" by .55" to .6".

TIMELIA PILEATA JERDONI, Walden.

The Burmese Red-capped Babbler.

Timelia jerdoni, Walden, A. M. N. H. (4), x., p. 61 (1872); Hartert, Nov. Zool., viii., p. 53; Oates, N. & Eggs, i., p. 91.

Timelia pileata, Oates, F. B. I., p. 132 (part).

Description.—"Specimens from Tenasserim are intermediate between those from Java and Northern India, they have the abdomen much more rufous, the upper plumage browner, the crown slightly darker, and the sides of the breast and flanks darker and more olive than the Java birds."

"Wing, about 67 mm. (2.65")." (Hartert.)

Distribution.—The whole of Burma in suitable localities. I have only found this species in damp low-lying places in Upper Burma, Oates mentions that it frequents gardens in Lower Burma. Its nest and eggs are the same as the last species.

Note.—Two specimens, now in the British Museum, collected by Lieut. Vaughan, R. N., in S. China, are nearest to *T. p. jerdoni* from Burma, but are slightly smaller, and have the under parts darker, and a much more massive bill for their size.

DUMETIA, Blyth, 1849.

Oates, F. of B. I., i., p. 133.

"This genus, which contains two common Indian species, resembles *Timelia*, very closely in structure, especially in the stiffness of the shafts of the feathers of the forehead and crown. The essential difference between the two genera is that in *Dumetia* the bill is much smaller, more slender and of a pale colour, and in *Timelia* larger, deeper, and black." (Oates.)

Mr. Oates in describing *D. albigularis* points out the differences between birds from the following localities: "From Mt. Abu and Deesa down to Mahableshwar the greater number of birds have nearly the whole crown deep rufous with pale shaft-streaks. In Mysore and the Wynaad the rufous is restricted to the forehead, the feathers having intensely black shafts, and all the feathers of the throat having conspicuously black shafts. Ceylonese birds resemble the Mysore and Wynaad ones, but the throat is without the black shafts so conspicuous in the latter." On examining the large series in the British Museum, I find that the birds from the first

localities are quite distinct from the others, in having the head conspicuously rufous. Birds from Ceylon have the head slightly more rufous than those from Mysore, but I do not find the black shaft stripes mentioned by Mr. Oates constant in birds from Southern India, and therefore do not consider there is sufficient variation to separate the birds from Ceylon from the Southern Indian species.

The geographical distribution, as far as I can determine, of these species is as follows: The southernmost limits of *D. hyperythra* appears to be a line somewhere between Khandala on the west and the Godavary on the east; from here it extends northwards through the Central Provinces, Chota Nagpur, the United Provinces, up to the hills as far west as Simla, and to Darjeeling on the east, wanting in Lower Bengal, but appearing on the Paresnath Hills. *D. albigularis abuensis*, sp. nov., inhabits Rajputana about Mt. Abu and Deesa, down to Mahableswar, the exact limits at present uncertain. *D. albigularis albigularis*, Southern India from Belgaum, southwards into Mysore and the Wynaad, and to Ceylon.

KEY.

- A.—Chin and throat rufous *D. hyperythra*.
 B.— " " " white.
 a. Forehead only pale rufous *D. albigularis albigularis*.
 b. Whole crown rufous, with pale shaft streaks *D. albigularis abuensis*.

DUMETIA HYPERYTHRA, Franklin.

The Rufous-bellied Babbler.

Timelia hyperythra, Franklin, P. Z. S., 1831, p. 118.

Dumetia hyperythra, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 515; Oates, F. of B. I. i., p. 133.

Description.—As in F. B. I. Birds from the Himalaya foot hills have the plumage darker, and the back with almost a greenish tinge.

DUMETIA ALBIGULARIS ALBIGULARIS, Blyth.*

The Small White-throated Babbler.

Malacocercus? albigularis, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xvi., p. 453 (1847).

Dumetia albigularis, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 514; Oates, F. of B. I., i., p. 134.

Description.—Forehead pale rufous; feathers round the eye white; upper plumage, wings and tail olive-brown; tail faintly cross rayed; chin and throat white, the feathers having glistening white shaft stripes; the remainder of under plumage rusty red.

"Iris, birds from Wynaad white, from Ceylon greyish-olive or white; bill, legs and feet pinkish fleshy; upper mandible along the culmen tinged with brown."

"Length, about 6"; tail, 2·7"; wing, 2·2"; tarsus, ·75"; bill from gape, ·6" (Oates)."

Distribution.—Southern India [from Belgaum to Mysore and the Wynaad, and to Ceylon. In habits it seems to be a miniature *Argya*, frequenting

* *Ophrydornis Buttkofer.*

Note in the "Hand List of Birds", Sharpe, iv, p. 87.

D. albigularis. Blyth.

This has been entered in error, and refers to *Setaria albigularis*, Blyth, and does not refer to this "*albigularis*."

The same error has been perpetuated in the *Catalogue of Nests and Egg*, Vol. iv, p. 31.

scrub jungle and brush-wood, and going about in small parties. Nesting from April to July, building an untidy dome-shaped nest of grass and leaves on or near the ground. And laying from two to four white eggs spotted with bright red, measuring from '66" to '78" by '5" to '55".

DUMETIA ALBIGULARIS ABUENSIS, sp. nov.

The Mt. Abu Babbler.

Description.—Similar to *D. a. albigularis*, Blyth. Differs in having the whole crown chestnut, instead of the forehead only being a pale rufous; and under parts much darker.

"Iris, birds from Deesa, dark brown." (Oates.)

Distribution.—The country round Mt. Abu, Deesa, and down to Mahableshwar I can find nothing recorded about birds from the above localities, but their habits most probably are the same as the last species.

GROUP V.

PELLORNEUM.

This group consists of *Pellorneum*, *Scotocichla*, *Drymocapthus*, and *Rhopocichla*, I am very doubtful about the last, whether it should be in this group at all, as the shape of its bill approaches that of the *Alcippe* type.

They have the following characteristics: feathers of the crown soft shafted; no very great difference between the length of the wings and tail; legs and feet remarkably strong; and short rounded wings, the first four primaries graduated.

N. B.—I think some of the species in this group are at present in the wrong genera.

PELLORNEUM, Swainson, 1831.

Cinclidia, Gould; *Hemipteron*, Hodgson.

Jerdon, ii., p. 27; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 139.

"Bill moderate straight and compressed, and about three-fourths the length of the head, slightly hooked at the tip, and notched; the nostrils not overhung by hairs, and the rictal bristles are extremely short. The wings and tail are about equal in length; tarsus moderate; feet large; middle toe lengthened; laterals barely unequal; hind toe long; claws tolerably curved." (Oates and Jerdon.)

"Bill slender, nasal opening linear, rictal bristles short not reaching to the nostrils; tail as long as the wing, strongly rounded, about twice and a half the length of the tarsus, this latter strong at least an inch in length; toes long and strong; crown more or less rufous, bordered by a distinct paler eye-brow; lower surface, at least the chest, distinctly striped with brown."—*Buttkofer, Notes, Leyden Museum*, Vol. xvii, p. 75.

This genus has the following characteristics: a short rounded wing; fitting close to the body, the first four primaries graduated; wing and tail about equal; the feathers of the forehead soft; bill long and straight; rictal bristles very short; no hairs overhanging the nostrils; under plumage streaked.

It falls into three sub-groups, the last two are in appearance much nearer to *Drymocapthus*, and I think should be included in that genus.

i. *P. ruficeps*.

Are most noticeable for their rufous-capped heads, and under parts boldly striped with dark brown, giving them a regular "Tit-lark" appearance.

They have rather long bills which are as long as the hind-toe and claw together.

N. B.—I think this genus should be restricted to only this species.

ii. *P. palustre*, Jerdon.

Wants the rufous cap, and has the under parts streaked, but not boldly striped as in the last; the bill is shorter than the hind-toe and claw, the latter being remarkably well developed. They appear to form a connecting link between the last and *Drymocataphus*, and I think, are nearer that genus than *Pellorneum*.

iii. *P. ignotum*, Hume.

Have neither a rufous cap nor a streaked or striped lower plumage, otherwise in structure very like *P. palustre*.

N. B.—I think this species should be placed in *Drymocataphus*.

KEY.

A.—Breast boldly striped with dark brown.

a.—Mantle not streaked.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>a</i> ¹ . | Crown pale rufous | <i>P. r. ruficeps</i> . |
| <i>b</i> ¹ . | „ „ chestnut | <i>P. r. subochraceum</i> . |
| <i>c</i> ¹ . | „ „ dark chestnut.. .. . | <i>P. r. granti</i> . |

b.—Mantle streaked.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>d</i> ¹ . | Upper back with dark brown streaks .. | <i>P. r. mandelli</i> . |
| <i>e</i> ¹ . | „ „ „ „ „ „ .. | <i>P. r. minus</i> . |

B.—Breast streaked brown and greyish-buff .. *P. palustre*.

C.—Under plumage not striped or streaked.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>f</i> ¹ . | Breast tinged brownish | <i>P. i. ignotum</i> . |
| <i>g</i> ¹ . | „ „ bright rufous | <i>P. i. cinnamomeum</i> . |

Distribution.—*P. r. ruficeps*, Swainson, practically the whole Peninsula of India, except the extreme South; *P. r. granti*, Harington, Travancore; *P. r. mandelli*, Blanford, from Nepal to Assam, and N. and N.-E. Burma; *P. r. minus*, Hume, Central Burma; *P. r. subochraceum*, Swinhoe, Lower Burma; *P. palustre*, Jerdon, Assam; *P. i. ignotum*, Hume, Assam; *P. i. cinnamomeum*, Rippon, Shan States, Burma.

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS RUFICEPS, Swainson.

The Indian Spotted Babbler.

Pellorneum ruficeps, Swainson, Faun. Bor-Am. Birds, p. 487 (1831); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 520; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 141; Baker, J. B. N. H. S., viii., p. 186.

Description.—Lores buff slightly tipped with black; forehead, crown, and nape rufous brown; a pale buff supercilium, and above the eye mottled with brown; whole upper plumage olive-brown; tail narrowly tipped with white; sides of the head and ear-coverts pale olive-brown or the same colour as the stripes on the breast; chin and throat white; breast white tinged with buff and boldly streaked with umber-brown; flanks and under-tail coverts olivaceous, the latter tipped with white.

Note.—Birds from Western India, Mahabeshwar and the Paresnath Hills are similar to birds from Madras and the Wynaad, but have the rufous cap very much paler; the sides of the head and ear coverts buff, and no spots on the side of the head.

Distribution.—The whole of the Indian peninsula, with exception of Travancore, as far north as Khandesh and to the Paresnath Hills. Mr. Stuart

Baker, in the "Birds of N. Cachar", says that it is fairly common in North and South Cachar, and the nidification the same as *P. mandelli*.

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS GRANTI, Harington.

The Travancore Spotted Babbler.

P. ruficeps granti, Harington, Bull. B. O. C., xxxiii., p. 81 (1913).

"*Adult male*.—Similar to *P. ruficeps*, Swains, but altogether a much darker and more richly coloured form. Head dark chestnut; supercilium from behind the eye pale buff with dusky tips; the feathers on the forehead tipped with black; the feathers of the crown pale-shafted; the whole upper plumage, wings, and tail dark olive-brown tinged with rufous, tail not tipped white; chin and throat white; breast white with oblong spot of dark olive-brown producing a heavily streaked appearance; sides of the breast and flanks paler olive-brown; irides dark red-brown; bill above black, below horny-white; legs, feet, and claws pale fleshy. Length 178 mm.; culmen 18; wing 76; tail 66; tarsus 28.

Habitat.—Travancore.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Mynall, 10. iii. 77. Hume coll.

Observation.—When examining the series of skins of *Pellorneum* in the Natural History Museum, I noticed that a specimen from Travancore was a much darker and more richly coloured bird than the rest. I pointed this out to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, who kindly wrote out to the Director of the Travancore Museum for the loan of any specimens he might have. The Director most obligingly forwarded five examples of *Pellorneum* from different parts of India, and amongst them one from Travancore which is identical in colour with the one in the National Museum, and shows that the Travancore bird is undoubtedly distinct from the form found at Coonoor and further to the north. I have therefore much pleasure in naming this very well-marked sub-species after Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant." (Harington.)

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS MANDELLI, Blanford.

The Himalayan Spotted Babbler.

Pellorneum mandelli, Blanford, J. A. S. B., xli, p. ii., p. 165 (1844); Oates F. B. I., i., p. 140; Baker, J. B. N. H. S., viii., p. 18.

P. nepalensis, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 518.

Similar to *S. r. ruficeps*, differs in having the mantle streaked.

Description.—Forehead and supercilium speckled with black; lower neck and upper back streaked with dark brown to black in the centre; and at the sides, the outer half of the feathers striped with the same colour as the breast stripes, the inner half striped with whitish-buff; ear-coverts pale rufous; chin and throat white; breast pale buff, heavily streaked with dark umber-brown, and occasionally a few black stripes at the side of the neck; flanks and under-tail coverts olivaceous, latter tipped white.

Note.—Many birds from Sikhim and other localities have the dark markings on the back wanting, this may be due to age.

Wing: average of 14 specimens, 70 mm.; max., 73 mm.; min., 67 mm., Males slightly the larger.

Distribution.—Nepal, Sikhim, Bhutan Doars, Assam, Dibrugarh, Khasia and Garo Hills, N. Cachar and Manipur, appearing again in the Bhamo District and extending through the Shan States. In the Museum there are 6 specimens from the Southern Shan States; these have the dark markings on the mantle, but are slightly larger, average wing 71 mm., max., 75 mm., min., 70 mm. and, I think, are referable to this species.

Habits and Nesting.—"Breeds from April to July, constructing a loose domed nest of moss, leaves, and fibres on the ground. The eggs three to four in number, are white speckled with chocolate or purplish-brown, and measure .87" × .67"."

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS MINUS, Hume.

The Burmese Spotted Babbler.

Pellorneum minus, Hume, S. F., i., p. 298 (1873) and iii., p. 120; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 141; Baker, Records, I. M., viii., part (3), p. 263.

P. intermedium, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 519.

This sub-species is intermediate between *P. mandelli* and *P. subochraceum*, having the sides of the neck streaked, but not the brown markings on the back of the former. There are specimens in the British Museum, from the Chindwin, Mt. Victoria, Popa Hill, Meiktila and Thyetmyo. This is a broad belt of country between the habitats of the above two sub-species. There are also some unsexed specimens in the Museum from the Himalayas and Assam which have not the brown markings on the back typical of *P. mandelli*. These I take to be young birds. There is only one immature specimen of *P. r. ruficeps* from Cachar in the Museum. This has no traces of streaks on the upper plumage, these are, therefore, most probably only acquired at a later period.

Mr. Stuart Baker in "Birds of the Abor Expedition" is inclined to suppress this sub-species, no doubt along the border line of two nearly allied species intermediate forms must occur. In this case I think *P. minus*, Hume, has a very wide range of country, and to be entitled to sub-specific rank. The distribution of these two nearly allied sub-species is as follows:—

P. r. mandelli.—Nepal to Assam, appearing again in the Bhamo District, thence to the Shan States.

P. r. minus.—The Chindwin, Chin Hills to Mt. Victoria, Myingyan (Popa Hill), Meiktila districts, and Central Burma to Thyetmyo, whence it was first described by Hume.

Description.—Intermediate between *P. r. mandelli* and *P. r. subochraceum*, differs from the former in not having the upper back streaked with dark brown to almost black. Differs from the latter in having the feathers of the mantle and neck streaked, those of the back having pale brownish streaks, those of the side streaked with the same colour as the breast stripes.

Habits.—The same as those of *P. subochraceum* and has the same cry of "Pretty Dear" often repeated. The nest and eggs also the same, the latter being slightly larger.

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS SUBOCHRACEUM, Swinhoe.

The Malayan Spotted Babbler.

Pellorneum subochraceum, Swinhoe, A. M. N. H. (4), vii., p. 259 (1871); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 521; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. Q. 142.

Similar to *P. r. ruficeps*, differs in having the crown chestnut, and being slightly smaller, and from *mandelli* in having the mantle not streaked.

Description.—Lore fulvous white with black shafts; forehead, crown and nape light chestnut; a broad supercilium to the nape creamy-white to buff, the feathers immediately above the eye speckled with blackish; ear-coverts pale rufous buff, with a surrounding darker line; upper plumage, exposed parts of the wings and tail, olive-brown; outer edge of primaries olivaceous to ochraceous; tail narrowly tipped with white; chin and throat white; lower plumage light fulvous, flanks darker; breast and sides of the body streaked with dark umber-brown; under tail-coverts fulvous with large central dark markings.

Wing: average of 11 specimens, 64 mm.; max., 68 mm.; min., 62 mm. Males slightly the larger.

Bill, "Iris red; upper mandible dark brown, lower yellow at the base, changing to light brown at the tip; legs light brownish-yellow." (Oates.)

Distribution.—Malay Peninsula, Tenasserim, Pegu, Toungoo, the Karen Hills. (Oates).

Habits and Nesting.—A noisy little bird, keeping to dense under growth, and has a monotonous call of "Pretty dear, pretty dear," which it continuously utters throughout the breeding season. It probably has two broods during the year, nesting from March till August. Building a flimsy domed nest of grass and leaves, which is always placed on the ground, and generally well concealed amongst the fallen leaves. And lays three white eggs thickly speckled with brown, and measure .82" by .62".

PELLORNEUM PALUSTRE, Jerdon.

The Marsh Babbler.

Pellorneum palustre, Jerdon, Ibis, 1872, p. 300; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 522; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 143; Baker, J. B. N. H. S., viii., p. 186.

Description.—As in the Fauna of India, Oates.

Habits.—"A rare bird here, and unlike the other members of the genus, never found to my knowledge outside grass land. I have never noticed near swamps or marshy land as its name would seem to infer it should be found."

Nesting.—"The nest and eggs are indistinguishable from those of *P. ruficeps* or *mandelli*, but are smaller, averaging about .87" by .64" (Baker, Birds, N. Cachar.)

PELLORNEUM IGNOTUM IGNOTUM, Hume.

The Assam Babbler.

Pellorneum ignotum, Hume, S. F., v., p. 334 (1877).

Drymocataphus ignotus, Sharpe, Cat., B. M. vii., p. 556.

Pellorneum ignotum, Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 144; Baker, J. B. N. H. S., viii., p. 186.

"Whole upper plumage rufescent olive-brown, exposed part of the wings and tail rufescent, the shafts of the feathers nowhere markedly paler; and the forehead not differing from the crown; lores and over the eye greyish-brown; ear-coverts brown with paler shafts; sides of the neck like the back; chin, throat, centre of the breast and abdomen dull white, very slightly mottled with greyish, remainder of lower plumage olive-brown tinged with rufous."

"Iris dark brown; legs and feet light sienna-grey." (Oates.)

Wing: average of 5 specimens, 57 mm.; culmen, 13 mm.; tarsus, 24 mm.

Distribution.—Assam and Naga Hills.

Nest.—A deep cup, sometimes domed, never actually on the ground and more compactly built, and from 2 to 4 feet off the ground, 2, 3 and 4 eggs laid. Eggs pale pink freckled with dark brownish-red. Measure .72" to .90" by .57 to .62". Very shy and retiring.

PELLORNEUM IGNOTUM CINNAMOMEUM, Rippon.

Rippon's Babbler.

Drymocataphus cinnamomeum, Rippon, Bull., B. O. C., xi., p. 12 (1900); Harington, J. B. N. H. S., xxi, p. 115; *ibid*, Ibis, 1914, p. 11.

Description.—Upper plumage olive-brown, not rufescent; lores and round the eye ashy-grey; chin and throat whitish, with arrow like dark grey ends to the feathers; sides of the neck like the back; breast bright rufous; whitish on the abdomen; flanks olive-brown tinged with rufous.

Note.—The only specimen from Mt. Victoria is rather paler rufous on the breast, and throat not so conspicuously spotted.

Wing: average of 4 specimens, 55 mm., max., 57 mm. min., 55 mm., Culmen, 12 mm. Tarsus, 24 mm.

Distribution.—Shan States, Burma, over 5,000 ft., and Bhamo Hills.

Habits and Nesting.—I only procured one nest containing three eggs of this species, these are very similar to those of *P. ignotum*.

SCOTOCICHLA, Sharpe, 1883.

Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 522; Buttikofer, Notes Leyden Museum, xvii., p. 94.

"Bill slender, narrow, nasal aperture linear, rictal bristles extremely short; tail graduated, nearly as long as the wing; tarsi and toes very long and stout, the first less than half the tail in length; crown darker than the back. It differs from *Drymocataphus*, which it otherwise much resembles, by the tail being more than twice the length of the tarsus; and from *Pellorneum*, under which it is ranged by Oates, by the dark cap and the absolute want of dark shaft-stripes on the lower surface." (Buttikofer.)

This genus so far only contains one species, which has the following characteristics: a short rounded wing, which fits close to the body, the first four primaries graduated; tail shorter than the wing; bill long and straight, but not as long as the hind toe and claw; rictal bristles very short; no hairs overhanging the nostrils; and under plumage not streaked. I think that the following species should be included in this group, as they all the above characteristics, and seem to be much nearer it, both in appearance and in description of plumage, than to *Drymocataphus*, *D. capistratus*, from Java, *D. captistratoides* from Borneo, and *D. nigricapatus* from S. Tenasserim.

SCOTOCICHLA FUSCICAPILLA, Blyth.

The Brown-capped Babbler.

Drymocataphus fuscicapillus, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xviii., p. 815 (1849).

Scotocichla fuscicapilla, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 523.

Pellorneum fuscicapillum, Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 143.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I. There are undoubtedly two races, one from the drier localities which is paler and the other darker form from damper localities.

Habitat—Ceylon. I can find nothing definite recorded as to its nidification.

DRYMOCATAPHUS, Blyth, 1849.

Buttikofer, Notes, Leyden Museum, xvii., p. 74 (1895).

"This genus is easily distinguished by the following combination of characters: Bill slender, nasal aperture linear, rictal bristles wanting or feebly developed, never surpassing the nostrils, tarsus half the length of the tail, long, toes large and strong, above the eye a pale superciliary stripe."

They have the following characteristics: a short rounded wing, fitting close to the body, the first four primaries graduated; wing longer than the tail; bill straight, shorter than the hind toe; claw of hind toe long; rictal bristles well developed; nostrils overhung with hairs; under plumage not streaked.

NOTE.

DRYMOCATAPHUS RUBIGNOSUS, Walden.

Trichostoma rubigniosa, Wald., A. M. N. H. (4) xv., p. 402 (1875).

Drymocataphus rubignosus, Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 145.

See Footnote p., 339, Jour. Bom. Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. XXIII, No. 2.
This is the young of *Pomotorhinas e. imberbis*.

DRYMOCATAPHUS TICKELLI TICKELLI, Blyth.

Tickell's Babbler.

Pellorneum tickelli, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xxviii., p. 414 (1859); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 557; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 146.

Trichostoma minus, Bingham, S. F., ix., p. 179.

Description.—Whole upper plumage fulvescent olive-brown; the feathers of the forehead paler, and with no tinge of olive; the feathers of the crown with pale shaft stripes; lores, a very indistinct eye-brow, and the feathers round the eye pale fulvous; ear-coverts pale fulvous-brown, with paler shaft stripes; the sides of the neck the same as the back but paler; chin, throat, and in a few birds, the centre of the breast whitish; otherwise the whole lower plumage uniformly ochraceous throughout, darker on the flanks.

“Bill dusky above, pale flesh colour beneath; iris reddish-brown; legs and feet fleshy white.” (Oates).

Wing: average of 14 specimens, 61 mm., max., 64 mm., min., 57 mm. Females slightly smaller; exposed culmen, 14 mm.; tarsus, 25 mm.

Note.—Dr. Sharpe has identified *Trichostoma minus*, Hume, as being this species, there is also one of Col. Bingham's specimens, so labelled, in the Tring Museum, from Tenasserim. Col. Bingham found the nest of *T. minus*, and distinctly says that the eggs are white spotted with pink. Mr. Stuart Baker has also taken the eggs of *D. t. tickelli* in Assam, these are a pale green spotted with brown. It is most improbable that this species lays two distinct types of eggs, and I think it will be most probably found that the birds from Tenasserim are different to those found in Assam. In this last locality we have also another very closely allied sub-species, *D. assamensis*, Sharpe, which also lays greenish coloured eggs spotted with brown. And I think its most improbable that two so nearly allied sub-species should be found in the same locality, Mr. Oates gives the Khasia Hills as the habitat for both these species and I should not be surprised if *D. t. tickelli* and *D. t. assamensis* proved to be one and the same species.

I hope, therefore, that some one more competent than myself will settle the identity of these birds and their distribution.

Distribution.—Tenasserim, the Pegu Yomas, Karen Hills and Southern Shan States, Oates also gives the Khasia hills and Manipur.

Nesting.—Bingham, in Oates “Nest and Eggs,” says, “on the 15th March I found a little domed nest made of dried bamboo leaves, and lined with fine roots, placed in a cane bush, a foot or so above the ground. It contained three tiny white eggs, with minute pink dottings chiefly at the larger end, one egg, however, is nearly pure white. I shot the little bird off the nest, which Mr. Hume identifies as this species.”

Stuart Baker, J. B. N. H. S., viii., p. 189, first notices the difference between his eggs and those described by Bingham, and then describes the nest and eggs. It builds a domed shaped nest on or near the ground, and lays 3 or 4 eggs. These have the ground colour a pale greenish-grey, and the markings consist of numerous freckles and blotches of pale reddish-brown. Measuring .77" to .88" by .58" to .66".

DRYMOCATAPHUS TICKELLI ASSAMENSIS, Sharpe.

Austin's Babbler.

Drymocataphus assamensis, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 557 (1883); Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 147.

“This species differs from *D. tickelli*, in having the upper plumage rufescent olive-brown, and in having a longer tarsus.” (Oates.)

Description.—Upper plumage rufescent olive-brown, the feathers with pale shaft stripes; outer edge of the primaries dull rufous; lores pale fulvous; sides of the neck reddish-buff; sides of the head fulvous with dark mottlings; chin, throat and breast fulvous tinged with ochraceous, in some specimens the throat is faintly mottled; flanks and abdomen dark olive-brown.

Distribution.—Khasia hills, Dollah and Sadiya in Assam.

Note.—There are numerous specimens of *D. tickelli* and *assamensis* from Assam in the Tring Museum, and I failed to notice any difference between them.

Nesting.—The nest and eggs seem to be the same as the last species.

DRYMOCATAPHUS NIGRICAPITATUS, Eyton.

The Black-capped Babbler.

Bachypteryx nigricapitata, Eyton, P. Z. S., 1839, p. 103.

Drymocataphus nigricapitatus, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 554; Oates, i., p. 145.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—The extreme south of Tenasserim. I can find nothing recorded as to its habits or nidification.

Note.—This species has a conspicuous black cap, and appears to agree in every particular with *Scotocichla*, and I think should be placed in that genus. Its rectal bristles are very short, no hairs overhanging its nostrils, and wing slightly longer than the tail.

There are also several other so-called *Drymocataphus* from the Malay Peninsula and Island which I think should be placed in *Scotocichla*.

RHOPOCICHLA, Oates, 1889.

Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 159.

“This genus differs from *Alcippe* in having the nostrils roundish, exposed, and pierced in the anterior part of the membrane, and in having a much shorter tail when compared to the wing. The eggs of the two genera are also different.” (Oates.)

This genus is confined to Southern India and Ceylon, and forms a connecting link between *Pellorneum* and *Alcippe*, the shape of its bill being like the last, whilst its eggs and nidification are like those of the former.

They have besides the above characteristics, the usual short rounded wing; bill curved throughout and deepest at the gape, also the bill is wider than it is deep; no hairs overhanging the nostrils, and rectal bristles well developed.

KEY.

(Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 160).

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| a. Crown and sides of the head black | <i>R. atriceps</i> . |
| b. Forehead and ear-coverts only black | <i>R. nigrifrons</i> . |
| c. Ear-coverts only blackish | <i>R. bourdilloni</i> . |

RHOPOCICHLA ATRICEPS ATRICEPS, Jerdon.

The Black-headed Babbler.

Brachypteryx atriceps, Jerdon, Madras Journ., L. and S., x., p. 250 (1839).

Alcippe atriceps, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 625.

Rhopocichla atriceps, Oates, F. B., I., p. 160.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—Nilgiris, and West Coast of India.

RHOPOCICHLA ATRICEPS BOURDILLONI, Hume.

Bourdillon's Babbler.

Alcippe bourdilloni, Hume, S. F., iv., pp. 399 and 485; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 626.

Rhopocichla bourdilloni, Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 260; Ferguson, J., B. N. H. S., xv., p. 260; Baker, Ibis, 106, p. 101.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—Travancore.

Its nest and eggs appear to be the same as the other two sub-species.

RHOPOCICHLA ATRICEPS NIGRIFRONS, Blyth.

The Black-fronted Babbler.

Alcippe nigrifrons, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xviii. (1849); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 625.

Rhopocichla nigrifrons, Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 160.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—Ceylon.

GROUP VI.

GYPHOPHILA, Oates, 1883.

Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 149.

"The Genus *Gypsophila* contains one remarkable bird which is confined to certain limestone mountains in Tenasserim. Its plumage is of the most extraordinary character, and even in the very large series of this bird in the Hume Collection affords no clue to its changes. For the present I locate this genus among the *Timeliinae*, but I feel sure that this is not its proper place. Its place in the system must remain undetermined until its plumage from the young to the adult stage is properly understood.

"In structure *Gypsophila* is close to *Pellorneum* from which it differs chiefly in its longer rictal bristles and stronger bill, the upper plumage is squamated in appearance, owing to the feathers being margined with black" (Oates). It has the following characteristics: a short rounded wing, the first four primaries graduated; wing and tail about equal in length; feathers of the forehead soft; rectal bristles long and well developed; bill straight and as long as hind-toe and claw; no hairs overhanging the nostrils; in habits, however, it appears to be non-Timeliine being lively, and not at all shy, in fact appears to be very Thrush-like. Probably when the colour of its eggs are known its true position will be determined.

The name *Gypsophila* is pre-occupied in Botany, and the name *Curzonina* has been proposed, but I believe not yet adopted.

GYPHOPHILA CRISPIFRONS, Blyth.

The Limerock Babbler.

Turdinus crispifrons, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xxiv., p. 269 (1855).

Gypsophila crispifrons, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 561; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 149.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Distribution.—So far has only been recorded from the central limestone ranges of Tenasserim. This interesting species is well worth studying, and it is hoped members station at Moulmein will try and discover its nest and eggs, besides collecting a series of its skins.

GROUP VII.

MALACOCINLA,* Blyth, 1845 (*Turdinus*, Blyth).

Turdinus, Blyth, 1844; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 153.

"The genus *Turdinus* differs from all the other genera of this sub-family with stout straight bills in having the nostrils oval and exposed, not protected by a membrane. As restricted here, it contains but one Indian species. This has a very short tail." (Oates).

"This genus is sufficiently distinguished by the following characters:—

Plumage, never mottled on upper surface which is olive-brown; flanks and undertail-coverts more or less tinged with fulvous; bill short, clumsy and rather high; nasal aperture oval and placed in front of the nasal groove, which is covered by a membrane; rictal bristles rather strong, but never reaching far beyond the nostrils; wing rounded; tail short, not fully two-thirds of the length of the wing; tarsus and toes long; especially the hind toe, tarsus fairly two-thirds of the length of the tail and longer than one-third of the length of the wing."—*Buttikofer, Notes Leyden Museum, xvii., p. 78.*

The above two descriptions of this genus are very conflicting and Oates points out the distinguishing features, namely, the exposed nostril, which has no overhanging membrane; and its short tail.

The chief other characteristics are—

A short round wing, fitting close to the body. The first four primaries graduated; tail shorter than the wing; rectal bristles well developed; no hairs overhanging the nostrils; feathers of the forehead soft, bill stout and straight, and fairly long equal to the hind toe and claw; the nostrils pierced in the membrane and exposed; no hairs overhanging the nostrils.

MALACOCINLA ABBOTTI, Blyth.

Malacocinla abbotti, Blyth, T. A. S. B., xiv., p. 601 (1845).

Turdinus abbotti, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 277; Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 154.

Description.—As in Oates, F. B. I.

Note.—I found this bird nesting in February in Rangoon, so it possibly has two broods in the year.

GROUP VIII.

ALCIPPE.

In this sub-division of the *Timeliidæ*, I have placed the following genera: *Pseudominla*, *Scheniparus*, *Alcippe*, *Proparus*, *Siva*, and *Lioparus*. It includes birds which are both, solitary and terrestrial in habits, and those which are arboreal and go about in small flocks. I have called it the "*Alcippe*" Group, as that genus may be taken as typical of the whole, half its members being purely *Timeline* in habits, that is shy, solitary, and haunting the ground; the others have all the habits of *Siva*, being sociable, and going about in family parties, and frequent trees and bushes.

By placing all these genera in one group, I have no wish to do away with their generic rank, as each genus has its well marked characteristics although they appear to grade from one into the other. This, I think, may be probably due to the fact that they are still in a process of evolution, as we find each species represented by numerous geographical races.

* The following other members of this genus are:—

M. sepiaria, Java; *M. minor*, Java and Sumatra; *M. rufiventris*, Borneo; *M. perspicillata*, Borneo.

This group has the following characteristics: wing and tail about equal in length; bill, small, stout, and gently curved; the feathers of the head ample; plumage soft and dense; and small in size.

PSEUDOMINLA. (*Sittiparus*, Oates.)

Has the tail slightly shorter than the wing, and only slightly graduated; a very small bill; and no hairs overhanging the nostrils. They are purely arboreal in habits, and appear to build dome-shaped nests, and lay spotted eggs.

SCHÆNIPARUS.

Are small birds very similar to the last, with the same noticeable dark stripes on the head, but differ in having a longer and graduated tail, a stouter bill, and are terrestrial in habits. They build dome-shaped nests, which are placed on or near the ground, and lay eggs remarkably like those of the English Garden-Warbler and Black-Cap. They, however, appear to grade into *Alcippe*, as *S. brunneus*, Gould, at first sight can easily be mistaken as belonging to that genus.

ALCIPPE.

Differs from the last two genera in having the nostrils overhung with hairs, the majority, however, have the dark stripes on the head. This genus is peculiar in containing birds very similar in plumage, but differing in habits. The eggs of all are very highly coloured and vary greatly in marking, one type is very like the eggs of the Chaffinch and Brambling, and also to the pink type of Black-Cap. I have, however, never heard of any *Alcippe* laying eggs with a greenish or yellow ground colour, and therefore similar to those laid by *Schæniparus*, nor any of the last laying the pink type of egg.

PROPARUS.

Is a well defined genus of small birds, which approach *Alcippe* in appearance, many having the conspicuous dark stripes on the head. Their characteristics are their small bill, and remarkably long hind-claw. They are only found at very high elevations, and consequently very locally distributed.

SIVA.

Were placed by Mr. Oates in the *Sibiinæ*, I think the Blue-winged Sivas (*Cyanuroptera*) approaches much nearer, both in structure and appearance, to *Alcippe* and *Proparus*. They are purely arboreal in habits, and lay highly coloured blue eggs of a finch-like type. They are birds of a very handsome plumage, and are chiefly noticeable for their tail feathers which are obliquely truncated.

LIOPARUS.

This genus consist of only one species peculiar to the Himalayas. I have placed it in this group, but think its position doubtful, as it shows a marked relationship to *Chelidorhynx*, Hodgson, (Yellow-bellied Flycatcher). Nothing definite appears to be known about its habits or nidifications.

PSEUDOMINLA, Oates, 1894.

Pseudominla, Oates, Ibis, 194, p. 480.

Proparoides, Bianchi, Bull., B.O.C., xii., p. 55 (1902).

Sittiparus, Oates, F.B.I., i., p. 171.

Minla, Sharpe, Cat., B.M., vii., p. 606.

As the generic name *Sittiparus*, Oates, is pre-occupied Mr. Oates has proposed the above name.

It has the following characteristics: a small rounded wing; legs and feet stout; non-migratory in habits; tail slightly shorter than the wing and scarcely graduated, and the feathers of the tail pointed; bill broader than it is deep; nostrils not overhung by hairs; hind toe and bill equal in length.

KEY.

- a. Head grey, a long black supercilium. .. *P. cinerea*.
 b. Head chestnut, no black supercilium, size small, wing 53—57 mm.
 a¹. Crown dark chestnut *P. c. castaneiceps*.
 b². Crown light chestnut. *P. c. brunneicaudata*.
 c. Head dark chestnut, size larger, wing 62—67 m. *P. c. soror*.

PSEUDOMINLA CINEREA, Blyth.

The Dusky-green Babbler.

Minla cinerea, Blyth, J.A.S.B., xvi., p. 449 (1849); Sharpe, Cat., B. *Sittiparus cinereus*, Oates, F.B.I., i., p. 171; Baker, J., B.N.H.S., viii., p. 197.

Lores, and a long supercilium yellowish-white; a black spot in front of eye, above this a broad black line extending to nape; head crown and nape, greyish washed with green, each feature broadly tipped black; upper plumage greyish-green; wings and tail brownish, washed on the outer edge with the same colour as back. Cheeks yellowish-white tipped with black; ear-coverts and sides of the neck paler than the back and more greenish; chin throat and whole lower plumage yellow, olivaceous on the flanks.

Wing, 53—58 mm.; culmen, 10 mm.; tarsus, 23 mm.

Distribution.—Nepal, Sikhim and Khasia Hills.

PSEUDOMINLA CASTANEICEPS CASTANEICEPS, Hodgson.

The Chestnut-headed Babbler.

Milna castaneiceps, Hodgson, Ind. Rev., 1838, p. 38; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 698.

Sittiparus castaneiceps, Oates, F.B.I., i., p. 172.

Description.—Lores and forehead, yellowish-white; crown and nape, a dark chestnut-brown; the feathers of the head with pale shaft stripes; on the fore part of the crown a few feathers have the inner half whitish; a broad supercilium, and just above and below the eye white; a spot in front of the eye and a long streak behind, and a spot on the cheek black. Ear-coverts whitish, upper plumage, birds from Sikhim, Manipur, Chin Hills, are olive-green tinged with fulvous; birds from the Shan States, and the Tenasserim, olive-green with no fulvous tinge. Greater wing-coverts black, winglet white, the earliest primaries edged with greyish-white, the others and secondaries edged chestnut, tertiaries black edged olive-green; chin, throat, and breast whitish bordered with fulvous and few in distinct fulvous spots on the chin and throat; flanks and under tail-coverts olivaceous tinged with fulvous; tail slaty edged greenish on outer web.

Wing, 53—67 mm.; tail, 45 mm. culmen, 9 mm.; tarsus, 22 mm.

Distribution.—Sikhim, Naga, Manipur, and Chin Hills, Shan States and Tenasserim.

PSEUDOMINLA CASTANEICEPS BRUNNEICAUDATA, *Sharpe.

The Shillong Chestnut-headed Babbler.

Minla brunneicaudata, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 609.

Description.—Similar to *P. c. castaneiceps*, differs in having head much paler and more rufous; the chestnut on wings paler; tail brownish and no yellow on the forehead.

Wing, 58—62 mm.; culmen, 10 mm.; tarsus, 22 mm.

Distribution.—Shillong, Khasia Hills.

Numerous specimens in the Museum, from the above locality, all with the light-coloured head.

Note—This another well marked case of isolation in the “Assam Backwater,” birds from the North and East being the last sub-species and quite distinct.

SCHÆNIPARUS, Hume, 1874.

Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 168.

“With the genus *Schœniparus* we enter on a group of small birds with short blunt bills like the Tits, and with very strong feet. Their proper position is undoubtedly in this sub-family, both on account of their structure and their habits.”

This genus differs from the *Alcippe* in having no hairs overhanging its nostrils, and in having a strongly graduated tail. Another interesting point between these two families is that *Alcippe* build cup-shaped or cradle-like nests placed well above the ground, and lay eggs of a “Chaffinch” or “Brambling” type, having a pinkish ground colour, and smears and smudges of a darker pink, and still darker spots; while *Schœniparus* all build domed nests on or near the ground, and lay eggs of the “Garden Warbler” type having a greenish or yellowish ground colour, with smears and smudges of brownish, with darker spots. They are also essential ground birds and thoroughly Timeliine in habits. They have the following characteristics: a short round wing, the first four primaries graduated; wing and tail about equal, the latter strongly graduated; a stout short bill; nostrils covered by a membrane, and not overhung by hairs; and rectal bristles weak. They also have brownish coloured heads with two conspicuous black lines, running from above the eyes to the nape.

KEY.

Schœniparus consist of three species, one *S. rufigularis*, Mandelli, is confined to Assam and Manipur. Whilst the second *S. dubius*, Hume, consist of a number of local races extending from Assam into Burma and China. The third *S. brunneus*, inhabiting China, Formosa and Hainan.

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| a. | Chestnut band across the breast | .. | <i>S. rufigularis</i> . |
| b. | No “ “ “ “ “ “ | .. | <i>S. dubius</i> and sub-species. |

SCHÆNIPARUS RUFIGULARIS, Mandelli.

The Red-throated Tit-Babbler.

Minla rufigularis, Mandelli, S. F., i., p.416 (1873); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 610.

* PSEUDOMINLA CASTANEICEPS SOROB, Sharpe.

Sharpe, P. Z. S., 1887, p. 439.

“Closely allied to *M. castaneiceps*, from which it differs in its much larger size, darker olive-brown coloration, and deep chestnut, not orange, edging to the quills.”

“Irides dark brown.” (Sharpe.)

Wing, 67 to 62 mm.; culmen, 13 mm.; tarsus, 24 mm.

Habitat—Malay Peninsula.

Schœniparus rufigularis, Oates, F.B.I., i., p. 170; Baker, Ibis, 1906, p. 102.

Description.—Forehead, crown, and nape, chestnut; lores, supercilium, and immediately above the eye, white; a conspicuous line above the white supercilium to the nape, black; upper plumage, exposed parts of the wings and tail, olive-brown; outer edge of the primaries fulvous; a ring of white feathers round the eye; ear-coverts blackish; chin and throat white; a conspicuous chestnut band across the bottom of the throat; breast whitish tinged with grey; flanks olivaceous, under tail-coverts and thighs rufous.

“Legs and feet pale yellowish horny-brown; bill black.” (Oates.) Wing, 53 to 56 mm.

Distribution.—Bhutan Duars, Daphla Hills, Naga Hills, and Manipur.

Nesting and Habits.—Mr. Stuart Baker says that this Tit-Babbler is fairly common along the foot hills in Assam up to about 3,000 ft. And that it builds a dome-shaped nest, which is placed on or near the ground, and lays 3 to 4 eggs, which have a pale yellowish ground colour with a faint tinge of green, the markings consist of clouds, blotches and spots of pale brown, above these a few dark brown dots and scrawls of a darker brown, and vary between .70" to .80" × .51" to .57".

KEY—*S. dubius* and sub-species.

—	<i>S. mandelli.</i>	<i>S. intermedius.</i>	<i>S. dubius.</i>	<i>S. genestieri.</i>
Locality,	Assam to the Chin Hills, W. Burma.	Bharno Hills to the Shan States.	Tenasserim	Yunnan and China.
Colour of Head and Nape.	Dull golden-brown, black edges to feathers very conspicuous.	Dull golden-brown, edges of feathers only faintly darker.	Bright golden-brown, edges of feathers only faintly darker.	Dull golden-brown, which is confined to the head; edging to feathers faint.
Sides of the Neck.	Distinctly striped, black and yellowish.	Indistinctly striped	Stripes obsolete and hidden.	Not striped.
Upper plumage..	Olive-brown	Olive-brown	Olive-brown, tinged with ochraceous.	Olive-brown.
Under plumage..	Buff	Whitish	Whitish	Buff.

S. d. dubius, mandelli, genestieri and intermedius, differ by having a black and white double eye brow, which is black and grey in the *brunneus* group.

Note.—*S. genestieri* has no traces of stripes on the neck.

S. dubius very faint indications, which have to be looked for.

S. intermedius has very irregular stripes on the side of neck.

S. mandelli stripes very noticeable, also a very broad supercilium which converge on the back, the feathers of the back often being edged with back.

Birds from Bharno are intermediate between *S. mandelli* and *intermedius*, but nearer the latter.

SCHœNIPARUS DUBIUS DUBIUS, HUME.

The Tenasserim Tit-Babbler.

Proparus dubius, Hume, Proc. A.S.B., 1874., p. 109.

Minla dubius, Sharpe, Cat., B.M., vii., p. 611.

Schœniparus dubius, Oates, F.B.I., i., p. 168.

Description.—Lores dusky; forehead, crown, and nape, golden-brown, the forehead paler; all the feathers of the head having indistinct dark edges; a supercilium, from just above the eye to the nape, white; above this a border-

ing black line also to the nape, where they converge the feathers on the nape being tipped with black; ear-coverts and sides of the neck fulvous; upper plumage olive-brown tinged with ochraceous; tail tinged rufous; sides of the neck with faint indications of stripes, the inner edge of the feathers, just below the black and white supercilium, yellowish, the outer edge being the same colour as the back; chin, throat, and centre of breast, whitish; sides of breast tinged with ochraceous flanks olivaceous.

“Legs and feet fleshy; bill dull black or brown; iris sometimes yellowish-red, pale yellow, to slaty-pink.” (Oates.)

Wing, 53 to 58 mm.; culmen, 12 mm.; tarsus, 25 mm.

Habits and Nesting.—As in the Fauna of India.

SCHÆNIPARUS DUBIUS MANDELLI, Godwin-Austin.

The Assam Tit-Babbler.

Schœniparus mandelli, Godwin-Austin, A.M.N.H. (4), xvii., p. 33, 1876; Oates, F.B.I., i., 169.

Minla mandelli, Sharpe, Cat., B.M., vii., p. 610.

Description.—Similar to *S. dubius*. Differs in having the feathers of the head darker, distinctly margined with black; the black supercilium more pronounced, and the upper-back streaked with black; upper plumage not tinged with ochraceous, but more olive; sides of the neck distinctly striped, the outer edges of the feathers being black, the inner rufous buff; chin, throat, centre of breast buff; ear-coverts hair brown; flanks olivaceous; and tail tinged with rufous.

Wing, from 57 to 63 mm., females slightly smaller; tail, 60 mm.; tarsus, 23 mm., culmen, 12 mm.

Legs and feet pale yellowish fleshy-brown; bill black; iris reddish-brown, red, and dark red-brown.” (Oates.)

Habits and Nesting.—Its habits, nest and eggs do not seem to differ from those of *S. ruficularis*.

SCHÆNIPARUS DUBIUS INTERMEDIUS*, Rippon.

Rippon's Tit-Babbler.

Rippon, Bull., B.O.C., xi., p. 11; Harington, J.B.N.H.S., xix., p. 117.

*SCHÆNIPARUS DUBIUS GENESTIERI, Oustalet.

Schœniparus genestieri, Oustalet, Bull., Mus., Paris, 1897, p. 210; Grant, Ibis 1900, 592.

Schœniparus variegatus, Styan, Bull., B. O. C., viii., 27.

Description.—Similar to *S. dubius*. Differs in having the forehead pale rufous, crown dull golden-brown, with very faint indications of dark edges to the feathers; nape and back olive-brown; the black supercilium not so long and not converging on the back; sides of the neck not streaked; chin, and throat whitish to buff, the sides fulvous; flanks olivaceous, thighs rufous; ear-coverts hair-brown; upper plumage and exposed portions of the wings and tail olive-brown, and not tinged with ochraceous.

Wing, 57 to 63 mm.; tarsus, 25 mm.; culmen, 11 mm.

Habitat.—Yunnan and China.

SCHÆNIPARUS BRUNNEUS BRUNNEUS, Gould.

Alcippe brunnea, Gould, P. Z. S., 1862, p. 280; Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 624; La Touche, Ibis, 1895, pp. 311, 312, 332; *ibid*, 1898, p. 358.

Alcippe obscurior, O. Grant, Bull., B. O. C., xvi., p. 121 (1906).

Schœniparus brunneus, O. Grant, Ibis, 1907, p. 181.

Habitat.—Formosa.

SCHÆNIPARUS BRUNNEUS SUPERCILIARIS, David.

Ixulus superciliaris, David, Ann. Sci. Nat. (5), xix., Art. 9, p. 4, 1874.

Alcippe brunnea, David and Oust., Ois. Chine, p. 217.

Description.—Similar to *S. dubius*. Forehead tinged with rufous; crown, and nape dull golden brown, feathers with faint darker edges; lores dusky; ear-coverts hair-brown; upper plumage tinged olive, tail rufous; sides of the neck with faint irregular stripes, outer edge of feathers blackish, inner buffs; under parts as in *S. dubius*.

Wing, 58 to 61 mm.; tail, 60 mm.; tarsus, 24 mm.; culmen, 11 mm.

Birds from Bhamo are intermediate between this species and *mandelli* in having irregular streaks on the sides of the neck, otherwise it is nearest to *intermedius*.

Habits and Nesting.—I found this little bird fairly common up at Sinlum Kava in the Bhamo district, its nesting habits and eggs are similar to those of *mandelli*.

ALCIPPE, Blyth, 1844.

Oates, F. B. I., i., p. 156.

This is a very interesting genus, containing birds of very similar plumage, but totally different habits, which have often been confused.

They fall into two natural groups, one which seems to be losing its Timeliine habits and approaching *Proparus* in habits, going about in family parties hunting bushes and low trees; or still being solitary, have taken on the roll of Fly-catchers; these have a smaller bill, and more delicate legs and feet. The other group are strictly Timeliine, being solitary in their habits, and haunt bushes and undergrowth near the ground; these have a longer bill, and more powerful legs and feet.

Both have the following characteristics: a small rounded wing, the first four primaries graduated; wing and tail about equal, the latter only slightly graduated; nostrils covered by a membrane, and also overhung by hairs; a stout slightly curved bill, which is as broad as it is deep.

KEY.

- (i) Culmen about half the tarsus.. .. The *Nepalensis* Sub-Group.
 (ii) „ more than half tarsus.. .. The *Phæcephala* Sub-Group.

A. nepalensis and its allied forms are found from Nepal to Burma, and from thence down the Malay Peninsula, and also in China and the Islands of Formosa and Hainan.

Scheniparus superciliaris, O. Grant, Ibis, 1907, p. 182.

Alcippe olivacea, Styan, Ibis, 1896, p. 312.

Scheniparus brunneus, La Touche, Ibis, 1905,

“Under these circumstances David’s name of *I. superciliaris* should be retained for the Chinese form, . . . it is certain that his type specimen came from Foh-kien, whence we have numerous examples.” (Grant.)

Description.—Forehead, crown and nape rufous, the feathers of the forehead black tipped; a broad black line from behind the eye to the nape where they converge together on the upper back; remainder of upper plumage olive-brown; wings tinged with rufous; lores and round the eye rufous; ear-coverts pale fulvous; chin and throat whitish; breast ashy, whitish in the centre; flanks fulvous ashy.

Wing, 62 mm.; tail, 65 mm.; tarsus, 22 mm.; culmen, 11 mm.

Distribution.—China, Kuatun, Foh-kien, Ichang.

Habits.—Builds a dome-shaped nest, which is very loosely put together, and placed on the ground. Eggs, ground colour greenish, clouded and blotched with pale brown, (and from their description seem very like the eggs of *S. mandelli*), measuring .84” by .62” to .79” by .62” (La Touche).

SCHENIPARUS BRUNNEUS ARGUTUS, Hartert.

Proparus brunneus argutus, Hartert, Nov. Zool, xviii., p. 231 (1910).

Habitat.—Hainan.

The Formosa *S. brunneus brunneus* differs strikingly by its dark undersurface, and darker brown upper plumages.

A. phæcephala and its forms extend from Southern and Western India passing through Burma to Siam and the Malay Peninsula.

The range of these two Groups overlap to a great extent, whenever this is the case, the former is only found at high elevations in the hills, while the latter only occurs at much lower levels. From their non-migratory habits, and their wide and often isolated distribution, both have developed into numerous geographical races. These, if compared singly, are often hard to separate, but if series, from different localities, are taken and placed side by side, the differences at once become apparent. A very interesting feature in both these Groups is the great similarity between the two sub-species at either extremity of their geographical areas. We have *A. morrisoniana* from Formosa much nearer in size and general appearance to *A. nepalensis* from Assam, than the latter has to *A. fratercula*, from Burma; and in the other group, *A. brucei*, from Western India is almost identical with *A. davisoni*, sub-sp. nov., from Tavoy and Mergui.

The first bird of this genus to be described was *A. nepalensis*, Hodgson (1838), a bird with a conspicuously striped head. The next was *A. phæcephala*, Jerdon (1844), a bird with no stripes on the head. The following year (1845), Blyth described *A. phayrei* from Arracan, and unfortunately compared it with both *nepalensis*, and *phæcephala*, and even went so far as to consider that the want of stripes on the head of *phayrei* denotes that it is probably the young of *nepalensis*.

"All authors have hitherto been satisfied with comparing *A. phayrei* with *A. nepalensis*, two birds which are quite distinct, both in coloration and in size, and which cannot be confounded under any circumstances" (Oates). The first *Alcippe* received by Hume from Burma were from Pegu, which he presumed to be the same as the one already described by Blyth from Arracan, and he remarks on the stripes on the head of the birds he had just received, and considered that Blyth had overlooked this feature. Later on when Hume received specimens from Tenasserim, he at once notices the absence of stripes on the heads of birds from that locality, and this time claims it as a distinguishing feature between these birds and *nepalensis*, while instead of there only being one sub-species, there were three, *A. phayrei* with no stripes on the head from Arracan, *A. magnirostris* with a striped head from Pegu, and *A. davisoni*, sp. nov., from Tenasserim. Again when *A. magnirostris*, Walden, and *A. fusca*, Godwin-Austin, were described, both were compared with the *nepalensis* group.

Nesting.—All the *Alcippe* seem to build cup-shaped nests which are placed in a fork, or a cradle-like ones suspended from twigs, placed at no great height from the ground, and composed of grass and bamboo leaves, lined with fine grass and fibres. Their eggs are of a very distinctive family type, being pinkish with numerous smudges and smears of a darker shade and may be compared to chaffinches, one, however, *A. nepalensis*, lays eggs which seems to be very liable to variation.

(1) The *Nepalensis* Sub-Group.

These birds are slightly smaller, and have a smaller and deeper bill than those in the second group; the majority have conspicuously striped heads; and all with one exception have white rings round the eye. In habits they are very tit-like, going about in parties hunting the bushes, and often behave like fly-catchers; and in India they are only found in the hills.

A. nepalensis, Hodgson, extends from Nepal to the Chin Hills on the West of Burma, and has hitherto been stated to occur in other parts of the province. I have, however, examined all the specimens in the British Museum and find all the so called *nepalensis* from Karennee and Tenasserim are *A. fratercula*.

A. fratercula, Rippon, occurs in the hills on the Eastern side of Burma, and has been recorded from the Bhamo Dist. down to the hills in Tenasserim.

A. yunnanensis, Harington—In the Museum there are a number of specimens collected by Col. Rippon in Yunnan, these are consistently larger and greyer than *A. fratercula*, and I think form a good geographical race.

A. peracensis, Sharpe, inhabits the hills of the Malay Peninsula, this sub-species is noticeable for wanting the white ring of feathers round the eye. (N.B.—There are also specimens of an *Alcippe* from the Malay Peninsula in the Tring Museum which are labelled *A. peracensis*, these have a decided ring of white feathers round the eye.)

A. davidi, Styan, Western China; *A. hueti*, David, Eastern China; *A. morrisoniana*, Swinhoe, the Island of Formosa; *A. cinerea*, Blyth, China; *A. rufescentior*, Hartert, Hainan.

(2) The *Phæocephala* Sub-Group.

These are larger birds than the last, and have a longer and more curved bill; two sub-species have conspicuously striped heads, and have consequently been confused with the last group; none have the white ring round the eye so noticeable in *A. nepalensis*. They are more Timeliine in their habits, frequenting the ground and dense under-growth, and the majority do not ascend the hills to any great height. Their distribution also differs from the last group; commencing from the South and West we get.

A. phæocephala, Jerdon, inhabits the hills of Southern India.

A. brucei, Hume., Western India up to Khatiwari, the Central Provinces, and the Parasnath Hills. (This sub-species is quite distinct from the first, the differences being mentioned by Oates in the F. of B. I.)

A. phayrei, Blyth, probably inhabits Assam, Arracan, and Western Burma. It was first described by Blyth from Arracan, and he particularly notes that the head is not striped. With regard to the distribution of this sub-species, I have not been able to examine sufficient specimens from the following localities so therefore cannot give its exact limits:—

Arracan: the original locality from which this species was described, the type of which, I believe, is in the Calcutta Museum.

Western Burma: there are two specimens in the British Museum, one from the Upper Chindwin, and the other from the foot of the Chin Hills; both these birds are identical. They are very grey above, have no stripes on the head, and want the rufous underparts of *A. phayrei* from Assam. From their distribution, I think, they will be found to be the same as the Arracan species, and will therefore be *A. phayrei*, but if the differences noted above hold good and are considered sufficient to constitute a geographical race, birds from Assam will be *A. fusca*, Godwin-Austin.

A. haringtoniae, Hartert: a bird with conspicuous black stripes on the head is probably found in the whole of North-Eastern Burma. At present has only been recorded from the Bhamo Dist.; Colonel Bingham's specimens from Yatsauk, Shan States, are also referable to this sub-species. In the "Ibis," 1903, Col. Bingham notices the difference between his specimens and birds from Tenasserim, but however, confuses them with *A. fratercula* of the *nepalensis* group.

A. magnirostris, Walden: a bird with sooty brown stripes on the head, specimens in the Museum from Karennee down to about the latitude of Moulmein. This sub-species also probably occurs in the S. S. States and Siam, as Count Glydenstolpe in his "List of Birds from Siam, 1911, 1912," notes that his specimens have striped heads.

I have not been able to examine any birds from Pegu, the original locality from which Hume received his birds with a striped head. Two specimens collected by Mr. J. P. Cook in the Thayetmyo Dist. and now in the Tring Museum have striped heads, but are very much greyer than any from

Karennee, and with exception of the stripes on the head are very like the two above mentioned specimens in the Museum from Western Burma.

A. p. davisoni, sp. nov.: From the south of Moulmein and Mergui and Tavoy, we get a bird with no stripes on the head, or only very faint traces of any. These are remarkably like *A. brucei* from Western India, and as they cannot be that species I have called them after their collector.

KEY TO INDIAN SUB-SPECIES.

- I. Bill small; a conspicuous white ring round the eye.
 - a.* Chin and throat white; flanks tinged olivaceous *A. n. nepalensis*.
 - b.* No white on chin and throat; flanks tinged ochraceous.
 - a*¹. Wing under 66 mm. or 2.6" *A. n. fratercula*.
 - b*¹. Wing over 66 mm. or 2.6" *A. n. yunnanensis*.
- II. Bill large; no ring of white feathers round the eye.
 - c.* Head not striped.
 - c*¹. Lower back and rump tinged rufous *A. p. phaeocephala*.
 - d*¹. No tinge of rufous on back or rump.
 - a*². Underparts tinged with rufous *A. p. phayrei*.
 - b*². Underparts not tinged with rufous.
 - a*³. Grey of head well defined from back *A. p. davisoni*.
 - b*³. Grey of head not well defined but merging into the colour of back *A. p. brucei*.
 - d.* Head and neck conspicuously striped.
 - e*¹. Stripes sooty brown *A. p. magnirostris*.
 - f*¹. Stripes intensely black *A. p. haringtoniae*.

Distribution.—*A. n. nepalensis*, Hodgson, Nepal, Sikkim, Butan, Assam, Manipur, Naga and Chin Hills; *A. n. fratercula*, Rippon, Eastern hills of Burma, from Bhamo to Tenasserim; *A. n. yunnanensis*, Harington, Yunnan; *A. n. davidi*, Styan, Western China; *A. n. hueti*, David, South China; *A. n. peracensis*, Sharpe, Malay Peninsula, Mt. of Perak; *A. n. cinerea*, Blyth, Malay Peninsula, and Borneo; *A. n. rufescentior*, Hartert, Hainan; *A. n. morrisoniana*, Swinhoe, Formosa; *A. p. phaeocephala*, Jerdon, S. India; *A. p. brucei*, Hume, W. and Central India; *A. p. phayrei*, Blyth, Assam, Arracan, Manipur and W. Burma; *A. p. haringtoniae*, Hartert, N.-E. Burma; *A. p. magnirostris*, Walden, Karennee and E. Burma; *A. p. davisoni*, Sub-p. Nov., Tenasserim.

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS NEPALENSIS, Hodgson.

Hodgson's Alcippe or the Nepal Babbler.

Siva nepalensis, Hodgson, Ind. Rev., 1838, p. 89.

Alcippe nepalensis, Sharpe, Cat., B.M., vii., p. 620; Oates, F. of B. I., i., p. 157; Baker, J., B. N. H. S., viii., p. 192.

Description.—A conspicuous ring of white feathers round the eye; head, neck and upper back ashy-brown with a vinaceous tinge; a dark sooty-brown stripe on each side of the head and neck extending down to the back; ear-coverts grey; back olive-brown; exposed portions of the wings and tail yellowish-brown; chin whitish, underparts pale fulvous to olivaceous on the flanks.

Bill in the dried skin particoloured yellowish and black.

"Iris, hazel-brown; bill livid horny; the base of the upper mandible and a line along the culmen black; legs and feet livid fleshy." (Oates.)

"Length, 5"; culmen, 11mm.; wing, 2.3"; tail, 2.4"; tarsus, 8½". (Oates.)

Distribution.—Nepal, Darjeeling, Butan, Assam, Manipur, Naga Hills, and the Chin Hills on the Western side of Burma, I have carefully examined all

the specimens in the British Museum, and the only ones of this species from Burma are those collected by Col. Rippon on Mt. Victoria; all those said to be from other localities in Burma are the next sub-species *A. fratercula*.

Habits.—I can find nothing definite about its habits. Oates says it feeds on the ground, but from the habits of its near relatives from Burma and China, I think this must be wrong. It builds a cup-shaped nest of grass and bamboo leaves and places it in a bush close to the ground. The eggs are very variable. Mr. Stuart Baker gives six distinct varieties.

- (1) Pure white with minute speckles of purple-pink.
- (2) The same with a pinkish ground, but large markings.
- (3) The same as the last with pale pink markings.
- (4) Ground colour pale to deep salmon, and more or less covered with blotches and clouds of pink, approaching the eggs of *Pyctorhis sinensis*.
- (5) Ground colour pale pink to white, with spots of deep purple.
- (6) In a few eggs the markings consist of almost entirely hair-like lines intertwined with one another.

Measuring: .61" to .78" by .48" to .57".

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS FRATERCULA, Rippon.

Rippon's Alcippe or *The Shan State Babbler*.

* *Alcippe fratercula*, Rippon, Bull., B.O.C., xi., p. 11., Ibis, 1901, p. 530.

* ALCIPPE FRATERCULA YUNNANENSIS, Harington.

The Yunnan Alcippe.

Harington, Bull., B.O.C., xxxiii., p. 63. (1913),

Similar to *A. fratercula*, Rippon, but larger; the head and neck of a much paler grey, the stripes on the head and neck being less distinct or wanting in some specimens; the underparts also are paler and of a more yellowish tinge; bill smaller.

Adult.—A ring of white feathers round the eye, head and neck pale ashy-grey; indications of two blackish stripes, one on each side of the nape and none on the head; in some specimens these are obsolete or wanting; ear-coverts of the same colour as the head; back pale olive brown; underparts pale ochraceous, tinged with olivaceous on the flanks.

"Iris crimson, upper mandible dark horn-colour, lower mandible like the feet legs and feet livid horn-colour." (Rippon.)

Culmen, 10 mm.; wing, 69.

In *A. fratercula*, culmen, 11 mm.; wing, 62 to 66.

Habitat.—Mountains of Yunnan, from 8,000 to 10,000 ft.

Observation.—There are several examples in the British Museum from the above locality collected by Col. G. Rippon.

Type in the British Museum: Adult. Gyi-dzin-shan, east of Talifu, 8,900 ft., 2. iv.02. G. Rippon coll. (Harington.)

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS HUETI, David.

David's Alcippe.

David, Ann. Sci. Nat. (5), xix., Art. 9, 1874; Styan, Ibis, 1896, p. 309; La Touche, Ibis, 1899, p. 185; La Touche, Ibis, 1905, p. 29.

Description.—A ring of white feathers round the eye; head and neck a decided grey; the stripes on head and neck very faint or wanting; chin and throat grey; upper plumage olive-brown; flanks and under tail-coverts sandy buff.

Average wing measurement of 4 males, 65 mm. or 2.55", max., 69 mm. or 2.7", min., 63 mm. or 2.47". Bill 11 mm. or .45.

Habitat.—Fokien Province, China.

Nesting and Habits.—It seems to be only found in the mountains of China, where it haunts low-trees and bushes going about in flocks. It builds a cradle-like nest slung from twigs at no great height from the ground, and lays eggs, having a pinkish ground colour, covered with darker smudges and smears, with purplish spots and streaks, in fact very much of the same description as *A. phayrei* or *phæcephala*.

Description.—A ring of white feathers round the eye, but not quite so conspicuous as in *A. nepalensis*; head and neck ashy-grey; with no vinaceous tinge; a well defined blackish stripe on both sides of the head and neck extending down to the back; ear-coverts grey; back olive-brown; the exposed parts of the wings and tail yellowish-brown; or the same colour as the back; underparts rich ochraceous, no white on the chin.

“Iris crimson, the legs and bill horn-colour.” Bill all of one colour. “Length, about 5.8”; wing, 2.65”; tail, 2.6”; tarsus, .8” (Rippon.) Average wing measurement of 7 unsexed specimens, 64 mm. or 2.5”, max., 66 mm. or 2.6”, min., 62 mm. or 2.45”. Bill 11 mm. or .45”.

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS DAVIDI, Styan.

Styan's Alcippe.

Styan, Ibis, 1896, p. 310.

La Touche, Ibis, 1905.

Description.—A ring of white feathers round the eye; head and neck a light ashy-grey; stripes on head and neck wanting or obsolete; chin and throat grey; breast whitish; flanks and under tail-coverts olivaceous; upper plumage olive-brown.

Wing measurement, male, 68 mm. or 2.68”; female, 67 mm. or 2.64”. Bill 12 mm. or .45”.

Habitat.—Western China.

ALCIPPE HUETI MORRISONIANA, Swinhoe.

The Formosa Alcippe.

Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 621.

Bill, 10-11mm. or .45”.

STYAN, IBIS, 1896, p. 311.

Sub-species.	Flanks and under-tail coverts.	Breast.	Throat.	Supercilium.
<i>A. nepalensis</i> ...	Olivaceous ...	Light buff ...	White ...	Very distinct.
<i>A. davidi</i> ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Grey ...	Very faint.
<i>A. hueti</i> ...	Sandy buff ...	Light vinous buff.	Do. ...	Faint.
<i>A. morrisonia</i> ...	Do. ...	Light sandy buff.	White ...	Distinct.

Distribution.—*A. davidi*, Western China; *A. hueti*, Fukien Province; *A. morrisonia*, Formosa.

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS PERACENSIS, Sharpe.

Sharpe's Alcippe.

Sharpe, P. Z. S., 1887, p. 439.

Distribution.—The mountains of Perak, Malay Peninsula.

“Male, Irides brown. This bird is common on the higher parts of the hills. It has a loud and musical song.”

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS CINEREA, Blyth.

Blyth, J. A. S. B., xiii., p. 384 (1849); Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 622.

Distribution.—Malacca, Malay Peninsula; and Borneo.

ALCIPPE NEPALENSIS RUFESCENTIOR, Hartert.

Proparus nepalensis rufescentior, Hartert, Nov. Zool., xvii., p. 231 (1910).

Habitat.—Island of Hainan

Birds from Tenasserim are slightly smaller, and are inclined to be rufous on the wing. Average wing measurement of 6 ♂♂, 62 mm. or 2.45", max., 64mm. or 2.5", min., 61 mm. or 2.39". Of 4 ♀♀, 60 mm. or 2.36", max., 61mm. or 2.35", min., 58 mm. or 2.27".

Distribution.—From the Bhamo Hills, through the Shan States and Karennee, down to Tenasserim, in the hills only. Davison mentions that he only met with this species (*nepalensis*) in the hills of Tenasserim while *A. davisoni* (*phayrei*) inhabits the low country.

Habits.—I found this a very noisy and inquisitive little bird, and not at all shy and retiring like the great majority of small babblers. "Its habits are those of a Fly-catcher, and it seldom descends to the undergrowth, but takes up a position and thence makes short sallies in order to catch flies, precisely in the same manner as the small Fly-catcher do. It is common to find pairs a little distance apart, frequently uttering their call, which consist of five notes, and is loud for the size of the bird." (Rippon.)

Nest and Eggs.—Its nest seem to be similar to that of *A. nepalensis*, those found by me in the Bhamo Hills were composed of either leaves and grass or moss, and were lined with some kind of red fibre, and measured 4" by 1½", and were placed from two to four feet from the ground. All my eggs were of one type, having a white ground colour profusely spotted with rusty red, and measured .87" by .58" to .77" by .57". The eggs of this species most probably vary in the same manner as those of *A. nepalensis*, as Mr. Stuart Baker informs me that he has received eggs from Burma similar to those of that species.

ALCIPPE PHŒOCEPHALA PHŒOCEPHALA, Jerdon.

The Nilghiri Quaker-Thrush.

Thimalia poioicephala, Jerdon, Madras Journ., L.S., xiii., p. 169 (1844).

A. phœcephala, Sharpe, Cat., B.M., vii., p. 622; Oates, F. of B.I., i., p. 158.

Description.—Head and neck brownish ashy-grey; ear-coverts hair-brown; back brownish olive-brown, tinged with grey on the upper portion, and with rufous on the rump and upper tail-coverts; outer edge of primaries and tail chestnut; chin and throat greyish-buff; breast and under parts ochraceous buff.

Average wing measurement of 10 specimens, 68 mm. or 2.68", max. 69 mm. or 2.69", min., 67 mm. or 2.64". Bill, 14 mm. or .55".

"Iris slaty-grey; legs, feet greyish fleshy, bill horny-brown." (Oates.)

Distribution.—Hills of Southern India, Nilghiris, Coonoor, the Wynaad and Travancore.

Note.—This is a very rufous species, and easily distinguishable from birds of the Western Ghats.

Habits.—I can find nothing recorded as to the habits of this species, it ascends the hills to 5,000 ft., a height to which none of the others of this group venture upto.

The eggs are delicate pink with a few large conspicuous smudges of darker pink, and dark red spots, and hair-like lines of almost black and measure from .75" to .86" by .58" to .65."

ALCIPPE PHŒOCEPHALA BRUCEI, Hume.

The Bombay Quaker-Thrush.

Alcippe brucei, Hume, J. A. S. B., xxxix. pt. ii., p. 122 (1870); Harington, Bull., B.O.C., xxxiii., p. 61 (1913).

"This sub-species was first described by Fairbank, who forwarded his description to A. O. Hume. The latter, however, does not appear to have

published it, but refers to the bird from Mahableswar under the name of *Alcippe brucei*, and notes that it is slightly larger than *A. phaecephala*.

Oates in the 'Fauna of India, Birds,' i., p. 158, also notes that birds from the Nilghiris and Travancore differ from those found in other localities.

Adult.—Larger and much greyer than *A. phaecephala*, Jerdon, and lacking the rufous tinge on the plumage of the upper parts. Head and neck ashy-grey, paler, and not so well-defined as in *A. phaecephala*, and merging into the colour of the back; upper plumage greyish olive-brown, with no rufous tinge; outer edges of the primary-quills and tail-feathers light brown instead of chestnut; lower plumage as in *A. phaecephala*. Wing, 70-74 mm.; average measurement, 72.

Habitat.—Mahableswar, the Western Ghats from Rajkote in Khattiwar to Belgaum; the Central Provinces; Pachmari; and the Paresnath Hills, Lower Bengal.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Mahableswar, 22. iii., 73 (Rev. S. B. Fairbank). Hume coll." (Harington.)

Bill, 4-15 mm.; (note a bird from Rajkote, Khattiwar, is the largest, having a wing of 75. mm.)

ALCIPPE PHÆCEPHALA PHAYREI, Blyth.

The Arracan Quaker-Thrush.

Alcippe phayrei, Blyth, J. A. S. B., xiv., p. 601 (1845); Sharpe, Cat. B. M., vii., p. 623; Oates, F. of B. I., i., p. 158.

A. fusca, Godwin-Austin, J. A. S. B., xlv., p. 197.

As there has been a great deal of confusion over the description of this species, I give Blyth's original description and note.

Blyth's Birds of Burma, p. 601.

A. nepalensis.

Alcippe phayrei, Nobis, J. A. S. B., xiv., p. 601.

"The present one is most nearly allied to *A. poicephala*, Jerdon, and also *Siva nepalensis*, Hodgson . . . But is distinguished by its less rufescent hue, especially on the tail, and its upper and lower coverts, which are devoid of such a tinge, or the upper tail-coverts retain it only in a very slight degree. . . . lower parts fulvescent whitish, whitish on the throat and middle of the belly."

"*Habitat*.—Arracan."

"Wanting the dark sincipital stripes is probably the young."

From the above description it is most noticeable that *A. phayrei* has not a striped head, and also has no rufous tinge on the lower plumage. Unfortunately there are no specimens of *A. phayrei* from Arracan in the Museum, the * type being in the Calcutta Museum. There are, however, two specimens in the British Museum from the Western side of Burma, one from Saw in the Pokokko Dist.; and the other from the Upper Chindwin Dist., where it appears to be common (Oates and Mears, J. B. N. H. S., xviii., p. 80), these are much greyer above than any Assamese birds I have seen, and also want the decided rufous tinge so noticeable in birds from those parts, and in my opinion appear to be much nearer to Blyth's description than the Assam birds, also geographically they are much nearer to Arracan, at present it is impossible to say, whether birds from Assam are *A. phayrei*, or should be *A. fusca* (the type of which is in the Museum, and agree with all other specimens from Assam). If the birds from Assam and

* I have just examined the type specimens of *A. phayrei*, Blyth, from Arracan, kindly forwarded by Dr. Annandale for comparison, these unfortunately are very worn and faded, so that it is impossible to say whether Arracan and Assam birds are identical. It is hoped that any members in Arracan will collect and forward specimens to decide the point. H. H. H. Bombay, 7th March 1914.

Arracan are identical, those from Western Burma will require naming. Mr. Stuart Baker in his "Birds of N. Cachar," J., B. N. H. S., viii., p. 193, seems doubtful about his specimens from that locality, considering them intermediate between the Burmese and the S. Indian forms, by splitting them up into geographical races, I think the variations will be found to be constant.

Description of Birds from Western Burma—

Head and neck light ashy-grey, merging into the upper back; lower back and rump pale olive-grey; ear-coverts pale greyish-brown; chin and throat whitish; breast pale fulvous, flanks tinged with olivaceous.

Wing, sex? 66 mm. or 2.6." Female, 65 mm. or 2.55." Bill, 14. mm.

Description of Birds from Assam—

Head and neck dull brownish-grey, merging into the colour of the back; ear-coverts browner; the remainder of the upper plumage olive-brown; the exposed portion of the wings and tail yellowish-brown; chin and throat greyish; breast and under plumage ochraceous with a decided rufous tinge.

Wing: 3 ♂♂, average 70 mm. (2.75"), [Max. 72 mm., min. 68 mm.]; 2 ♀♀, 66 mm. (2.6"); 4 unsexed, 68 mm. (2.68"). Bill, 14-15 mm.

ALCIPPE PHŒOCEPHALA HARINGTONIÆ, Hartert.

The Upper Burma Quaker-Thrush.

Hartert, Bull., B. O. C., xxv., p. 10.

Description.—Head and neck ashy grey; two conspicuous black lines on each side of the head and neck extending down to the upper back where they converge; ear-coverts light hair brown; back and upper plumage olive-brown; outer edge of primaries and tail yellowish-brown; chin, throat and underparts ochraceous buff, to olivaceous on the flanks.

Wing measurement of 6 specimens, average 67 mm. or 2.64", max., 70 mm. or 2.75", min., 65 mm. or 2.55." Bill, 12-13 mm.

Distribution.—Probably the whole of N.-E. Upper Burma and the Northern parts of the Shan States. Both Dr. Anderson's and my specimens were procured in the Bhamo Dist. There are also two of Col. Bingham's specimens, from Yatsauk, Shan States, which are referable to this species, to which he draws attention in the *Ibis*, 1903, p. 589.

I only met with this species in the plains near Bhamo itself, and not in the hills where *A. fratercula* is very plentiful.

ALCIPPE PHŒOCEPHALA MAGNIROSTRIS, Walden.

The Lower Burma Quaker-Thrush.

Alcippe magnirostris, Walden, Blyth's Birds of Burma, p. 115 (1875).

A. phayrei, Sharpe, Cat., B. M., vii., p. 623; Oates, F. of B. I., i., p. 158.

Description.—Head and neck brownish-grey almost ashy, and well defined from the back; two sooty-brown stripes on each side of the head and neck extending down to the back: ear-coverts greyish-brown; remainder of upper plumage olive-brown tinged with grey on the back; exposed portions of the wings and tail yellowish-brown; throat whitish, underparts ochraceous buff.

Type from Karennee is in the British Museum.

Wing measurement of 6 males; average 71 mm. or 2.8", max., 73 mm. or 2.85", min., 69 mm. or 2.67". Female, 70 mm. or 2.7". Culmen, 13 mm.

Distribution.—Most probably Siam, S. S. States, Karennee, and S.-E. Burma to just north of Moulmein.

Hume, Stray Feathers, iii., p. 116. "*Birds from Pegu.*"

"... but in one respect it more closely resembles *nepalensis*, a point which appears to have been overlooked, in that it exhibits the same sort of dark streaks running backwards on either side of the nape that *nepalensis* does, only in *phayrei* it is less strongly marked."

ALCIPPE PHŒOCEPHALA DAVISONI, sp. nov.

The Tenasserim Quaker-Thrush.

Similar to *A. magnirostris*, from Karennee, but the stripes on the head are entirely wanting or only very faint indications of them; also very similar to *A. brucei* from Western India, but is much darker.

Description.—Head and neck ashy brown well defined from the back; stripes on head wanting or only faint indications; ear-coverts hair-brown; chin and throat whitish; under parts ochraceous, flanks olivaceous.

Wing measurement: males, average 71 mm. or 2·8", max., 73 mm. or 2·85," min., 68 mm. or 2·68." Female, 70 mm. or 2·7." Bill, upper mandible horn, lower yellowish. Culmen, 13 to 14 mm. or " Iris slaty-grey to slaty-yellow."

Hume, Str. Frs., vi., p. 260 "*Birds of Tenasserim.*"

In pointing out the differences between *A. phayrei* and *nepalensis*, says, "*Phayrei* may be distinguished at once from *nepalensis* by its larger size, much larger bill, browner ear-coverts, and by the almost entire want in most specimens, and the comparatively feeble trace in the rest, of the very conspicuous black sinocipital stripes which characterize *nepalensis*."

Distribution.—Tavoy, Mergui and to the south, the dividing line between this sub-species and *magnirostris* is about the latitude of Moulmein, birds to the south of this show very little signs of any stripes on the head, and further south none whatever.

Habits.—Occurs throughout the province, only in the low hills.

Nests within a few feet of the ground at low elevations, eggs in the Museum (*phayrei* from Tenasserim) are pinkish-white, blotched and streaked with reddish-pink, and with faint spots of purple. Measuring ·68" to ·78" by ·53" to ·59".

(To be continued.)



Harrington, H. H. 1915. "Notes on the Indian Timeliides and their allies (laughing thrushes, babblers, &c.) Part III. Family — Timeliidæ ." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 23, 417–453.

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