

A FEW NOTES ON BIRDS FROM PERAK, MALAY PENINSULA.

BY ERNST HARTERT AND A. L. BUTLER.

BOTH authors of this article have been fortunate enough to collect on Gunong Ijau, a mountain of about 4300 feet, the highest of the Larut Hills, close to Taiping, in the State of Perak, Malay Peninsula, Hartert in 1888, Butler in 1898. Hartert devoted most of his time on Gunong Ijau to entomological collecting, but a list of the birds collected by him, with field-notes and descriptions of eggs and nests, is given in the *Journal für Ornithologie*, 1889, pp. 379—406. A full list of the birds collected and observed by Butler will be published, together with field-notes, in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. Here we are only giving a few systematical notes, principally on new species and subspecies found by Butler.

The ornithology of Perak is known to a certain extent. Kelham made a large collection of birds in the low country, and gave a list and most useful notes in the *Ibis* for 1881; but, excellent as his observations are, he never ascended the mountains, and consequently did not discover any new species. The next collector was L. Wray, Curator of the Perak Museum. His discoveries in the mountains were rather startling. They are published in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* for 1886, 1887, 1888. Then follows Hartert's list in 1889. That the higher elevations of the Malay Peninsula are yet a good field for an ornithologist is clearly manifested by Butler's discoveries. Gunong Ijau is the best-known of the Perak mountains, but it is also one of the best collecting grounds one can imagine, being, as its name (Gunong Ijau = Green Mountain) indicates, covered with dense forest from bottom to top, with the exception of a few recent clearings. On the other hand, this same luxurious vegetation and the steepness of the mountain-sides, with their many ravines and blocks and fissures, make progress very difficult, and many a specimen is lost to sight when shot, and never retrieved.

The following are the species which call forth some systematical notes :—

1. *Trochalopterus peninsulae* Sharpe.

One specimen, Gunong Ijau, 4000 feet. This species is figured on Plate XXXVII. in *P. Z. S.* 1887. I am not aware of any other specimen in Europe, except the type.

2. *Iole tickelli peracensis* subsp. nov.

♂ ♀ shot on Gunong Ijau. The Perak specimens collected by both Hartert and Butler differ from typical *I. tickelli* from Tenasserim in having the crown of the head darker and less rufous, the ear-coverts more dingy grey, the breast and flanks slightly more ashy. (See Hartert's notes in *J. f. O.* 1889, p. 388.)

3. *Iole olivacea* Blyth.

Three *males* were obtained. They are to be considered typical *Iole olivacea*, but Bornean specimens are much more rufous on the upper surface and tail, and somewhat more brownish on the chest. They should be called *Iole olivacea charlottae* Finsch.

4. *Stachyris davisoni* Sharpe.

One ♂, Maxwell's Hill, 2000 feet. "Iris golden yellow, shading into an outer circle of pale crimson; bill above blackish, below slate-colour; feet greyish olive." The bird described by Hartert as *St. natunensis* cannot be satisfactorily separated from *St. davisoni* (Nov. Zool. II. p. 466). The late Mr. Everett collected it also on the Lingga Islands, south of Singapore.

5. *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* subsp.

Specimens from Perak are decidedly duller in colour than typical *St. chrysaea* from the Himalayas. They should probably be called *St. chrysaea assimilis* or *St. chrysaea bocagei*, both names being most likely synonyms. A comparison with the types in Wardlaw Ramsay's collection and in the Museo Civico in Genoa should be made, before deciding about it.

6. *Phyllergates cucullatus* (Temm.).

There is no character by which to distinguish *Ph. cinereicollis* Sh., if a series is compared.

7. *Cisticola beavani* (Wald.).

Two skins from Gunong Ijau are rather paler and less rufescent than North Indian and Burmese examples. A larger series should be studied.

8. *Niltava grandis* Hodgs.

One ♂ and one ♀ juv., Gunong Ijau. The *male* is of the same colour as typical *N. grandis*, but tail and wings are about 1 cm. shorter! More specimens are required to find out whether these differences are constant or not, but the smaller size of the Perak specimens is rather striking.

9. *Digenea malayana* Sharpe.

One ♂ in March, ♀ in April. They bear out Sharpe's note, and agree entirely with each other in colour, except that the *male* is slightly deeper rufous and its breast more brown. Iris brown; bill blackish, below greyish; feet and claws fleshy white. Gunong Ijau, at 4000 feet. ♂ wing 67, tail 50 mm.; ♀ wing 64, tail 48 mm. (Cf. Sharpe, *P. Z. S.* pp. 247, 272.)

10. *Rhipidura albicollis* (Vieill.).

The white tips to the lateral rectrices are much wider than in any other specimen seen. It would be remarkable if this was a constant character of the Perak form, as the Bornean specimens agree with Indian ones with regard to the extension of white in the tail, as otherwise.

11. *Cryptolopha butleri* Hart.

A description of this fine new species is given in the *Bull. B. O. Club*, Vol. VII. p. 50 (May 1898).

12. *Serilophus rothschildi* Hartert & Butler.

This most interesting form, which is a close ally of *S. lunatus*, is described on the same page as the *Cryptolopha*, and has been named in honour of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, by Butler's special request. Four specimens have been procured.

13. *Gecinus rodgeri* sp. nov.

One adult *male* of this fine new Woodpecker was shot at 4000 feet on Gunong Ijan, in March 1898. It is named in compliment to Mr. J. P. Rodger, British Resident at Selangor, who while acting as Resident at Perak kindly afforded every facility for collecting on the Larut Hills.

G. rodgeri stands somewhat between *G. chlorolophus* (Vieill.), which inhabits the southern slopes of the Himalayas from about Simla in the west to Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and the forests of Assam, Cachar, Manipur, Burma, as far south as Southern Tenasserim, and *G. chlorigaster* Jerd. from Ceylon and Southern India. It differs from *G. chlorolophus* in its much darker and more uniform green upper side, shorter wing and darker abdomen, with much narrower whitish cross-bars. It differs from *G. chlorigaster* in being larger, with the wing longer, and the middle of the crown green, not red. The forehead and a line extending over the eye to the hindneck, being quite narrow just above the eye, but about 7 mm. wide on the sides of the nape, bright red. Loral streak from base of maxilla to just under the ear-coverts pale yellowish buff. Middle of crown and ear-coverts dark olive-green. Malar stripe red. Nuchal crest golden yellow. Rest of upper side olive-green, with a yellow gloss. Wings as in *G. chlorigaster*. Tail blackish brown. Underside dark olive-brown, with a faint green tinge; sides of breast and abdomen, belly, and under tail-coverts narrowly barred with buffy yellowish white; middle of abdomen nearly uniform, most of the bars being concealed. Total length about 235, wing 126, tail 95, tarsus 18, culmen from base 27 mm. Iris reddish brown; bill blackish, mandible yellow at gape; feet dirty olive-grey.

The late Mr. Hargitt enumerated a specimen of *G. rodgeri* as *G. chlorolophus* in *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* XVIII. p. 60, and noticed that it was very different from *G. chlorolophus* and "but for the distribution of the red on the head resembled *G. chlorigaster*." This specimen (also a *male*) agrees perfectly with the type of *G. rodgeri* in the Tring Museum, and *G. rodgeri* is thus proved to be an excellent new species. The *female* is not yet known.



Hartert, Ernst and Butler, A. L. 1898. "Notes on Birds from Perak." *Novitates zoologicae : a journal of zoology in connection with the Tring Museum* 5, 506–508.

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