

PROCEEDINGS
OF
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA MISCELLANY OF NEW BIRDS FROM EASTERN
ASIA

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Continued study of the Indo-Chinese avifauna has led me to believe that special names must be bestowed upon the several populations discussed below. For the loan of comparative material, my thanks are hereby tendered to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History and of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

I

Kinnear (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 44, 1924, pp. 101-102) described *Tephrodornis gularis vernayi* from Ban Um Phang, southwestern Siam at lat. 15°50' N., long. 98°50' E., embracing under the new name all the populations of Burma and Siam south to the Isthmus of Kra. Later (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vol. 45, 1924, p. 28; *ibid.*, 1925, p. 75), pressed by Boden Kloss, he synonymized *vernayi* with *T. g. annectens* of far-southern Siam. Here the name rested until it was restored to use by the present writer (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 186, 1945, pp. 282-284).

Renewed examination of the species has shown that the population of northern Siam and the Southern Shan States may no more properly be called *vernayi*, than *vernayi* itself may be called *annectens*, or *annectens* may be called *fretensis*. In order that each named portion of the cline running from Java to Nepal may have a value roughly equivalent with that of every other, it is essential that a name be found for the population in question, and I now propose to call it

Tephrodornis gularis jugans, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 330959, adult male, collected on Doi Langka = Khao Pha Cho, northwestern Siam at lat. 19°00' N., long. 99°25' E., on November 17, 1930, by Hugh M. Smith (original number 4353).

Diagnosis.—Fresh-plumaged males of the new form are more or less exactly intermediate between similar specimens of *T. g. pelvica* (Nepal) and *T. g. vernayi* (southwestern Siam).

From the latter they are separable by having the ashy gray of the crown and nape sharply defined from the somewhat paler and more isabelline brown of the remaining upper parts, not at all suffusing the upper back.

From *pelvica* they are distinguished by the deeper tone of the gray

head and nape, and by the darker, less isabelline, brown of the remaining upper parts.

Range.—Northern Siam; Southern Shan States.

II

The isolated population of *Tephrodornis pondiceriana* resident in the southern portions of Indochina has proved to be readily separable from *T. p. thai* of western Siam, and may be called

Tephrodornis pondiceriana orientis, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 361171, adult male, collected at Krongpha, Phanrang Province, southern Annam at lat. 11°49' N., long. 108°42' E., in November 1939, by Joseph F. Rock (original number 933).

Diagnosis.—Fresh-plumaged specimens of this race are nearest *T. p. thai*, but distinguishable by having the lores ashy, not at all nigrescent; the gray of the upper parts paler, especially on the crown and nape; the supercilium less extensive posteriorly and more ashy than white, thus less clearly demarcated from the gray of the crown; the gray wash over the under parts slightly darker and more extensive posteriorly, with the white portion of the abdomen accordingly reduced in area.

Range.—Easternmost Siam; Bas-Laos; Cambodia; Cochinchina; southern Annam.

III

Boden Kloss (*Ibis*, 1918, p. 198) based *Chloropsis aurifrons inornata* upon a series of four specimens from Sathani Lat Bua Khao (a railway station in eastern Siam at lat. 14°50' N., long. 101°35' E.) and two from Ko Lak = Prachuap Khiri Khan (southwestern Siam at lat. 11°50' N., long. 99°50' E.). Later (*tom. cit.*, p. 518), the type of the subspecies was stated to be "the first specimen recorded, the adult male with measurements, and was collected on 14 October, 1916."

This bird, now U. S. National Museum No. 278455, is lying before me and proves to be a merely subadult male. The characters adduced for the subspecies are *all* to be explained by the age of the specimen; while Kloss's description would fit equally well a subadult male of *any* Indo-Chinese race, it does not fit at all the fully adult birds of the type locality.

In fact, adult males of topotypical *inornata* have a very narrow and ill-defined, but nonetheless perfectly obvious, golden border to the black throat patch; in the degree of development of this character they stand in relation to *C. a. pridii* (northern Siam) exactly as *pridii* does to *C. a. aurifrons* (Cachar).

In southern Annam, however, is found a population in which, even in the oldest adults, no trace of the golden band *ever* appears; completely lacking the character, they cannot properly be embraced under a name belonging to birds in which the character is always present, however indistinctly. They may stand, therefore, as

Chloropsis aurifrons incompta, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 358924, adult male, collected on the southern slopes of the Lang Bian Plateau between Dalat and Ban

Methuot, Haut-Donai Province, southern Annam, in June 1939, by Joseph F. Rock (original number 58).

Diagnosis.—Nearest *C. a. inornata*, but separable by the complete lack, in the adult, of the golden-yellow band that, in *inornata*, separates the black throat from the green of the remaining under parts.

Range.—Bas-Laos; Cambodia; Cochinchine; southern Annam.

IV

In Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 186, 1945, p. 367, I identified as *Heterophasia* ("Leioptila") *annectens annectens* a series of six fresh-plumaged specimens from Doi Pha Hom Pok, a mountain on the frontier between northwestern Siam and the Southern Shan State of Muang Hang. Material lent me by the two museums mentioned in my introduction has shown that this population combines characters of the races *annectens* (Darjiling) and *saturata* (Karenni) in such a way that it may be better called

Heterophasia annectens mixta, subsp. nov.

Type.—Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia No. 131171, adult male, collected on Doi Pha Hom Pok (lat. 20°05' N., long 99°10' E.), Siam-Southern Shan boundary, on January 27, 1938, by collectors for Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee (original number 118).

Diagnosis.—The new form may be best described as having the lower back, rump, and upper tail coverts chestnut as in *saturata* (a shade paler in series), not rufous as in *annectens*, and the scapulars pale rufous as in *annectens*, not chestnut as in *saturata*.

Range.—The type locality and adjacent parts of the Southern Shan States (a Harington skin from "Pun Thabet watershed 6600 ft" belongs here).

Remarks.—Seven specimens of *H. a. mixta* have been compared with 13 of *annectens* (Sikkim, Chin Hills, Assam, northern Burma, far-western Yunnan, Kengtung State) and 24 of *saturata* (provinces of northwestern Siam adjacent to Karenni).

V

Oustalet (Bull. Soc. Philomath. Paris, ser. 7, vol. 1, No. 3, 1877, p. 139) described *Heterophasia* ("Sibia") *desgodinsi* from "Yer-ka-lo" (= Yentsing?), a settlement on the river Mekong in extreme southwestern Sikang Province, China, at lat. 29°03'30" N. If, as seems certain, four specimens taken by Joseph F. Rock in the neighborhood of Tsehchung, another settlement on the Mekong in northwestern Yunnan Province, at ca. lat. 28°09' N., may be held to represent true *desgodinsi*, then the population of the Likiang Mountains may be treated as a distinct race, and called

Heterophasia capistrata tecta, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 296571, adult male, collected at Nguluko (a settlement at elev. 10,000 ft. in the mountains just north of Likiang), northwestern Yunnan Province, China, on April 10, 1923, by Joseph F. Rock (original number 159).

Diagnosis.—Easily distinguished from *H. c. desgodinsi* by having the ear coverts not dead black but brownish black, and by having the middle

and lower back distinctly vinaceous brown, not gray slightly suffused with vinaceous ("gris légèrement nuancé de roux," in the words of David and Oustalet, *Oiseaux de la Chine*, 1877, p. 556).

Range.—The Likiang Mountains of Yunnan Province and the immediately adjacent portions of southwestern Szechwan Province.

Remarks.—A series of nine birds from Szechwan (Yachowfu = Yaan, Mount Omei, Suifu = Ipin) agree well enough with true *desgodinsi*, of which the range probably extends right across Sikang Province and western Szechwan (excepting the extreme southwest of the latter province).

VI

Examination of Chinese series of *Passer rutilans* taken throughout the year has indicated that the population of eastern and central Szechwan Province represents a well-marked race intermediate between *P. r. rutilans* (Japan, southeastern China) and *intensior* (Yunnan, northern Burma). I intend to name it

Passer rutilans ignoratus, subsp. nov.

Type.—U. S. National Museum No. 306382, adult male, collected on Mount Omei (at elev. 4,000 ft.), Szechwan Province, China, on July 9, 1925, by David C. Graham (original number 2).

Diagnosis.—The adult male has the chestnut of the upper parts much darker and duller than in *intensior*, but of much the same tone as in *rutilans* (perhaps a little darker in series); the under parts washed with a deeper gray than in *rutilans*, as dark as in *intensior*, but, unlike those of the latter, scarcely tinged at all with pale yellow; the sides of the neck white at all seasons as in *rutilans*, not overlaid with sulphur yellow as in *intensior* at all seasons.

Range.—Szechwan, but intergrading with *intensior* in the far west, southwest, and south.

Remarks.—Thirteen adult males of *ignoratus* have been compared with 13 of *intensior* and 23 of *rutilans*. Specimens placed with the new form have been seen from Suifu, Mount Omei, Gonghsien, Wenchuan, Washan, Wanh sien, and Chengtu.



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