

they represent the resident population of the region. It may be remarked, parenthetically, that *hargravei* is a rare bird in collections. There are a few in the U. S. National Museum, but I found none whatever in the American Museum of Natural History.—ALLAN R. PHILLIPS, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**Notes on Malaysian cuckoos.**<sup>1</sup>—While studying the material in the collection of the U. S. National Museum from the Greater Sunda area and particularly the west Sumatra islands, several points in the distribution and nomenclature of some of the Malaysian cuckoos have come up to which I would like to call attention.

#### ***Cuculus fugax fugax* Horsfield**

In his 'Handlist of Malaysian Birds' (1935, p. 123), Chasen has a footnote under *Hierococcyx fugax nicolor* Blyth to the effect that a form of this cuckoo occurs on Banka Island, southeast of Sumatra. It is perhaps worth while recording that there are two specimens in the U. S. National Museum (Nos. 180,513; 180,514) collected by Abbott in May and June, 1904, on Banka, which are referable to *Cuculus f. fugax* Horsfield, the resident bird of the area.

#### ***Rhopodytes sumatranus rodolphi*, new subspecies**

*Type*.—Ad. ♂. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. No. 56,255, collected Oct.–Nov., 1896, by J. Z. Kannegieter, Pini, Batu Islands, west Sumatra.

*Description*.—From *sumatranus* this race differs by larger size and a longer, stouter bill. Fourteen males of *sumatranus* in the collection of the U. S. National Museum measure: wing, 135.5–153 mm. (143.4); tail, 207–237 (221.4); culmen, 30–36 (33). The measurements of the type of *rodolphi* are: wing, 154; tail, 238; culmen, 38.25. Measuring the depth of both mandibles, I secured the following figures for the series of *sumatranus*: 13.25–14.5 (13.83); the depth in the type of *rodolphi* is 16. Comparing the measurements of length and depth by use of standard deviation tables, the result is greater than 3 in both cases (3.3, 5.1) showing that on the character of the bill alone, the larger size of the type is significant.

*Discussion*.—This is a wide-ranging species on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo, being found from the mangroves up to four thousand feet, but the present record is the only one for the west Sumatra islands.

This race is named for my friend, Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee, who is so interested in East Indian birds.

Riley (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 51: 96, 1938) named a race, *minor*, from Borneo, on the basis of "averaging a lighter gray on the head, throat, and chest; the size smaller in comparison with *sumatranus*." The measurements of eight specimens, including the type of *minor*, fall within the range of measurements of *sumatranus* just cited. Birds from Peninsular Siam tend to agree with Bornean specimens in being very slightly paler gray on the head and throat. They are also in agreement in falling within the smaller range of measurements expressed in the series. However, considered by themselves, Bornean birds will not uphold the name *minor*. Even by lumping them with upper Malay Peninsula specimens, a difficult feat from the zoogeographical point of view, there is too much overlap in size and color to allow this separation.

#### ***Rhinortha chlorophaea facta*, new subspecies**

*Type*.—Ad. ♂. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 179,678, collected Feb. 20, 1903, by W. L. Abbott, Tana Massa, Batu Islands, West Sumatra.

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*Description.*—From *chlorophaea*, this race differs by larger size. The type measures: wing, 123.25 mm.; tail, 182; culmen, 29; tarsus, 28.5. A female collected August 24, 1896, by J. Z. Kannegieter on the same island measures: wing, 124; tail, 179.5 (worn); culmen, 30.5; tarsus, 28.5. A series of twenty males and females from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula measure: wing, ♂, 110.5–119 (115.3); ♀, 110–119 (115.96); tail, ♂, 159.5–178.5 (167.8); ♀, 162.5–177.5 (169.8); culmen, ♂, 27–31 (28.97); ♀, 27.75–29.5 (29.07); tarsus, ♂, 26–27.5 (26.62); ♀, 26–27.2 (26.7).

*Discussion.*—The female from Tana Massa seems to differ slightly in color from any other female in the National Museum's series in that the gray on the abdomen looks purer with less of the buffy wash characteristic of the female plumage of this species. Probably, however, this is a case of individual variation. In this connection, I concur with Chasen and Kloss (Bull. Raffles Museum, No. 4: 32, 1930) in feeling that *fuscigularis* Baker, from Borneo, cannot be upheld. This race was founded on variations in the buffy wash in the female and the tone of rufous in the male, characters that tend to disappear in large series.

#### *Centropus sinensis bubutus* Horsfield

Chasen and Kloss (Ibis, 1926: 284) note that a specimen of the coucal from Siberut I., west Sumatra, is indistinguishable from Javanese specimens of *bubutus*. They remark on the gloss on the nape and neck which seems to be bluish rather than violet when compared with Sumatran and Malay Peninsula birds. I submit that this condition is due to wear and the state of plumage. Javan, Sumatran, Bornean, and Nias Island birds in the collection of the U. S. National Museum are indistinguishable in size or color. It seems best, therefore, to make *eurycercus* Hay a synonym of *bubutus* and include in the range of the latter, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Nias, Siberut, Borneo, North Natuna Ids., Palawan, Balabac, and Cagayan Sulu.—S. DILLON RIPLEY, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**Ticks affecting birds' eyesight.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1941, Ruth Harris Thomas gives some interesting observations on the apparent blinding of small passerine birds by large ticks affixed to their heads in the eye-region. These ticks "flopped and swung with every turn of the head," it being concluded that unless the birds were consumed by predators, they eventually became totally blind and died of starvation.

In this connection it is of interest to record the case of a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) that was found dead by Richard G. Kuerzi at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on January 8, 1940. A live tick of the *Ixodes* group was affixed to the head at the base of the upper mandible. It was well-engorged, measuring 5 mm. long and 4 mm. wide.

Post mortem examination of the bird revealed no signs of external injury. Subcutaneous dissection showed that the superficial tissues of the affected side of the head were the seat of profound extravasation of blood, this condition extending in a posterior direction for half the length of the body on that side. The blood was not fully clotted, but had a consistency such as slime.

Muscular development and general nutrition were normal. There were intra-abdominal hemorrhages, and the lungs showed partial consolidation. The heart was grossly normal. Other viscera showed advanced decomposition. The bird had been feeding on bayberries.

Gross diagnosis of ectoparasitism, debilitating pneumonitis, and terminal fatal trauma was made. This was the first case in my post mortem series in which