

## GENERAL NOTES

Remarks on *Phasianus Crawfurdii* and other birds named by J. E. Gray from Crawfurd's 'Indian drawings.'—"Phasianus *Crawfurdii*" was described by J. E. Gray in Griffith's Cuvier, 'The Animal Kingdom,' 8 [The Class *Aves*, vol. 3]: 27, 1829, with type locality Ava, but without designation of type specimen or drawing.

Gould (The Birds of Asia, pt. 12: text opposite pl. 21, 1860), mentions that "on inspecting the large collection of drawings at the East India House, I noticed one of a bird I had never seen, and which was said to have been made by Finlayson in Siam, forty years ago." Gould reproduced the drawing on col. pl. 21, believing it to represent the still unknown female of *Diardigallus praelatus* Bonaparte [= *Diardigallus diardi*], and observed that if his surmise proved to be correct, the name *crawfurdii* must be employed for Diard's fire-back. Since "*Phasianus Crawfurdii*" was known to science only through Gray's diagnosis, one is forced to believe that Gould had some good reason for considering that he had before him the basis of Gray's description. It is devoutly to be hoped that this and other zoological drawings in the archives of India House will be available for examination at the conclusion of the War.

With the later discovery of the true female of *D. diardi*, Gray's name was discarded by authors, largely because of the careless wording of his description, which made it virtually impossible to attach the name to any known pheasant, least of all to any form known from Ava.

A comparison, however, of Gray's description with the Finlayson drawing reproduced by Gould shows no disagreement between the two except for the statement "wing-coverts, white," whereas, in the drawing, they are uniformly brown. Since the two match in every other particular, this discrepancy can be explained as a simple *lapsus calami*. Gray's observation that the length of *crawfurdii* is fourteen inches is, of course, senseless as applied to a pheasant, but may refer to the length of the pictured bird.

Crawfurd's 'Indian drawings,' upon which Gray erected several avian names, are all, apparently, the drawings (of birds and mammals) made during Crawfurd's journey to Siam and Cochin-China under the direction of George Finlayson, surgeon-naturalist of the party; they were later deposited, some at East-India House, others at the Museum of the East-India Company in Calcutta. The various forms were described by Gray after Finlayson's untimely death and the type locality of three of them was said to be Ava, for no other reason than that Crawfurd once resided there.

Two of these birds, "*Turdus Avensis*" [= *Geokichla interpres interpres*] and "*Picus Crawfurdii*" [= *Dryocopus javensis javensis*] are Malaysian forms, unknown in Burma; the type locality for both is here corrected to Malacca, where, says Finlayson (The Mission to Siam and Hué: 41, 1826), "we procured a considerable number of birds. They were chiefly brought for sale by the Malay inhabitants."

In the case of "*Phasianus Crawfurdii*," we have the authority of Crawfurd himself (Journal of an Embassy from the Governor-general of India to the Courts of Siam and Cochin China: 433, 1828), that the party ascertained to exist in Siam "a new species of fire-backed pheasant . . ." I think there can be little doubt that the drawing seen by Gould represents the bird referred to by Crawfurd; the error in generic identity made by a diplomat is pardonable enough when we consider that

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Gould himself mistook it for a fireback. In the same paragraph we find: "I do not know whether Siam itself, or the provinces lying north and east of it, produce any pheasant except the fire pheasant already mentioned; but its Malayan tributaries produce the common fire pheasant . . .," and in a footnote he adds that a live specimen of the latter was carried back from Prince of Wales's Island (Penang) to Barrackpore.

After showing that Finlayson's drawing may be considered the type of "*Phasianus Crawfordii*" and that it was made from a Thai example, it remains to decide to which Thai species the name is applicable. Comparison of the picture with all the pheasants occurring in Thailand proves that it can represent only a female of the species commonly called *Gennaëus lineatus* and the reddish feet further limit it to the race "*sharpii*."

Since the only mainland locality in Thailand visited by the Mission was Bangkok and its neighborhood, where no pheasant is found in the wild state, we may be sure that the bird was a captive. Its possible provenance nearest Bangkok is southwestern Thailand, and I now designate as corrected type locality of *Gennaëus crawfurdi crawfurdi* (J. E. Gray), Hat Sa:nuk, near Praec:chuap Khirikhan (Ko: Lak), S. W. Thailand, a place lying at the periphery of the species's range and where, despite published records to the contrary, only typical *crawfurdi* ("*sharpii*") seems to have been taken. I place under this name also the specimens from the Sam Roi Yot district, S. W. Thailand, reported as "*lineatus*" by Riley (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 172: 67, 1938).

While on the subject of Finlayson's drawings, it may be well to mention the three forms "discovered and drawn by John Crawford, Esq., at Siam," and described by Gray in *The Zoölogical Miscellany*, no. 1: 3, col. pl. 2, 1, 3, 1831. They and "*Phaenicophaus Crawfordii*" [= *Rhopodytes sumatranus*], *Coccyzus badius* [= *Rhinortha chlorophaea*], and "*Bucco trimaculatus*" [= *Cyanops australis duvaucelii*]. All are forms of the Malay Peninsula, and the last does not even occur within the borders of Thailand (as of 1939). Since no locality in Peninsular Thailand was visited by the Mission, the type locality for all three is here corrected to Malacca.—H. G. DEIGNAN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

**An old record for Celebes revived.**—Among the many mysterious species of Brüggemann (Abhandl. vom naturwissen. Ver. zu Bremen, 5: 75, 1876), some of which were later disqualified by Blasius (Journ. für Ornith., 31: 151, 1883), was *Corvus annectens* supposedly collected on Celebes. Blasius called the type, the sole specimen, *C. macrorhynchus* (tom. cit.: 159). In his review of the genus *Corvus* (Novit. Zool., 33: 85, 1926), Meinertzhagen lists this bird under *Corvus coronoides orru* with the following note: "Type in Darmstadt Museum, wing 326 mm. Obtained at Gorontalo (Schneider), in Celebes. . . . The record from Celebes is probably an error." Stresemann [Ibis. (13) 6: 368, 1936] says: "None of the three crows described by Brüggemann, and believed to have been collected in Celebes, are natives of this island."

A specimen in the collection of the United States National Museum (No. 146,921 collected by "Fricke" at Menado, and received from the Museum Boucard) seems to belong to the race *orru*. It is a mature bird in worn plumage, not sexed, and measures: wing, 304 mm.; tail, 151.5; culmen, 56.5; height of bill at base, 25. The bird has the violet sheen associated with *orru*, and though small is not outside of the range given by Meinertzhagen (tom. cit.: 85).

As Gorontalo is also on the northern Menado peninsula of Celebes, I think this