

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

second record tends to validate Brüggemann's specimen and locality. Thus *C. m. orru* must be presumed to occur in north Celebes. Why it should be so rare in that well-worked locality is an interesting question. Perhaps the strong competition of *C. enca celebensis* is the answer, or perhaps it is merely a straggler to the island from the western Moluccas.—S. DILLON RIPLEY, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Seasonal changes in color of the gape of male Purple Finches.—I have looked through many bird books and have yet to find any comment on the changes in color of the skin of the gape in male Purple Finches. I have many Purple Finches here in spring, summer, and fall; and a few now and then in winter, and have banded many thousands; consequently I have been able to check the color at all seasons.

In winter the skin of the gape is dull brownish. It then gradually brightens and becomes yellowish, later changing to orange. The orange gradually reddens until, shortly before molting time, the skin is quite bright red-orange and in some cases becomes a bright blood-red. After the molting season the color gradually works back until, late in November or early December, it is back to the dull brownish of winter. Crimson males are not so bright in the fall as in the following spring. The reason is that the new feathers after molting have whitish barbules but, by wear, these are mostly removed by spring and consequently the reddish color of the feathers looks much brighter. If any reddish feathers are lost and new ones replace them, the new ones will not be red if at the time of growth of the new feathers there was no red showing in the skin of the gape. I believe this is the reason that so many crimson males are found in the spring showing a few yellowish-brown or olive-brown feathers. By checking the color of the skin of the gape you can tell how bright the birds will be in the spring. The first sign that a brownish bird is a young male of the previous year and not a female is the appearance of red in the skin of the gape.—M. J. MAGEE, 603 South St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Starlings and woodpeckers.—Presumably a search through the literature would disclose many specific instances of damage by Starlings to our native bird population, but I do not recall having noted much more than casual reference to it. How serious a competitor is the Starling, to just which of our birds in different sections, and what are its methods?

Starlings are, of course, abundant at all times of the year in the suburbs of Baltimore, where I live. In food habits they are highly beneficial to me personally. In pairs they search the lawns for cutworms, and in flocks they deploy through the longer grass of the meadow, to my advantage. I raise nothing that they damage.

Close to my house are two large silver maples with dying stubs, handy for observation from living room, dining room, bed room and bath. In one or the other of these trees a pair of Flickers has endeavored to nest for the last five years, and a pair of Downy Woodpeckers for three. The usual procedure is for the Flickers to start an excavation at a height of some 30 feet, but before the hole is completed a pair of Starlings is often to be seen, early in the morning, on nearby twigs. When the nest is finished one of the Starlings enters the hole and remains more or less continuously. A Flicker will enter and after a space from a few seconds to a minute or more, emerge with the Starling clinging to it. The Flicker endeavors to fly off, but flutters half way to the ground before both birds