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## FOUR NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM THE MOLUCCAS AND NEW GUINEA

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Routine examination of the bird collections of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie reveals, from time to time, the presence of unnamed subspecies. Four of these, from the Moluccas and from New Guinea, are described here. I am well aware that the detached description of some new subspecies is not a very valuable contribution to systematic ornithology, and usually try to incorporate descriptions in larger papers and revisions. The subspecies concerned belong, however, to species that are well-known or have been revised recently, so that little would be gained by postponing their descriptions.

I am indebted to Dr. Dean Amadon for the loan of material of *Ailuroedus buccoides stonii* from the collections of the American Museum of Natural History.

### **Tanysiptera galatea boanensis** subspecies nova

Diagnosis. — Adult birds differ from the adjacent races *T. g. nais* G. R. Gray and *T. g. acis* Wallace, in that the whole crown is azureous blue; moreover several feathers on the anterior part of the back have azureous edges. In both *nais* and *acis*, the central and anterior parts of the crown are blue-violet, and the anterior part of the back is violet. The new race has the scapulars paler azureous in colour than the two other races.

Material. — ♂ ad., type of subspecies, RMNH regd. no. 35579; ♀ ad., ♀ juv., all collected in 1863 on Boano by D. S. Hoedt.

Distribution. — Confined to the island of Boano, off the north-west coast of Ceram.

Remarks. — These birds were compared with a large series of *T. g. nais*, but only a single adult male of *T. g. acis* was available for comparison. The distinctness of these same specimens was noted a century ago by Schlegel (1864, 1874) and subsequently by Stresemann (1914). Since Stresemann published his notes another fifty years have passed and it appears about time to finalize the status of these birds by giving them the subspecific name they undoubtedly deserve.

A single bird from Manipa in our collection has a more violet crown than the specimens from Boano, and is best kept as *T. g. nais*, under which name it has been listed by Stresemann (1914) and van Bemmelen (1948).

When studying this material, naturally I examined adjacent races, and found that on the basis of a large material I am unable to confirm Ripley's (1959) assertion that birds from Batjan differ from birds from Halmahera. Therefore the name *T. isis* Gray, revived by Ripley for Batjan birds, once more enters the synonymy of *T. galatea margarethae* Heine.

**Pitohui kirrhocephalus adiensis** subspecies nova

Diagnosis. — Near to *P. k. decipiens* (type locality Kapaur), but head and upper breast darker. Lower breast and remainder of under surface slightly lighter orange-brown.

Material. — ♀, Adi Island, 8 December 1948, collected by Dr. S. Bergman, type of subspecies, RMNH regd. no. 22761.

Distribution. — Known from the type locality, the island Adi off the south coast of the Onin Peninsula, only.

Remarks. — The type is one of the specimens previously recorded by Gyldenstolpe (1955). It has a very short bill, but Gyldenstolpe's figures show that this is an individual character.

**Ailuroedus buccoides cinnamomeus** subspecies nova

Diagnosis. — Similar to the nominate race from Waigeo, Batanta, Salawati, and western New Guinea to as far east as the Triton Bay (see remarks below) but under surface distinctly darker cinnamon.

Material. — ♀, Noord River, 27.IX.1909, collected by H. A. Lorentz, no. 098, type of subspecies; ♀, Noord River, 15.V.1907, Lorentz no. 56; sex?, Noord River, 24.V.1907, Lorentz no. 125; ♂, near Bivak Eiland, 28.XII.1909, Lorentz no. 457; ♂, Alkmaar, 4.VIII.1907, Lorentz no. 392; ♂, Alkmaar, 8.VIII.1907, Lorentz no. 395; ♂, Alkmaar, 24.I.1910, Lorentz no. 669; ♀, Alkmaar, 30.IX.1909, Lorentz no. 165; ♀, Alkmaar, 27.XII.1909, Lorentz no. 617; ♀, Alkmaar, 17.I.1910, Lorentz no. 649; sex?, Fly River, purchased from Frank (all specimens in the Rijksmuseum van Na-

tuurlijke Historie). Maps showing the localities listed were given by Junge (1937: 185, 187).

Distribution. — Southern New Guinea from the Mimika River to the Fly River.

Remarks. — The description of this subspecies is made necessary by a re-examination of the type-specimen of *A. buccoides buccoides* (Temminck) from Lobo, Triton Bay. Apparently van Oort (1909) was the first to compare material, including the type, and his conclusion was that the type agreed best with material from south New Guinea; he refrained from naming the western birds, but this was done by Rothschild & Hartert (1913), who based their *A. buccoides oorti* on a specimen from Waigeo. Though Ogilvie-Grant (1915) remarked that Temminck's plate seemed to represent the subspecies with the paler under parts, the nomenclature introduced by Rothschild & Hartert has been accepted to this day, see for example Mayr (1941, 1962), though it may be mentioned that Rothschild & Hartert (1929) regarded *A. b. oorti* as a form restricted to Waigeo.

A careful re-examination of the type specimen in question, a female, leads me to disagree with van Oort. The bird has pale under parts, in which it agrees with the western birds at present known as *A. b. oorti*. Van Oort suggested that it might have become bleached by light, and originally has been darker, but the material from the Vogelkop and the western islands available for comparison was collected only some thirty-five years later and has also been mounted and been on display for many years. The bill is small, but in this character it differs not only from the western birds, but also from the Noord River series; moreover one bird from Salawati has the bill just as small. See also Ogilvie-Grant's (1915) remarks on bill-size. The crown is brown, without any greenish tinge.

The additional knowledge acquired is that the population from Triton Bay belongs to the western subspecies, and not, as was hitherto assumed, to the southern form. This is in line with what is known of the general zoogeography of Triton Bay, for in other species of birds with a similar pattern of distribution, it is usually the western subspecies which is found at Triton Bay.

A short summary of the races of *A. buccoides*, all of which I have examined, follows here.

1. *Ailuroedus buccoides buccoides* (Temminck). Under surface pale cinnamon with large black dots; crown brown, usually tinged with greenish. Material examined: ♂, ♀, Waigeo; ♀, Batanta; 2 ♂, ♀, Salawati; ♂, ♀, Sorong; ♂, Has; 2 ♀, Amberbaki; ♂, Andai; ♂, Hattam; ♀, Triton Bay (type of species); ♀ Siriwo River (all RMNH).

2. *Ailuroedus buccoides geislerorum* Meyer. Under surface as in the preceding subspecies; differs from that and all other races in its light brown crown. Material examined: 5 ♂, ♀, Sattelberg; 3 ♂, Simbang; ♂, Bussum; ♂, Lolebu; ♂, N.E. New Guinea; sex?, New Guinea (= probably N.E.); ♂, ♀, Tami River; ♂, ♀, Pionierbivak, Mamberamo (all RMNH).

3. *Ailuroedus buccoides cinnamomeus* subsp. nov. Under surface (except throat) deep cinnamon with large black spots; crown as in the nominate race but on an average stronger tinged with green. Material examined as listed above. The bird from Fly River is closest to this subspecies from which it differs, however, by a slightly darker crown, and slightly smaller black spots on the under surface; in other words, this specimen shows an approach to the following subspecies.

4. *Ailuroedus buccoides stonii* (Sharpe). Under surface deep cinnamon as in the preceding subspecies, or perhaps very slightly lighter; black spots smaller than in all other races; crown very dark blackish brown, sometimes slightly tinged with greenish. Material examined: ♂, Aroa River; ♂, ♀, Bubuni, Aroa River; sex?, Brown River; sex?, Upper Brown River (all from the American Museum of Natural History).

#### ***Dicaeum pectorale ignotum* subspecies nova**

Diagnosis. — Close to *D. p. pectorale* S. Müller, but upper surface distinctly darker, less greenish. Upper parts of the nominate race Roman Green (Ridgway, 1912, pl. XVI), of *ignotum* Dark Greenish Olive (Ridgway, 1912, pl. XXX). In coloration of the under surface there is little difference between the two races, but *D. p. ignotum* has the centre of the belly and the under tail coverts perhaps paler, less yellowish. Size of wing slightly larger than at least the western populations of *D. p. pectorale* (cf. Salomonsen, 1960, table 2), bill slightly larger.

Material. — ♂ ad., Gebe, 21 February 1863, type of subspecies, RMNH regd. no. 35580; ♂ subad., Gebe, 7 February 1863, RMNH regd. no. 35583. Both specimens were collected by Dr. H. A. Bernstein.

Distribution. — Gebe.

Remarks. — The subadult male differs from the adult male only in the lesser extent of the red pectoral patch, that is not continued so far downwards.

Because of the geographically intermediate position of Gebe between New Guinea and Waigeo (inhabited by *D. p. pectorale*) and the North Moluccas (inhabited by *D. erythrothorax schistaceiceps* G. R. Gray), one would expect birds from Gebe to show an approach to the last-mentioned race, but such is not the case. Though *schistaceiceps* has the head grey, the lower back

and rump are brighter yellowish green even than in *D. p. pectorale*, and the belly is definitely more yellowish and darker than in that race. Moreover *D. e. schistaceiceps*, as far as can be ascertained from the few specimens available to me is smaller and has a bill which is even slightly smaller than that of *D. p. pectorale* (according to Mayr & Amadon, 1947, *D. pectorale* is a smaller species than *D. erythrothorax*, but they gave no measurements to prove their statement).

As Salomonsen (1960) knew of only one specimen of *D. e. schistaceiceps* from Halmahera, it seems worth mentioning that our museum has two: an adult male from Tobelo, collected by A. Huetting, received in 1912, and a female from Bessa, collected on 16 November 1862 by Dr. H. A. Bernstein.

Measurements of wing of males.

*D. p. ignotum*: Gebe 53½, 54.

*D. p. pectorale*: Triton Bay (type of species) 52½, Adi 51½, Sekroe 52, Mambrice 53, Sorong 50, Kalwal, Salawati 49, Waigama, Misool 51, Kasim, Misool 51, Waigeo 51½.

*D. e. schistaceiceps*: Tobelo, Halmahera 50, Batjan 50½.

The occurrence of a *Dicaeum* on Gebe is not without zoogeographical interest. Because, as shown above, the new race does not in any respect bridge the morphological gap between *D. pectorale* and *D. erythrothorax*, the opinion that the two should be kept as distinct, though closely related, species (Mayr & Amadon, 1947; Salomonsen, 1960) gains support from it.

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