

Systematic notes on Asian birds. 40.
**The authorship of the new bird names proposed in the ‘Memoir
of the Life of Raffles’ by his widow, Lady Sophia Raffles (1830)**

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When Lady Sophia Raffles published her biography of her late husband, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, in 1830, she included a catalogue of zoological specimens based on the collections brought back by Raffles from Java and Sumatra. However, the catalogue was included without indication of its authorship. In the case of the birds, it has been attributed to either Vigors alone or Vigors & Horsfield. For about a century names were credited to Vigors alone but this was changed to Vigors & Horsfield. Here reasons are given to revert to Vigors alone. Nine new names were introduced in the catalogue; four are in current use.

Introduction

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles (1781-1826) is renowned today as the founder of Singapore in 1819. At the time he was the Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen [= Bengkulu, Sumatra], 1817-1824, and former Lieutenant-Governor of Java, 1811-1816 (Wurzburg, 1954). During his time in SE Asia he actively collected a wide range of material and published the results of some of his research, including a report on birds collected in Sumatra (Raffles, 1822). On his return to England in 1824 he was involved in the establishment of what became the Zoological Society of London in 1826 and is credited as its co-founder with Nicholas Aylward Vigors (1785-1840) (Scherren, 1905).

Raffles was elected the first President of the Zoological Society in 1826 and Vigors was its first Secretary from 1826 to 1833. Thomas Horsfield (1773-1859) was briefly the Vice-Secretary but resigned the position due to his commitments to the Museum of the East India Company, where he had been appointed as Curator in 1820. Raffles’s presidency was brief as he succumbed to a stroke on 6 July 1826. His wife, Lady Sophia Raffles (1786-1858) subsequently prepared a memoir of his life, which was published in 1830. The actual date of publication is taken as being “by or before Aug[ust].” according to Richmond (1992), although February was specified by Baker (1930: 408). An anonymous “Catalogue of Zoological Specimens” was attached to the memoir to summarise the results of Raffles’s accomplishments in this area, although this was omitted in the abridged reprint of the memoir in 1835.

The catalogue section covering birds (pp. 648-685) listed all the specimens Raffles brought to England from Java and Sumatra. The authorship of the new names in the catalogue was subsequently attributed to Vigors, as indicated, for example, by Horsfield & Moore (1854; 1856-58). The Marquis of Tweeddale, then President of the Zoological Society, stated: “In 1830 Lady Raffles published a memoir of her late husband, to

which was appended a catalogue, by Vigors, of the zoological specimens collected in Sumatra under the superintendence of Sir S. Raffles, and by Dr Horsfield of those in Java... and some species additional to Sir Stamford's list are discriminated and described as new by Vigors" (Tweeddale, 1877: 283). This attribution of authorship was followed for just over a century in the ornithological literature. An annotated list of the new names is given below followed by a brief discussion based on the details presented.

Analysis of the new names

p. 648: *Limnaëtus*

Type species (p. 649) *Lymn.[aëtus]* (sic) *Horsfieldii* proposed to replace *Falco Limnaëtus* [sic = *Limnaëtus*] Horsfield, 1821. Richmond (1902) listed a hitherto overlooked earlier use of *Limnaëtus* by Bowdich (1825: 56), and Ridgway (1920) subsequently proposed the new name *Phæoaëtus* to replace *Limnaëtus* Vigors. Baker, unaware of Ridgway's action, proposed the replacement name *Limnaëtops* (1930: 408). As Baker regarded Horsfield's bird as a subspecies, the type of the genus was changed to *Falco cirrhatus* Gmelin, 1788. Now treated as a synonym of *Spizaetus* Vieillot, 1816 (Peters 1931: 248) who credited *Limnaëtus* to Horsfield, an attribution repeated by Amadon (1982). Ridgway credited the name to Vigors and Peters's credit of the name to Horsfield suggests a transcription error from Ridgway's paper.

p. 649: *Lymn.[aëtus]* (sic) *Horsfieldii*

A new name to replace *Falco Limnaëtus* Horsfield, 1821. Treated as *Spizaetus (cirrhatus) limnaeetus* (Horsfield, 1821) by Stresemann & Amadon (1979: 386).

p. 652: *Pod.[argus] auritus*

Listed as "*Pod. auritus, nov. sp.*", then on p. 653 as "*Pod. auritus, Vigors and Horsf., Griffith's Transl. of Cuv. An. Kingd.*" [= Gray (1829)]. Peters (1940: 177) listed the name as "*Podargus Auritus* 'Vigors and Horsfield' J.E. Gray, in Griffith's *Anim. Kingd.*, 7, 1829, p. 114 and pl.". Gray (1829: 114) commented on a specimen in the Zoological Society collection similar to the '*Podargus Javanensis*' [sic = emendation of *Javensis* of Horsfield (1821a), by Horsfield (1821b)], and after a few descriptive notes stated: "Mr. Vigors, who is about to describe it in the '*Zoological Journal*', names it *P. Auritus*." On the plate the illustration is labelled "*PODARGUS AURITUS* Vigors & Horsfield". Although Peters was usually meticulous in noting text and plate variations, this difference in attribution was not mentioned. The association of both Vigors and Horsfield on the plate may be explained by Gray's heavy reliance on Vigors and Horsfield for help with the bird volumes in the translation of Cuvier organised by Griffith. Hartert (1892: 637), for example, recognised the correct attribution by Gray as "ex Vigors MS" and credited the catalogue in Raffles (1830) to Vigors. However, the catalogue citation to Vigors & Horsfield would appear to be based on the attribution on the plate. Now *Batrachostomus auritus* (J.E. Gray, 1829), cf. Peters (1940: 177).

p. 654: *Cymbirhynchus*

Type species *Todus nasutus* Latham, 1790 = *Todus macrorhynchos* Gmelin, 1788. Now *Cymbirhynchus m. macrorhynchos* (Gmelin, 1788), cf. Peters (1951: 7) who attributed the name to "Anonymous [= Vigors and Horsfield]".

p. 669: *Pic.[us] Rafflesii*

Now *Dinopium r. rafflesii*, cf. Peters (1948: 146), who attributed the name to "Anonymous [= Vigors and Horsfield]".

p. 671: *Phæn.[icophaeus] caniceps*

This proved to be based on the male of *P. chlorophaea* (Raffles, 1822), according to Horsfield & Moore (1856-58: 692). Peters (1940: 53) did not mention *caniceps* and treated the taxon as *Rhinortha c. chlorophaea*. Delacour (in Delacour & Mayr, 1945: 107) merged all genera of malkohas under the oldest name, *Phaenicophaeus* Stephens, 1815 (replacing the long used *Phaenicophaus* Vieillot, 1816), and this has been followed by most authors since.

p. 671: *Rhinortha*

Type species *Cuculus chlorophaeus* Raffles, 1822. Peters, who credited the name to Vigors, noted the type as determined by monotypy (1940: 53). However, in the catalogue the name is applied to both *chlorophaeus* and *caniceps*. The selection of *chlorophaeus* as the type of the genus follows Gray (1845: 260). Now considered a synonym of *Phaenicophaeus* Stephens, 1815, following Delacour (in Delacour & Mayr, 1945: 107).

p. 673 *Dic.[æum] croceiventre*

This proved to be based on a male of *D. trigonostigma* (Scopoli, 1786), according to Horsfield & Moore (1856-58: 749). The name was later applied to Bornean and Sumatran birds but these populations are separate subspecies and *croceiventre* is a synonym of *D. t. trigonostigma* (Chasen & Kloss, 1929; Salomonsen, 1960: 31). Credited to "Anon. [= Vigors and Horsfield]" by Salomonsen (1967: 183).

p. 674. *Chlor.[opsis] zosterops*

Now *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*, cf. Delacour (1960: 303), with the name credited to Vigors & Horsfield.

Conclusion

The change from Vigors to Vigors & Horsfield by Peters occurred between his attributions for *Rhinortha* in 1940 and for *Picus rafflesii* in 1948. The only apparent indication of why this change was made is found in his attribution, also in 1940, of

"Vigors & Horsfield" to Gray's pre-publication of *Podargus auritus*, but with no explanation of the way the name was credited by Gray in his text when compared to the plate. The wide usage of Vigors & Horsfield instead of Vigors alone in subsequent publications is apparent from the evidence that the four names in current use all appeared in the volumes of 1948 or later, when Peters had accepted the change to Vigors & Horsfield.

Peters apparently interpreted Gray's citation of Vigors & Horsfield on the plate as evidence that both Vigors and Horsfield named the birds in the catalogue as well as having authority for the plate. However, this was not explained anywhere and it can only be assumed to be the source of the change adopted by Peters. During his period as Secretary of the Zoological Society Vigors collaborated on several other works where his involvement as the author, or possible author, of new names has caused some confusion (McAllan & Bruce, 2002). In the case of the catalogue, Vigors was long accepted as the sole author of the bird section. To accept otherwise means that we would have a bird named after Horsfield also credited to Horsfield. It is also notable that in the first extensive study of the same specimens all names were credited to Vigors, and this in a work co-authored by Horsfield (Horsfield & Moore, 1854; 1856-58). Until Peters made the change, all names from the catalogue were attributed to Vigors alone and I propose that this interpretation be upheld. It can be expressed as 'Anon. = Vigors', '[Vigors]' or just 'Vigors'.

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