

ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM THE KHWAE NOI VALLEY, WESTERN SIAM

by

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and

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The present paper deals with a collection brought together by J. G. Kooiman in 1946. After the defeat of Japan, some Dutch biologists, who during the war had worked as prisoners of war on the notorious Burma railroad, biologically explored the Khwae Noi valley. Kooiman joined this party as an ornithologist. The collection might have been larger, but shooting was

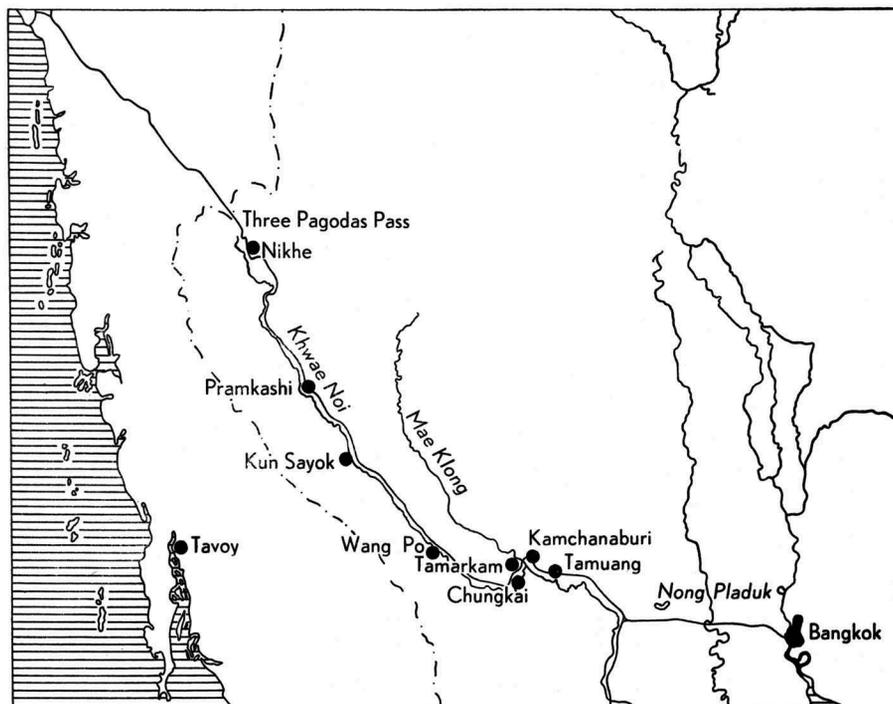


Fig. 1. Map of the region of collecting.

limited by the exceedingly high prices of cartridges at that time. The lack of field glasses also was an inconvenience. The collection is of interest as it is the first from this part of Siam. Afterwards the collection was sent to the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, where it was worked out by Junge, who is responsible for the taxonomical part of the paper. Kooiman added the field notes.

Ardeola bacchus (Bp.)

Buphus bacchus Bonaparte, Consp. Gen. Avium, 2, 1855, p. 127 (Malay Peninsula).
Nikke: 2 ♂ ad. (nos. 44, 51).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
44	♂ ad.	3-5-1946	226	80	63	64
51	♂ ad.	4-5-1946	233	88	65	60

Irides golden yellow. Maxilla pale blue at base, central part yellow, tip black. Mandible at base yellowish green or blue, central part yellow, tip black. Tarsus yellow, feet yellowish green.

The two birds are in breeding plumage. One of them (no. 44) has the chestnut of the neck mixed with white feathers.

Field notes. The Chinese Pond Heron is a very common bird in western Siam, occurring everywhere in rice fields and marshes. Along the river Khwae Noi it is found in small flocks of 4-6 birds on grassy places, open stream edges and sand banks as far upstream as Nikhe in the hills, where the two birds were collected. Our field notes show that they return in September. We never came upon the breeding grounds of these birds.

Ciconia ciconia subsp.

Field notes. The following observation is of interest, because it is the first record of the species in Siam. On the road between Bangkok and Petchaburi near Nakorn Pathorn, we observed 3 specimens of this stork on January 30, 1946. The birds were seen near dry rice fields in a dusty area and were not at all shy. Two were observed at a distance of 20-30 m; the birds had the bill and feet red, the plumage was worn and dusty. The race to which these birds belong must remain uncertain; *boyciana* can be excluded, as this race has the bill black or blackish brown. Therefore they must have belonged to *ciconia* or to *asiatica*.

Aviceda leuphotes leuphotes (Dumont)

Falco leuphotes Dumont, Dict. Sci. Nat., vol. 16, 1820, p. 217 (Pondicherry).

Nikke: 1 ♀ (no. 61).

Pramkashi: 1 ♀ imm. (no. —).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
61	♀	8-5-1946	234	138	18.5	28
—	♀ imm.	20-6-1946	moulting	—	15	28

Irides dark brown with pale brown ring outside, in immature yellowish grey. Cere dark blue. Bill pale blue with the tip dark blue. In the immature specimen the cere is greyish blue with a greenish tinge above. Maxilla blackish, mandible bluish grey, edges black. Feet dark blue, pale bluish grey in the immature.

These birds belong to the nominal race judging by the length of the wing tip (length longest secondary to longest primary), which is 68 mm in the adult specimen. Northern birds range larger (cf. Deignan, 1948, pp. 284-285).

The adult specimen has the breast band mixed with brown. In the immature specimen the breast band is black edged with white; it has been preserved in spirit and is discoloured.

Field notes. This beautiful falcon seems to be not uncommon in the upper Khwae Noi basin. At Pramkashi we observed two families, one consisting of seven and one of six birds. Out of the former we shot the ♀ imm. The fact that the Nikhe bird on May 8 carried a finished egg (of a very pale bluish colour without any markings) made us conclude that the breeding season coincides with the beginning of the little rainy season, i.e., with the outburst of insect life.

The immature bird was easily taken, as the whole family used the dry top of a huge tree as a lookout from which point the birds made very short flights, returning to their tree after having caught some passing insect.

***Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis* Lesson**

Pernis ruficollis Lesson, *Traité d'Ornith.*, livr. 1, 1830, p. 77 (Bengal).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ imm. (no. 101).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
101	♂ imm.	3-6-1946	415	254	23	44

Tail-wing index 61.2. Wing tip 90 mm. Crest 32 mm.

Irides pale brown. Maxilla black. Mandible pale horn colour with black tip. Cere yellow with some black spots. Feet dark yellow.

The tail with four black bands free of the upper tail coverts shows that it is a juvenile specimen (cf. Stresemann, 1940, p. 159). Also the tips of the second to fourth primaries are dark below with the black bands not clearly shown. According to Stresemann this too is a juvenile character (l. c., p. 162).

The specimen is moulting on mantle, wing coverts and tertiaries, fresh

blackish feathers are found between the very bleached and worn old feathers. The innermost primaries are moulted, the others worn. The tail feathers are worn, especially the central pair.

The large wing measurement proves that the bird is *ruficollis* and not the smaller *gurneyi*, the small wing tip excludes *orientalis*. In the latter race the wing tip exceeds 110 mm (cf. Stresemann, l.c., p. 164). The date of occurrence is astonishingly late, even later than the date mentioned by Deignan (1945, p. 59) for an adult bird shot in northern Thailand on May 12, 1936.

Certainly our bird is about one year old, summering in its winter quarters.

Field notes. The collected bird was one out of the two we met with during our expedition. It was shot from a very high dead tree with an army rifle. The other bird was seen in a valley near Nikhe in the middle of May, 1946, but at too great a distance to be collected.

***Accipiter badius poliopsis* (Hume)**

Micronisus poliopsis Hume, Stray Feathers, vol. 2, 1874, p. 325 (northern Pegu).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 1, 26).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
1	♂	26-4-1946	190	140	13	48
26	♀	30-4-1946	208	150	15	54

Irides ♂ pale orange, ♀ yellow. Bill black, bluish at base. Cere greenish yellow. Feet yellow with the nails black.

The stomach of the ♂ contained a lizard.

Field notes. We frequently observed the Shikra near Nikhe. At the end of May 1946 we found a nest with two half-grown young in a solitary fig tree at a height of about 70 feet from the ground, a few hundred yards from our camp.

***Accipiter trivirgatus indicus* (Hodgson)**

Astur indicus Hodgson, Bengal Sporting Mag., vol. 7, 1836, p. 177 (Nepal).

Nikhe: 2 ♀ ♀ (nos. 28, 107).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
28	♀	30-4-1946	242	186	21	69
107	♀	10-6-1946	244	189	22.5	68

Irides yellow. Maxilla nearly black. Mandible lead colour with black tip. Cere greenish yellow. Feet yellow, nails black.

Very worn specimens.

Field notes. The Crested Goshawk is a rather common sight "up country". We observed this species several times near Kun Sayok in June-July 1943

and at several other places between Kamchanaburi (= Kamburi) and Nikhe. There was considerable variation in vegetation along this railroad track, from dense evergreen jungle to bush and bamboo wilderness, from very steep and jungle clad hills with many perpendicular rocks to areas with open "park wilderness" and grassy places. The Crested Goshawk likes this kind of "broken" country.

***Accipiter virgatus affinis* Hodgson**

[*Accipiter*] *affinis* Hodgson, Bengal Sporting Mag., vol. 8, 1836, p. 179 (Nepal).

Nikke: 1 ♂ ? [= ♀ imm.] (no. 90).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
90	♀ imm.	30-5-1946	201	149	14	54

Irides greenish yellow. Bill black. Cere green, greyish near gape. Feet yellow.

The large wing measurement proves that the specimen is wrongly sexed. It is an immature bird with the feathers above edged with rufous and heavily spotted below. These spots are larger than in two specimens before me of *gularis* in the same plumage. This, together with the large wing measurement, causes me to list the bird as *affinis*.

***Spilornis cheela burmanicus* Swann**

Spilornis cheela burmanicus Swann, Syn. List Accip., 1920, p. 81 (Jobin, Thayetmyo, Pegu, Burma).

Nikke: 3 ♂ ♂ (nos. 68, 86, 91).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
68	♂	14-5-1946	426	274	33	95
86	♂	28-5-1946	442	275	35	95
91	♂	30-5-1946	399	236	32	93

Irides yellow. Bill bluish grey, tip horn colour. Feet yellow.

In specimen no. 91 the wing is moulting.

Compared with a series of birds from Sumatra (*bassus*) the birds from Nikke are distinctly paler on the under side, especially on the breast, but also on the abdomen, which is of a paler rufous brown. Therefore the spots on the breast are less conspicuous in the Siam birds. The wings of 6 ♂♂ from Sumatra measure 350-380 mm. Riley (1938, p. 56) even goes down to 325 mm for a ♂ from Sumatra. I have not seen *floweri* recognized by Peters (1931, p. 272) but according to de Schauensee (1946, p. 9) this race is not worth to warrant recognition. The latter author lists a series of birds from Kao Soi Dao, Khao Sabab, Srisawat and Khao

Nuk Wua, Kratt, Siam as *bassus*, but the given wing measurements (410-443 mm) seem too large for this race.

Field notes. The Serpent Eagle is very common in the Khwae Noi basin. From Kamchanaburi up to Three Pagodas Pass our attention was often drawn by its whistling scream, which is sometimes heard when the bird is still perched on a tree. Mostly, however, we saw the birds high in the sky, circling without a single beat of the wings, almost invisible at a great height. Sometimes more than two birds joined the circling party. The collected birds were shot when perched on a tree.

Gallus gallus spadiceus (Bonn.)

Coturnix spadicea Bonmaterre, Tabl. Encycl. Méth., 1, 1791, p. 218 (Malacca, restricted by Boden Kloss).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ juv. (no. 108).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
108	♂ juv.	medio June 1946	164	124	20	58

Irides brown. Maxilla: dark horn coloured. Mandible yellow. Feet plumbeous.

This is a juvenile specimen with the ear-lappets not yet developed. Therefore a critical examination is impossible and the specimen is listed as *spadiceus* for geographical reasons (cf. Delacour, 1948, pp. 462-464).

Field notes. We obtained the bird from a native passing Pramkashi camp who said that it was freshly caught. Although we heard the cocks crowing at different places, we saw them but seldom. During July, 1943, we came a few times upon small flocks consisting of a hen and 3 or 4 chickens somewhere uphill near Kun Sayok camp.

Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis (Bodd.)

Fulica chinensis Boddaert, Tabl. pl. enlum. d'Hist. nat., 1783, p. 54 (Hongkong, China).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 60, 97).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
97	♂	5-6-1946	164	66	40	55
60	♀	8-5-1946	160	62	33	46

Iris ♂ pale brown, ♀ dark brown? Maxilla dark green with pale cutting edge, frontal plate red, ♀ greenish horn coloured, tip green. Mandible ♂ pale green, ♀ green. Feet ♂ yellow, ♀ olive-brown.

Field notes. This species is one of the commonest birds at moist places, where high grasses mix with reeds and shrubs. From Bangkok up to Three

Pagodas Pass it might be met with at any swampy place, along rivers, in paddy fields and puddles.

Lobivanellus indicus atronuchalis Jerdon

L[obivanellus] atronuchalis "Blyth" Jerdon, Birds of India, vol. 3, 1864, p. 648 (Burma).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 pullus (nos. 3, 15).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
3	♂	26-4-1946	225	110	31	79

Irides brownish red, eye ring and wattles carmine red. Bill carmine red with black tip. Feet yellow with a greenish tinge, toes the same colour, but more greenish yellow, nails black.

A pullus of about two days old was collected at Nikhe on 28-4-1946. The upper parts of this specimen are grizzled rufous brown mixed with blackish. On the hind part of the head there is central black line. A black line encircles the head on the hind part. A broad white streak is found from the eye backwards to the end of the head. Throat and fore neck black. Rest of the under parts dull white.

Field notes. The Red-wattled Lapwing was a common bird near partly or wholly dried up "nongs" (small lakes or pools), which are spread all over the southern and western lowlands of Siam. Around the camp Nong Pladuk were a few of these pools. During daylight we often saw these Lapwings and also heard them calling till after dusk. On the river banks near Tamuang-camp and further up country we sometimes met them. Finally we collected the above mentioned ♂ and pullus near our camp at Nikhe in a grassy valley dotted with shrubs and bordered by bamboo jungle.

Psittacula alexandri fasciata (P. L. S. Müller)

Psittacus fasciatus P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst. Suppl. und Register-Band, 1776, p. 74 (Arrakan).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 31, 32).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
31	♂	1-5-1946	161	180 worn	26	16
32	♀	1-5-1946	147	91	24	16

Irides pale yellow, nearly white. Maxilla ♂ red, ♀ black. Mandible black. Feet pale olive green.

Field notes. This parrot is very common in western Siam. After the breeding season it occurs in small or larger flocks rushing low over the fields, rising when taking obstacles like fruit gardens and coconut plantations, and rounding corners in perfect solidarity. They make a very

inelegant landing with outspread tail and much fluttering of the wings, while conversation that faded away during the flight starts again with much noise and cackling. These birds need open or bushy country. Any hole in any tree will serve as a nesting place.

Treron pompadora phayri (Blyth)

Osmotreron phayri Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 31, 1862, p. 344 (Toungoo, Burma).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♂ imm., 1 ♀ (nos. 16, 17, 18).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
17	♂	28-4-1946	153	85	17	23
18	♂ imm.	28-4-1946	149	72	17	22
16	♀	28-4-1946	156	86	16	24

Irides red brown. Bill green, tip pale blue. Feet bright red.

The immature ♂ resembles the ♀, it has the upper wing coverts dark green, but some dark maroon coloured feathers are coming through. The breast is paler, of a more yellowish green colour. Also the dark green of the mantle and upper tail coverts is slightly more mixed with yellow.

Field notes. These pigeons' were common birds along the Khwae Noi river. They often collect in fruiting trees in company with hornbills and many other birds. Throughout the year we observed flocks up to 40 specimens at a time, walking along or feeding in banyan trees even during the breeding season.

Clamator coromandus (L.)

Cuculus coromandus Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, vol. 1, 1766, p. 171 (Coromandel).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 57).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
57	♂	7-5-1946	160	238	21	24

Irides dark brown. Bill black. Tarsus greyish green.

Field notes. We met with this species only once. Near some abandoned and wrecked Japanese huts our attention was drawn by a strange, more or less raucous whistling, which we had never heard before. Then we discovered two of these birds chasing each other in the bamboo jungle. After the ♂ was shot the other did not give us a second chance.

Cuculus sparverioides sparverioides Vigors

Cuculus sparverioides Vigors, Proc. Comm. Sci. Corr. Zool. Soc., London, 1832, p. 173 (Simla-Almora, Himalayas).

Nikke: 1 ♀ (no. 23).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
23	♀	29-4-1946	236	217	23	26

Irides chrome yellow. Maxilla dark horn colour. Mandible pale blue horn coloured with a yellowish spot near the tip. Gape yellow. Feet yellow.

Field notes. The species was not uncommon in the neighbourhood of our camp in Nikhe. The specimen collected was shot from the top of very high tree from which the bird made short flights in order to catch passing termites. The call of this Cuckoo in our notes is described as "tju-wurre" or a rather low pitched "tjee-werre", which is repeated several times.

Eudynamis scolopacea subsp.

Nikhe: 2 ♂♂ (nos. 12, 24).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
12	♂	27-4-1946	207	204	29	34
24	♂	30-4-1946	205	205	32	36

Irides carmine red. Bill greyish green. Feet greyish green.

It is impossible to decide to which race these birds belong, as both are ♂♂. I cannot see much difference in the bills of these birds and those of a series of *malayana*. On the other hand, I have not seen *chinensis*. According to Deignan (1945, pp. 166-167) most northern Siamese birds belong to the latter race. He reports the most northern specimen belonging to *malayana* from Pak Nam Pho near Raheng, which is a good deal more north than the locality we have under consideration.

Field notes. The Koël was not a very common bird along the Khwae Noi. We heard it only very few times upstream of Chungkai. It frequently occurred downstream to Nong Pladuk. Near Tamarkam camp, on April 15, 1943, we found a nest with 6 young crows and 1 young Koël. The scarcity of this species up country was most probably due to the lack of foster birds (*Corvus* species).

Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus (Blyth)

Phoenicophaeus longicaudatus Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, vol. 10, 1841, p. 923, (Moulmein, Tenasserim).

Nikhe: 2 ♀♀ (nos. 5, 89).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
5	♀	27-4-1946	156	351	32	37
89	♀	30-6-1946	154	—	32.5	36

Irides dark and red brown. Bill pale and greyish green. Feet greyish black. Orbital skin red.

No. 89 shows tail moult. White tip on 4th tail feather measures 26 mm.

Field notes. A very common species in Western Siam. The bird likes hunting in not too high creeper clad trees and bushes where it scrambles around the foliage very much like a squirrel. In the beginning of May 1946 we found a Malkoha slipping from its dome-shaped nest that contained two pure white eggs. The nest was placed about five feet from the ground in a tangle of twigs.

Centropus sinensis intermedius (Hume)

Centroccocyx intermedius Hume, Stray Feathers, vol. 1, 1873, p. 454 (Thayetmyo, Upper Pegu).

Nikhe: 1 ♂ (no. 6).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ juv. (no. 113).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
6	♂	27-4-1946	192	220	33	51
113	♂ juv.	25-6-1946	182	246	29	50

Irides ad. brown, juv. pale grey. Bill ad. black, juv. maxilla black with horn coloured tip, mandible horn coloured. Feet black.

The juvenile specimen has the head and neck glossy black with longitudinal brown bars on the head, transverse bars on the neck. Mantle and wings brown barred with black. Rump blackish green with indistinct grey bars. Under side black barred white. Tail black with a greenish gloss and greyish brown bars.

Field notes. The Coucal is very common in our area. We met with this bird in every landscape with the exception of the open paddi fields and the densest jungle upstream.

Ketupa zeylonensis leschenault (Temm.)

Strix leschenault Temminck, Pl. color., livr. 4, 1820, pl. 20 (Chandranagore, E. India).

Nikhe: 1 ♀, 1 — (nos. 58, 106).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
58	♀	8-5-1946	391	197	48	75
106	—	9-6-1946	394	189	48	76

Irides yellow. Bill horn colour with paler tip. Feet plumbeous.

These birds were compared with three mounted specimens from Bengal, one from Nepal (*leschenault*), one mounted specimen and three fresh skins from Ceylon (*zeylonensis*). Most authors include birds from Bengal and Nepal in the race *leschenault* and so does Peters (1940, p. 122) for all birds from Siam. Recently Deignan (1945, p. 177) brought the northern Siamese birds to *orientalis*, described from the Indo-chinese provinces by Delacour. He had not seen specimens of *leschenault*. I have not seen *orientalis*.

Compared with two mounted birds from Bengal the Nikhe birds are less rufous above with the black streaks broader and more pronounced (blacker too). The under side also is less rufous with slightly heavier and blacker markings. With another mounted bird from Bengal and one from Nepal the differences are just the reverse. These specimens are less rufous than the Siamese birds, though these old mounted skins are very worn. The wing measurements of the Bengal skins are 373-387 mm, of the Nepal bird 394 mm.

Compared with the birds from Ceylon (wing measurements 360-390 mm) I cannot see many differences. In the birds from Siam there are fewer black streaks on the head. The under parts of the latter correspond in colour exactly with two birds from Ceylon, though the black markings are perhaps slightly heavier in the Nikhe birds. The third skin from Ceylon, however, is more rufous underneath and the black markings are heavier compared with the Siamese skins. The individual variation is rather great, and therefore I think it wisest to include the Nikhe birds into *leschenaulti*, though judging by my material the race is hardly recognizable.

Field notes. The Brown Fish Owl is common in western Siam. We met the species a few times only near Chungkai in the beginning of September 1945. In the neighbourhood of Nikhe and Pramkashi, however, it was very common. The ♀ collected on 8-5-1946 was shot from 5 specimens at the top of a high dead tree.

***Glaucidium cuculoides brügeli* (Parrot)**

Athene cuculoides brügeli Parrot, Verh. Orn. Ges. Bayern. vol. 8, 1907, pp. 104-107 (Sam Khok district between Bangkok and Ayutthaya, Siam).

Nikhe: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 — (nos. 36, 43, 81, 82, 85).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
36	♂	2-5-1946	148	81	16	23
85	♂	27-5-1946	146	81	15	24
43	♀	3-5-1946	149	76	14	25
81	♀	25-5-1946	139	69	14.5	23
82	—	25-5-1946	136	72	14	24

Irides yellow. Bill greenish yellow. Cere brownish. Feet greenish yellow, nails horn coloured.

Field notes. The Barred Pygmy Owl is one of the commonest species in the Khwae Noi valley. It is found in any landscape where trees occur. We found a juvenile of about 12 days old on 28-4-1946, that became very tame.

***Alcedo atthis bengalensis* Gm.**

Alcedo bengalensis Gmelin, Syst. Nat., vol. 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 450 (Bengal).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 33).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
35	♂	1-5-1946	72	32	35	10

Irides dark brown. Bill black. Feet coral red. Testes enlarged.

Field notes. A very common bird along rivers, pools and ditches.

***Pelargopsis capensis burmanica* Sharpe**

Pelargopsis burmanica Sharpe, Proc. Zool. Soc., London, 1870, p. 67 (Tonghoo, Burma).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 14, 88).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
88	♂	29-5-1946	155	105	74	17
14	♀	27-4-1946	160	160	77	17

Irides brown, orbital ring red. Bill coral red with dark red. Feet coral red.

Field notes. A very common species in the Khwae Noi valley. Near Tamarkam, Chungkai, and upstream to Kun Sayok and Nikhe we met the species only in the neighbourhood of water.

***Halcyon smyrnensis* subsp. n.**

Nikke: 1 — juv. (no. 42).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
42	— juv.	3-5-1946	—	—	30	13

Irides dark brown. Bill black with a pale tip. Feet blackish horn coloured.

An unsexed juvenile bird with wing and tail feathers not yet full grown. The white breast feathers with narrow dark edgings.

Field notes. This beautiful Kingfisher is one of the most striking birds in western Siam. In any landscape, in dry areas as well as in the neighbourhood of rivers except in the primeval forest, the species can be found. As contrasted with the two species mentioned before, which live nearly exclusively on fish, this species also takes insects and other animals. Once we saw a bird snatching a big milleped between digging prisoners of war, another time it was a fat cricket. A nest with 3 fresh eggs was found in the wall of a steep excavation made by us between Kamchanaburi and Ban Pong near Hua Pong on April 10, 1943. At Tamarkam, in the middle of March, 1943, we observed a *Halcyon* excavating a nest burrow. Near Nikhe three nests were found: one with 4 young birds of about 5 days old on April 27, 1946, another with 4 eggs on May 3, and on the same date another nest with 3 fledglings, one of which has been collected.

Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti Vieill.

Merops leschenaulti Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., nouv. ed., vol. 14, 1817, pp. 17-18 (Ceylon).

Nikke: 1 ♀ (no. 35).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 115).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
115	♂ imm.	27-6-1946	106	75	30	10
35	♀	1-5-1946	105	80	30	10

Irides carmine red. Bill black. Feet plumbeous black.

The immature ♂ has the front green, the rufous on the back does not reach as far back as in the adult, but gradually changes into paler green. The lateral tail feathers are shorter in the immature.

Field notes. We observed this species everywhere between Tamang and Three Pagodas Pass. Outside the breeding season the species occurs mostly in flocks. The collected specimens have been shot out of flocks of 25 to 40 birds.

Nyctiornis athertoni athertoni (Jard. & Selby)

Merops athertoni Jardine & Selby, Illustr. Orn., 2, 1830, pl. 58 and text (India = near Bangalore).

Nikke: 2 ♂ ♂ (nos. 39, 72).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
39	♂	2-5-1946	140	131	46	18
72	♂	21-5-1946	132	129	46	17

Irides bright brown. Maxilla slaty black. Mandible greenish plumbeous with dark tip. Feet greenish plumbeous.

In no. 72 the upper side is strongly tinged with blue, the feathers look very worn. The same can be said about the tail feathers, and the central tail feathers are also blue coloured. It seems, therefore, that the blue colour is due to wear. In no. 39 the upper parts are also tinged with blue but to a lesser degree.

Field notes. We observed the Blue-bearded Bee-eater a few times in the forests of Kun Sayok during May-June 1943, and afterwards we could collect them at Nikke.

Eurystomus orientalis orientalis (L.)

Coracias orientalis Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1, 1766, p. 159 (India orientalis = Java).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 4).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
4	♂	26-4-1946	192	103	27	20

Wing-tail ratio 53.6 %. Wing tip index 33.8 %.

Irides brown. Bill dark red with black tip. Feet vividly red.

Ripley in his review of the species (1942, pp. 169-172) described *deignani* from northern Siam. I have not seen this race, but the wing-tail ratio and the wing tip index show that the bird from Nikhe belongs to *orientalis* and not to *deignani*. Ripley gives for ♂♂ of *deignani* the wing-tail ratio as 50-51 %, for *orientalis* 51-56 %; the wing tip index for the first 36-40 %, for the latter 31-36 %.

One of the central tail feathers is moulting.

Field notes. Observed at Nikhe and Pramkashi only. A nest with 4 naked young birds was found on 27-4-1946 in a hole of a dead tree about 8 m above ground level at Nikhe. The species was common in this district. In the end of April two other nests were found in inaccessible trees at a height of about 20 and 25 m above the ground. Remarkable was the way in which the birds reached the nest. Often the two parent birds made amazing flight evolutions at a great height, these evolutions consisting of steep dives followed again by ascending flights. At a certain moment one of the birds dived to the nest at great speed, making a short ascent in the air just before it and disappeared in the nest without having even touched the edge of the nest hole.

***Upupa epops longirostris* Jerdon**

Upupa longirostris Jerdon, Birds of India, vol. 1, 1862, p. 393 (Burma).

Pramkashi: 2 ♂♂ ad., 1 ♂ imm. (nos. 118, 119, —).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
118	♂ imm.	30-6-1946	140	98	48	22
119	♂	30-6-1946	139	—	56	22
—	♂	15-6-1946	144	99	52	25

Irides dark brown or black. Bill black, base of mandible flesh coloured. Feet plumbeous grey.

In no. 119 the crest and the tail are moulting, the central tail feathers are just growing out.

The immature specimen is paler coloured and has the abdomen white tinged with pinkish.

The unnumbered specimen has been preserved in spirit and is discoloured.

Field notes. The Common Hoopoe was rather common and the species was often seen and heard in the neighbourhood of Nong Pladuk. Here they were found on dry grassy fields with some bushes and low trees, gathered round cow dung and chasing insects. Once seven specimens were seen together. In Nikhe we observed these birds regularly. In Pramkashi we shot two out of five specimens, which were feeding on ant-lions.

Buceros bicornis cavatus (Shaw)

Buceros cavatus Shaw, General Zoology, vol. 8, 1, 1812, pp. 18-19 (Travancore).

Nikke: 1 ♀ (no. 52).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Bill from nostril	Tarsus
52	♀	4-5-1946	moulting	391	230	73

Irides white, eyelids red. Maxilla dark yellow, tip orange red. Mandible yellowish white with black base. Casque dark yellow, orange red behind (no black at all). Feet olive green.

Field notes. The Great Hornbill is common in the wild mountains and jungle of the Khwae Noi valley. During our stay in Nikke we often observed these birds in the early morning on their way to fruiting trees. Most of the day they spend in the neighbourhood of these trees, returning in the evening to the places from where they came in the morning. Some birds could always be seen or heard near our base.

Aceros plicatus subruficollis (Blyth)

Buceros subruficollis Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal 12, 1, 1843, p. 177 (Tenasserim).

Prankashi: 1 ♂ (no. 122).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Bill from nostril	Tarsus
122	♂	31-5-1946	—	—	186	176	50

Irides pale red. Bill whitish, $\frac{1}{3}$ from base reddish brown. Feet black, greyish behind, soles grey.

Wing and tail are moulting.

Field notes. This species and *Anthracoceros coronatus* commonly occur in the same places as *Buceros bicornis*. *A. coronatus* often occurs in flocks up to 15 specimens.

Cyanops zeylanicus hodgsoni (Bp.)

Megalaema hodgsoni Bonaparte, Consp. Gen. Avium, vol. 1, 1850, p. 140 (Nepal).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ juv. (nos. 8, 34, 78).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
8	♂	27-4-1946	122	72	32	28
34	♀	1-5-1946	125	70	32	31
78	♂ juv.	25-5-1946	—	—	24	29

Irides dark brown, juv. black. Bill yellowish horn coloured. Feet yellowish horn, nails black.

The ♀ shows moult of the wing coverts, head and fore neck. The juvenile shows the heel pads and has the pale streaks on the head much darker than the adult specimens.

Recent writers synonymize *intermedius* from Burma, Siam and Cochin China with the slightly larger northern race *hodgsoni*. There is so much overlapping in size (the only difference between the two races) that no clear distinction can be made.

Field notes. The most common barbet along the Khwae Noi river. In Pramkashi on 1-7-1946 we observed a bird chopping a nesting hole.

***Picus canus hessei* Gyldenstolpe**

Picus canus hessei Gyldenstolpe, Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 24, 1916, pp. 28-29 (Pha Kho and Den Chai, N. Siam).

Nikke: 2 ♂♂ (nos. 13, 87).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
13	♂	27-4-1946	147	102	35	28
87	♂	28-5-1946	150	101	39	29

Irides brown. Bill black. Feet blackish brown.

There is still much difference of opinion about the races of this species in the region concerned. It is known that the species shows a large individual variation that makes it difficult to draw sharp lines. Greenway (1940, pp. 558-560) in his recent review of the species doubts if the northern race (*gyldenstolpei*) from Assam can be upheld. It should be characterized by a smaller bill than *hessei*. He also synonymizes the southern race *micro-rhynchus* described from S.W. Siam, and separated from *hessei* on account of the smaller bill, again with *hessei*. He gives measurements of the bill of *hessei* that are a good deal larger (41-45 mm) than my measurements of the culmen. Deignan (1945, p. 233) also states that the bill of *hessei* normally exceeds 40 mm, which is in accordance with Ticehurst (in Stanford and Ticehurst (1939, p. 2). On the other hand Gyldenstolpe (1916, p. 89) gives culmen measurements of birds that certainly belong to *hessei*, which agree very well with those found by me (34-40 mm). Riley's measurements too (1938, p. 214) agree more with mine than do those given by Danis (1937, p. 254). See also Meyer de Schauensee (1946, p. 33).

Field notes. Only a few pairs of this woodpecker were seen around Nikke between April 26 and July 4, 1946.

***Picus viridanus viridanus* (Blyth)**

Picus viridanus Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 12, 1843, p. 1000 (Arrakan).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 54).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
54	♂	5-5-1946	142	101	35	25

Irides dark brown. Maxilla blackish. Mandible yellow with dark tip. Feet dirty green.

Two birds from Salanga Island (Junk Seylon), the type locality of Müller's *Gecinus weberi*, measure: wing ♂ 131, ♀ 137, tail ♂ 94, ♀ 100, culmen ♂ and ♀ 33 mm. The fore neck and breast of these birds are much more greenish, less yellowish than in the bird from Siam. In the latter, however, the feathers are very worn.

Picus flavinucha lylei (Boden Kloss)

Chrysophlegma flavinucha lylei Boden Kloss, Ibis, 1918, p. 110 (Koh Lak, S.W. Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 96, 98).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
96	♂	3-6-1946	150	99	37	25
98	♀	5-6-1946	159	105	37	26

Irides brownish red. Bill pale horn coloured with a pale base. Feet blackish grey.

Compared with 2 ♂♂ (Nepal) and 2 ♀♀ (Nepal and Darjeeling) of *flavinucha flavinucha* and 1 ♂ of *fl. wrayi* (Perak). The differences between the ♂♂ of *flavinucha* and *lylei* are given by Boden Kloss (l.c.), Riley (1938, p. 220) and Deignan (1945, p. 238). Contrary to Riley's statement, I find that in the ♂♂ of the typical race the head above is of a darker brown tinged with green, chest and breast too are darker than in *lylei*. I do not see much difference in the colour of the nuchal crest in the two races. Lack of material accounts for the fact that no differences between the ♀♀ have been described. In the skins before me the chestnut chin patch is larger in the ♀♀ of the typical race. In the ♀ of *lylei* the white of the fore neck comes much nearer to the base of the mandible. The under parts are much darker coloured and greenish tinged in *flavinucha*. The front and pileum also are darker in the latter, less reddish, more greenish. There is a large difference in size between the two races in my material. The measurements of the specimens of *flavinucha* are:

♂♂ (2)	wing 169-176,	tail 112-121,	culmen 36-37 mm.
♀♀ (2)	wing 162-164,	tail 111-122,	culmen 34 mm.
<i>wrayi</i> ♂ (1)	wing 145,	tail 106,	culmen 32 mm.

Field notes. A rather common species around Nikhe.

Micropternus brachyurus phaiiceps Blyth

Micropternus phaiiceps Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 14, 1845, p. 195 (Calcutta).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♂ juv., 1 ♀ juv. (nos. 48, 49, 50).
 Pramkashi: 1 ♀ (no. 117).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
48	♂	4-5-1946	119	63	25	22
49	♂ juv.	4-5-1946	119	63	23	21
117	♀	30-6-1946	126	59	26	23
50	♀ juv.	4-5-1946	121	65	22	21

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

The bird from Pramkashi differs from the Nikke birds by being larger and by having a longer and heavier bill. The specimen is darker too, especially on the breast. The streaks on the chin appear darker. On account of Ticehurst's remarks (in Stanford and Ticehurst 1937, p. 7) I am inclined to identify these birds as *phaiiceps*, a race going down the Tenasserim coast to Tavoy. Perhaps they are approaching *williamsoni*.

Field notes. Common along the upper course of the Khwae Noi river. Out of a family of 5, three specimens were collected. The bird collected in Pramkashi was feeding on a swarm of termites, a manner of feeding that we never saw before or afterwards.

Dendrocopos canicapillus canicapillus (Blyth)

Picus canicapillus Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 14, 1845, p. 197 (Ramree Island, Arrakan).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♂ juv. (nos. 47, 65).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
65	♂	9-5-1946	77	33	14	14
47	♂ juv.	3-5-1946	80	35	13	14.5

Irides brown. Bill bluish black. Feet greyish green.

Greenway (1943, pp. 570-571), in his review of the species, showed that *pumilus* from Peninsular Siam and S. Tenasserim is hardly recognizable and should rather be included in the nominal race.

Field notes. The Pigmy Pied Woodpecker is common all along the Khwae Noi river.

Hemicircus canente canente (Less.)

Picus canente Lesson, Centurie Zoologique, 1830, pp. 215-216 (Pegu).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 55, 56).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
55	♂	6-5-1946	100	36	22	19
56	♀	6-5-1946	91.5	33	—	16

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Field notes. We met this woodpecker only twice. A pair was seen in a tree on the edge of secondary forest with open undergrowth in the middle of June, 1943. The collected birds were found near Nikhe in partly cleared jungle with open undergrowth.

Dinopium javanense intermedium (Blyth)

Picus (Tiga) intermedius Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 14, 1845, p. 193 (Ramee Island, Arrakan).

Nikhe: 2 ♂♂ (nos. 38, 105).

Three Pagodas Pass: 1 ♀ (no. 64).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
38	♂	2-5-1946	146	98	31	25
105	♂	10-6-1946	147	moulting	31	24
64	♀	9-5-1946	152	101	31	25

Irides dark brown. Maxilla black. Mandible plumbeous with dark tip. Feet plumbeous black in ♂♂, blue plumbeous in ♀.

Field notes. Afterwards it was shown that in the field we regarded this and the next species as one. These woodpeckers were common in the forests along the Khwae Noi river.

Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacrastatus (Tickell)

Picus guttacrastatus Tickell, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 2, 1833, p. 578 (Brabhum, W. Bengal).

Nikhe: 1 ♂ (no. 83).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
83	♂	25-5-1946	159	82	46	29

Irides brownish yellow. Bill blackish horn coloured. Feet greenish grey.

Dryocopus javensis feddeni (Blyth)

Mulleripicus Feddeni "Blanford" Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 32, 1863, p. 75 (Pegu, Burma).

Nikhe: 1 ♀ (no. 70).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
70	♀	21-5-1946	110	136	48	31

Irides yellowish white. Maxilla dark brown. Mandible greenish horn coloured. Feet dark horn coloured.

The primaries are very worn. The innermost primaries as well as the lateral tail feathers and the feathers on the chin are moulting.

Field notes. Though the Great Black Woodpecker was certainly not common, it could not be called rare in the neighbourhood of Nikhe.

Mülleripicus pulverulentus harterti Hesse

Mülleripicus pulverulentus harterti Hesse, Ornith. Monatsber., vol. 19, 1911, p. 182 (Pya, Upper Chindwin, Assam).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♂ imm. (nos. 100, 102).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
100	♂	7-6-1946	228	150	58	39
102	♂ imm.	7-6-1946	216	136	56	34

Irides black. Maxilla culmen dark grey, lateral parts bluish ivory. Mandible base bluish ivory, in ad. tip black, in imm. tip pale. Feet bluish grey.

Compared with 4 birds from Java ¹⁾ and 4 from Borneo (all old mounted material) it is clearly shown that the Siamese birds are greyer, less blackish on the upper parts. I have not seen birds from Peninsular Siam and the Malay Peninsula, which are said to be intermediate. For geographical reasons I list these birds as *harterti*.

The measurements of Java and Borneo birds are:

		Wing	Tail	Culmen
Java	♂ ♂ (3) ¹⁾	220-230	145-161	56-59
	♀ (1)	222	—	61
Borneo	♂ ♂ (2)	231-245	158-164	58-59
	♀ (1)	225	156	54

In this species there is a large individual variation in size. I cannot see differences in colour between the Javan and Bornean birds.

The type specimen of Bonaparte's *Hemilophus mülleri* is a juvenile ♂ from Borneo with a reddish forehead. Wing 200, tail moulting, culmen 43 mm.

Field notes. The Great Grey Woodpecker was observed only once, a family of 2 adult and 3 young birds, of which family 2 were collected. The birds were found in marshy country in dense jungle. The stomachs of the two collected birds contained a compressed ball of small black ants.

Pitta brachyura moluccensis (P. L. S. Müller)

Turdus moluccensis P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst. Suppl. und Reg. Band, 1776, p. 144 (Tenasserim).

Nikke: 1 — (no. 25).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
25	—	30-4-1946	123	24	24	41

Irides brown. Bill black. Feet plumbeous, soles yellowish.

Compared with a series of 7 specimens from Sumatra and 4 from Borneo, I cannot detect colour differences in plumage, though in all our spec-

1) Including the type specimen of *Picus pulverulentus* Temminck.

imens from the islands the bill is brownish, not black. The measurements are:

Sumatra: wing 117-130, culmen 23-26.5, tarsus 39-43.5 mm.
Borneo: wing 115-130, culmen 24-26, tarsus 40-42 mm.

Field notes. A common species in western Siam. Between Tamuang and Nikhe we heard these birds nearly everywhere in dense thickets or bamboo vegetation. We always observed these birds near ground level and never singing in the top of a tree (cf. Deignan, 1945, p. 263). We only heard the call, which is delivered with long pauses and exceedingly difficult to localize. Notwithstanding the brilliant colours of the plumage, the dark, pale brown and green tinges have a remarkable protective effect. Especially in case of danger, when the bird stands motionless, it is practically invisible.

Hirundo striolata vernayi Kinnear

Hirundo daurica vernayi Kinnear, Bull. B.O.C., vol. 45, 1924, p. 27 (Longlung, Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 10, 11).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
10	♂	27-4-1946	136	96	9	17
11	♀	27-4-1946	128	92	8.5	15

Irides brown. Bill and feet black.

This beautiful swallow of which only a few specimens are known, is immediately characterized by its rufous chestnut under parts with rather heavy dark streaks. The under wing coverts too are rufous coloured. A steel blue patch on the lower flanks. Rump feathers with well defined shaft streaks.

Field notes. Though we never observed this swallow in the plains, it occurred in rather large numbers around Nikhe. The collected specimens were shot out of a flock gathered around a rain pool, probably collecting nesting material. We did not find nests.

Pericrocotus flammeus suchitrae Deignan

Pericrocotus flammeus suchitrae Deignan, Auk, vol. 65, 1946, p. 530 (Doi Khun Tan, N. Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♀ (no. 59).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
59	♀	8-5-1946	93	82	13	16

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Deignan in his recent careful review of the species (l.c., p. 529) shows that in the region concerned there occurs a population that is intermediate between *flammifer* and *suchitrae*. On account of the larger size and the fact

that the bird compared with specimens from Sumatra and Wellesley, Malay Peninsula, is greyer on the upper parts, the specimen is nearer to *suchitrae* than to *flammifer*. This is what can be expected on geographical grounds.

The central tail feathers are yellow edged along the distal half of the outer web. The three outer primaries are without yellow.

Field notes. We met only twice with this minivet, near Nong Pladuk and Nikhe.

Chaptia aenea aenea $\begin{matrix} > \\ < \end{matrix}$ **malayensis**

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 45, 46).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
45	♂	3-5-1946	115	112	18	17
46	♀	3-5-1946	120	121	18	16

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Western Siam is clearly a zone of transition of the races *aenea* and *malayensis*, which are only distinguishable in size. Chasen and Boden Kloss (1930, p. 96) report that the wing measurements of a series from Selangor (*malayensis*) range 104-116 mm, Sumatra (15 skins) 105-115 mm. I can add a series of 28 birds from Sumatra, which measure 100-116 (average 108.3) mm. Baker in his revision of the species (1918, p. 304) gives for *aenea aenea* (type locality: Dacca, E. Bengal) an average of 123.2 mm (112 birds). Riley (1938, p. 285) mentions birds from northern Siam and eastern Burma with wing measurements between 120 and 126.5 mm (average 123.5 mm).

Field notes. Judging by our notes we never met this species in the open plains. It was found only in the wild and wooded districts upstreams of Kamchanaburi, where these drongos were very common.

Dissemurus paradiseus paradiseus (L.)

Cuculus paradiseus Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1766, p. 172 (between Ayuthia and Gulf of Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♂ (no. 27).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Central tail feathers	Lateral tail feathers	Length racket	Bill from nostril	Culmen	Tarsus	Length crest
27	♂	30-4-1946	157	146	369	90	23	29	28	29

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Field notes. This drongo is, as *Dicrurus hottentottus*, a common forest bird. It is very active in attacking birds of prey and other enemies and expelling them from their hunting grounds. Though not very fond of other

species invading their territory, they change their habit of driving them away when they are feeding on termite swarms. The number of species feeding on such swarms can be very large. This may be illustrated by some notes from our diaries. In May, 1946, we observed a flock of about 15 specimens of *Dissemurus paradiseus* repeatedly flying through a swarm of termites. On June 30, 1946, near Pramkashi, termites were swarming in the middle of the day. The following species of the direct neighbourhood were feeding on them: families of *Dissemurus paradiseus*, *Dicrurus hottentottus*, *Hemipus picatus*; many specimens of *Gracula religiosa*, *Mino coronatus*; some specimens of *Cyanops zeylanicus*, *Copsychus saularis*, *Oriolus xanthornus*, *Aegithina* spec., and *Chloropsis* spec.; one specimen of *Coracina javensis*, and one of *Rhopodytes tristis*. On July 1, 1946 near Pramkashi: ... all take part in the orgy. This morning many hundreds of *Cypsiurus balasiensis* on two places above the camp, approximately 30 *Merops leschenaulti*, *Dicrurus hottentottus* (possibly two families), even 3 *Kitta erythrorhyncha* and one *Centropus sinensis*. The latter feed from the ground and the low bushes around, making foolish jumps and leaps. A *Cuculus sparverioides* has its post in the top of a tree. Towards the evening *Glaucidium* also takes part. On July 2, 1946 ... *Micropternus brachyurus* also takes termites, awkwardly but not without success.

***Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus* (L.)**

Coracias xanthornus Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1758, p. 108 (Bengal).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 19, 20).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
19	♂	29-4-1946	135	84	—	23
20	♀	29-4-1946	129	79	25	22

Irides blood red. Bill rosy pink. Feet black.

A nestling (♂) collected at Pramkashi on 25-5-1946 (no. 80) probably belongs to this species. The head is still bare with some fluffy brown down on it. Compared with 2 nestlings of *Oriolus chinensis* (from Sumatra and Simalur) that are slightly older. The bird from Pramkashi has the feathers on the upper side blackish with broad yellow edges. In *chinensis* nestlings these feathers are pale brownish with broad yellow edges. In the latter species the upper side gives the impression of yellow suffused with pale brown. In the nestling under discussion the upper side is yellow with large black spots. The under side in *chinensis* is clear sulphur yellow, in the other bird whitish yellow with black longitudinal streaks. Moreover the bill in the *chinensis* nestlings is much heavier. See also Baker (1926, p. 12).

Field notes. A very common species in the Khwae Noi valley.

Kitta erythrorhyncha magnirostris (Blyth)

Psilorhinus magnirostris Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 15, 1846, p. 27 (Youmadong Hills, Arrakan).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 94).

Pramkashi: 2 ♂ ♂ (nos. 111, 116).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
94	♂	3-6-1946	206	422	36	50
111	♂	24-6-1946	201	—	37	51
116	♂	30-6-1946	198	360 + x	37	52

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet orange red.

The plumage of these birds and especially the tails are very worn. The stomach of one of the birds contained seeds.

Field notes. The species was not rare in the district around the origin of the Khwae Noi river. Though we have only one observation further downstream (a specimen between Kun Sayok and Pramkashi on May 17) there is no reason to believe that it does not occur there in larger numbers. The species likes the neighbourhood of rivers, and is rather shy.

Kitta chinensis chinensis (Bodd.)

Coracias chinensis Boddaert, Tabl. planch. enlum. d'Hist. nat., 1783, p. 38 (S. Siam).

Nikke: 2 ♂ ♂ (nos. 2, 22).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
2	♂	26-4-1946	153	208	33	40
22	♂	29-4-1946	150	199	32	41

Irides dark red. Bill coral red. Feet dark orange red.

Field notes. We saw this species only along the upper course of the Khwae Noi, where it was common.

Crypsirina temia (Daudin)

Corvus temia Daudin, Traité d'Orn., vol. 2, 1800, p. 244 (Java).

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. 21).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
21	♂	29-4-1946	118	—	21	28

Irides light blue. Bill and feet black.

Recently Williamson (1945, pp. 58-61) reopened the discussion about the validity of the race *longipennis* described by Neumann from Siam, type locality Chantaboon, S.E. Siam (1935, p. 136). According to Neumann Siamese birds are larger, wing measurement 118-127 mm, against 105-118 mm for Javanese birds. Most authors synonymize *longipennis* with *temia*. A series of 49 skins from Java in the Leiden Museum shows that the

range of variation of the wing measurements is 110-124 (average 115.5) mm (cf. also Riley, 1938, p. 308, and Greenway, 1940, p. 168). These measurements nicely agree with those given by Delacour and Jabouille (1931, p. 290) for Indochina (112-125 mm) and those given by Chasen (1935, p. 309 footnote) for all parts of Siam (112-120 mm). There is no reason therefore to accept *longipennis*.

Field notes. Judging by our notes common along the Khwae Noi river and also in the more or less cultivated plains between Bangkok and Kamchanaburi.

Aegithina tiphia tiphia (L.)

Motacilla tiphia Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, vol. 1, 1758, p. 168 (Calcutta).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 76).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
76	♂	24-5-1946	63	45	15	19

Irides pale grey. Bill bluish horn with the culmen black. Feet plumbeous.

Field notes. In our opinion the Common Iora is not at all common in the upper basin of the Khwae Noi. Contrary to Deignan's experience (1945, p. 322) that the bird easily attracts attention by its bright colours and sweet whistling song, we found it very difficult to discover the birds. The green and yellowish green in the plumage formed excellent protective colouring melting into the foliage. A nest was found in Tamuang camp on May 16, 1946, because the brooding bird was singing on the nest.

Chloropsis cochinchinensis cochinchinensis (Gm.)

Turdus cochinchinensis Gmelin, Syst. Nat., vol. 1, pt. 2, 1789, p. 825 (Cochin-China).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 114).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
114	♂	26-6-1946	88	62	15.5	19

Irides brown. Bill black. Feet bluish green.

Field notes. Leafbirds were common in and around the villages and fruit gardens and in primeval forest. We are not quite certain, however, if all the leafbirds we met belonged to the same species.

Pycnonotus dispar caeciliae Deignan

Pycnonotus dispar caeciliae Deignan, Journ. Washington Acad. Sci., vol. 38, 1948, no. 7, p. 247 (Trang Province, Peninsular Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♂ (no. 9).

Pramkashi: 2 ♂ ♂, 1 ♀? (nos. 69, 70, 84).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
9	♂	27-4-1946	83	78	—	16
69	♂	20-5-1946	80	79	13	15
84	♂	27-5-1946	85	—	12	15
70	♀?	20-5-1946	80	78	13	15

Irides yellowish white. Bill and feet black.

Deignan (l.c.) in his recent review of the continental races of *Pycnonotus dispar*, splits the species into several subspecies. Of these, two are of importance for the area here under consideration, *xanthops* which occurs in N.W. Siam and S. Burma up to the Amherst district, and *caeciliae* occurring in the Malay Peninsula, Peninsular Siam and the Mergui district of S. Burma. *Caeciliae* was named *minor* by Boden Kloss (1918, p. 200), but Deignan showed that this name is preoccupied. By what race the intermediate region is populated is unknown. Thanks to the kindness of Dr. Deignan I could compare the birds from the Khwae Noi valley with a series of 8 birds of *xanthops* and 8 of *caeciliae*. The differences between the two races are slight, *xanthops* has the upper parts a trifle paler (more yellowish) and is slightly larger. For the wing measurements of the 8 specimens of *xanthops* I found 85-87 mm, of *caeciliae* 79-85 mm. This shows that the birds from Nikhe and Pramkashi can be included into *caeciliae* as far as the wing measurements are concerned. The colour of the upper parts in the birds from the Khwae Noi valley shows some variation but in my opinion it is nearest to *caeciliae*.

The bird from Nikhe is rather worn and has the tips of the feathers on the back rather yellowish tinged.

Field notes. In the more open primeval forest variegated by scrub and bamboo wilderness along the Khwae Noi river, many species of bulbuls occur. *P. dispar* certainly is the most common species.

***Pycnonotus jocosus peguensis* (Baker)**

Otocompsa emeria peguensis Baker, Fauna of Brit. India, Birds, vol. 1, 1922, p. 396 (Rangoon, Pegu Division, Burma (Deignan, restricted)).

Nikhe: 1 ♂ (no. 99).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
99	♂	5-6-1946	84	84	14.5	19

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Recently Deignan (1948, pp. 279-281) reviewed the races of this species. Up till that time the Malayan birds stood under the name of *erythrotis*, and most recent authors considered *peguensis* a synonym of the first. Deignan, correctly in my opinion, sunk *erythrotis* in synonymy with *emeria* from Bengal, and gave the birds from the Malay Peninsula a new name (*pattani*).

This race occurs in all Siam and in a part of Indochina as Deignan could not separate northern and southern birds. Deignan upheld the name *peguensis* for birds from lower Burma and Tenasserim, though he was not convinced that *peguensis* was not a synonym of *emeria*.

The specimen from Nikhe is rather worn. The red whiskers are longer than in a specimen from Wellesley, Malay Peninsula, and in one from Medan, Sumatra (certainly introduced from the Malay Peninsula). The Sumatra bird (the Malayan specimen is very worn) may be slightly more rufous brown above than the Nikhe bird. Compared with 3 specimens from Calcutta (*emeria*) it appears that the whiskers of the Nikhe bird are only slightly smaller, the upper parts slightly paler and the breast band is less blackish (more brownish). The long whiskers show that the bird from Nikhe is not *pattani* and on account of the small colour differences from *emeria* I prefer to bring it to *peguensis*, which may be upheld on these grounds, though a re-examination of a larger material must prove if these differences are well founded.

Erythrotis was described by Bonaparte (1850, p. 265), and the type locality is given as Java. In Java the species has been introduced, and therefore Bonaparte probably had a cage bird before him. Chasen (1933, p. 204) accordingly changed the type locality, without having examined the type specimen, to Tavoy, Tenasserim. The type specimen is in the Leiden Museum. It has the tail feathers white tipped and the measurements are: wing 81, tail 73, culmen 14 mm. The ocular tufts are larger than in the two specimens of *pattani*. The upper parts are more rusty brown than in these birds and in the Nikhe specimen, and very near the colour of the upper parts of two of the Calcutta birds. The wing measurements of the birds from Calcutta are 88, 88, 89 mm. Summarizing, we can say that the type specimen of *erythrotis* can be best considered a small specimen of *emeria*.

Field notes. Less common than the preceding species, but certainly not rare. A nest-building pair was observed on June 20, 1946, but on July 7 the nest did not yet contain eggs.

***Pycnonotus cafer nigripileus* Blyth**

Pycnonotus nigripileus Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 116, 1847, p. 472 (Tenasserim).

Three Pagodas Pass: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 62, 63).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
62	♂	9-5-1946	93	85	16	21
63	♀	9-5-1946	88	80	15	22

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

The specimens could be compared with a series of *nigripileus* in the British Museum. The birds correspond closely. This race occurring in northern Tenasserim according to Oates (1889, p. 270) reaches down to Amherst. Baker (1922, p. 386) already stated that the range of this race extends further south. As the Three Pagodas Pass is just on the border of Tenasserim and Siam, it would be of interest to know how far this race, which was not known from Siam, occurs in the Khwae Noi valley.

Field notes. This species was observed in the neighbourhood of Nikhe and up to the Three Pagodas Pass only, where, judging by our notes, it was common.

***Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni* Strickland**

Pycnonotus finlaysoni Strickland, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 1, vol. 13, 1844, p. 411 (Malacca).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 40, 41).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
41	♂	3-5-1946	80	79	14	18
40	♀	3-5-1946	80	77	13	19.5

Irides dark brown. Bill and feet black.

Compared with 2 specimens from the Malay Peninsula the Siamese birds are slightly darker on the breast and flanks. The Malayan birds measure: wing 81, 81 mm.

Field notes. Seen along the upper course of the Khwae Noi only, where this bulbul was common. We found them exclusively in dense thickets and along the edges of forests.

***Garrulax chinensis propinquus* (Salvadori)**

Dryonastes propinquus Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civ. St. Nat., Genova, ser. 3, vol. 6, 1914, p. 6 (Thagut, Tenasserim).

Nikhe: 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 53, 103, 104).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
53	♂	4-5-1946	121	122	19	42
103	♂	7-6-1946	119	121	21	41
104	♀	7-6-1946	116	116	—	42

Irides wine red. Bill black. Feet blackish brown.

These birds nicely fit into a series of birds from Tenasserim, southern Shan States, and from the Salween region, with which they could be compared in the British Museum. The grey of the pileum in our birds is

not so clearly defined against the back as it is in most of the other birds. Some of these, however, are exactly like the Nikhe birds.

Field notes. The Black-throated Laughing Thrush was met only a few times near Nikhe. The collected birds were found in lower jungle. The song is clear, articulated, and very strong, it is often accompanied by flapping of the wings, or by dancing, or interrupted by feeding.

***Garrulax leucolophus berlangeri* Less.**

Garrulax berlangeri Lesson, Traité d'Ornith., 1831, p. 648 (Pegu).

Nikhe: 1 ♀ (no. 7).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
7	♀	27-4-1946	133	117	26.5	47

Irides brown. Bill and feet black.

The flanks and abdomen of this bird are hazel coloured, and in the white of the lower breast hazel coloured feathers are round. It closely resembles a specimen from Meeawuddy, Thoungyeen river, Tenasserim, and certainly both specimens are nearer to *berlangeri* than to *diardi*.

Field notes. *Garrulax leucolophus* is one of the most common species along the Khwae Noi river. A native boy near Kamchanaburi on April 30, 1943, showed us a young bird about 8 or 10 days old. Outside the breeding season we observed the species in small flocks up to 6 specimens, quietly moving through the thickets, often searching for food between the fallen leaves on the ground. In the camp Chungkai these birds often came feeding in the latrines pecking maggots between the squatting men. Singing can start suddenly, the whole flock taking part and the birds then behave in a very excited manner.

***Garrulax pectoralis meridionalis* Rob. & Kloss**

Garrulax pectoralis meridionalis Robinson & Boden Kloss, Bull. B.O.C., vol. 40, 1919, pp. 11-12 (Hat Sanuk, S.W. Siam).

Nikhe: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 66, 67).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
67	♂	9-5-1946	150	139	30	47
66	♀	9-5-1946	141	124	29	48

Irides dark brown. Maxilla black. Mandible grey. Feet grey.

The ♂ has the ear coverts white and unstreaked, the pectoral band interrupted. In the ♀ the ear coverts are streaked with black. These birds show, compared with a specimen from Nepal, the differences stated by Riley (1938,

p. 319). Moreover, the black streak running from the sides of the head to the breast is broader in the Nepal specimen.

Field notes. This and the next species we met a few times only. The two species were collected in jungle with thick undergrowth of bamboo and *Lantana*. The song resembles that of *Garrulax leucolophus*, but is much less exalted.

Garrulax moniliger fuscata Baker

Garrulax moniliger fuscata Baker, Bull. B.O.C., vol. 38, 1918, p. 64 (Tavoy, Tenasserim).

Nikke: 1 ♀ (no. 95).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
95	♀	3-6-1946	128	133	27	40

Irides yellowish white. Bill dark horn coloured with a pale tip. Feet pale flesh colour.

Compared with 2 specimens from Nepal (*moniliger*) the upper parts of the Nikke bird are much paler (not such a warm brown), and more yellowish. The nuchal band, and the flanks too, are much paler fulvous. A characteristic that I have not seen mentioned is that the Nepal birds show a white line from the base of the bill over the eye. In the Nikke bird the lores are black, the white line starts above the eye. In *moniliger* the black pectoral band is broader at the sides.

Stachyris rufifrons rufifrons Hume

Stachyris rufifrons Hume, Stray Feathers, vol. 1, 1873, pp. 479-480 (Pegu Hills).

Pramkashi: 1 — (no. 79).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
79	—	25-5-1946	51	45	13	18

Irides red. Maxilla dark brown. Mandible bluish horn. Feet olive brown.

Compared with 12 skins of *rufifrons rufifrons* from Pegu, Shan States, Tonghoo, and Tenasserim in the British Museum. I cannot find significant differences between our bird and the series mentioned above. In the series there is some variation in the colour of the upper parts, which vary from more greenish to more brownish olive. The brown of the crown varies from a paler to a more vivid brown. The extension of the brown backwards in our bird and in the series of the nominal race is the same.

Mixornis gularis sulphurea (Rippon)

Stachyridopsis sulphurea Rippon, Bull. B.O.C., vol. 11, 1900, p. 11 (Nam Chet, southern Shan States).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 77).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
77	♂	25-5-1946	57	47	12	17

Unfortunately the specimen is discoloured on the back, rather worn and greenish grey. The head is not quite clean. The specimen was compared with a series of *sulphurea*, *lutescens*, and *connectens* in the British Museum. It certainly is not related to *connectens* which is much more rufous on the upper parts. I have not seen *deignani*, recently described by de Schauensee (1946, p. 67) from Khao Luang. The upper parts of this race are described as like *connectens*; the Pramkashi bird therefore cannot be this race. Moreover the edges of the wing and tail are not rufous as in *connectens* and *deignani*.

Compared with *sulphurea* and *lutescens*, in my opinion it is nearer the first. The edges of primaries and secondaries are less rufous than I found them in a series of *lutescens*. The under parts too are slightly paler yellow than in this race.

Myiophonus caeruleus eugenei Hume

Myiophonus eugenei Hume, Stray Feathers, vol. 1, 1873, p. 475 (Pegu).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (nos. 109, 120, 121).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Depth of bill	Tarsus
120	♂	30-6-1946	179	127	31	10.8	50
109	♀	20-6-1946	165+	119	26	10.2	49
121	♀	1-7-1946	166	117	29	10.3	50

Irides brown. Maxilla yellow with black culmen and black part around the nostrils. Mandible yellow. Feet black.

De Schauensee (1946, p. 69) mentions a ♀ from Khao Luang (much farther south than the locality here under consideration) which is more or less intermediate between *crassirostris* and *eugenei*. This, together with the fact that Delacour in his review of the species (1942, pp. 246-264) leaves western Siam as a blank on his map showing the distribution of the races, makes an examination of the birds from Pramkashi interesting. The birds have no trace of white at the bases of the feathers of breast, flanks, and abdomen, nor are there white tips on the wing coverts. The bills, though slightly heavier than in the specimens of *temminckii* before me, are about the same as in a specimen of *eugenei* from the Song Kwae valley and are much slenderer than in specimens of *dicrorhynchus*. I have not seen *crassirostris*, but Delacour (l.c., pp. 256-257) shows that though the bill of *crassirostris* is longer than

that of *dicrorhynchus*, the thickness is about the same. As depth of bill he gives for *eugenei* 9-10.5, for *crassirostris* 12, and for *dicrorhynchus* 12-13 mm. Only the ♂ from Pramkashi therefore slightly exceeds in thickness of bill the measurements given for *eugenei*. It is evident that *temminckii* and *crassirostris* can be excluded and that there is every reason to bring these birds to *eugenei*. There are no colour differences between the examined specimen of *eugenei* and those from Pramkashi.

Field notes. The species is common everywhere where rocks are found in the neighbourhood of the river. Near Nikhe the birds were found below a steep wall of rocks at a distance of 300-400 m from the river. In Chungkai a pair was living in a very deep cave about 50 m above ground level. The cave was also inhabited by a Buddhist priest.

***Kittacincla malabarica interposita* Robinson & Kloss**

Kittacincla malabarica interposita Robinson & Boden Kloss, Journ. Fed. Malay St. Mus., vol. 10, 1922, p. 262 (Daban, S. Annam).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 110).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
110	♂	22-6-1946	93	140	15.5	26

Irides dark brown. Bill black. Feet pinkish horn colour.

A specimen with a very dark chestnut brown coloured breast and white thighs.

Field notes. The Shama is a common species and especially likes dense bamboo jungle and thickets along forest edges.

***Hypothymis azurea styani* (Hartl.)**

Siphia styani Hartlaub, Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen, vol. 16, 1899, p. 248 (Hainan).

Pramkashi: 1 ♀ (no. 93).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
93	♀	2-6-1946	72	70	11	17

Irides black? Bill and feet dull blue.

This single ♀ has been compared with 6 ♀♀ from Sumatra (*prophata*) and a ♀ from Wellesley, Malay Peninsula. The Sumatran birds have browner (less grey) upper parts and darker heads more suffused with blue. The same can be said of the chin and throat. The breast in the Pramkashi bird is grey, in the Sumatran birds brownish grey. The abdomen in the latter is less white. The bird from Wellesley is more or less intermediate, though nearer *prophata*. On account of these differences and for geographical reasons I list the bird from Pramkashi as *styani*.

Field notes. A common species in western Siam. We met it in all camps between Nong Pladuk and Pramkashi, though it was not so abundant as described by Deignan (1945, p. 463). This may be due to the disturbance caused by the work along the railroad track.

Orthotomus sutorius subsp. spec.

Nikke: 1 ♂ (no. —).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
—	♂	4-6-1946	43	67	13	20

Irides golden brown. Maxilla horn coloured. Mandible pale fleshy. Feet brownish fleshy.

A specimen preserved in spirit and discoloured. Therefore I refrain from giving a definite opinion as to what race it belongs. It may belong to *patia*.

Prinia rufescens rufescens Blyth

Prinia rufescens Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 16, 1847, p. 456 (Arrakan).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀? (nos. —).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
—	♂	4-6-1946	43	40	11	20
—	♀?	4-6-1946	41	35	11.5	18

Irides yellow brown. Bill horn coloured, slightly paler underneath. Feet flesh coloured.

Unfortunately both specimens were preserved in spirit and discoloured. As the whole region, however, is said to be inhabited by the nominal race, the birds are listed under that name.

Gracula religiosa intermedia Hay

Gracula intermedia Hay, Madras Journ. Lit. Sci., vol. 13, 1844, p. 157 (Cachar, N. India).

Nikke: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (nos. 29, 30).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
29	♂	30-4-1946	164	80	23	33
30	♀	30-4-1946	162	73	24	34

Irides dark brown. Bill orange with yellow tip. Wattles dark yellow. Feet yellow.

Field notes. A very common bird in the valley. A flock of about 40 of these birds was observed in Kun Sayok in late June, 1943.

Mino coronatus (Blyth)

Ampeliceps coronatus Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 11, 1842, p. 194 (Tenasserim).

Nikke: 1 ♂ imm. (no. 37).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♂ imm. (nos. 112, —).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
112	♂	24-6-1946	129	54	15	24
37	♂ imm.	2-5-1946	123	53	13	25
—	♂ imm.	24-6-1946	116	47	13	25

Irides dark brown, grey in one of the immature birds. Orbital skin yellow. Bill yellow, bluish near the gape, immature yellowish brown with dark culmen. Feet yellow, nails black. The interior of the mouth blue.

The unnumbered specimen has been preserved in spirit.

Field notes. We only know the Myna from the upper course of the Khwae Noi, but this does not exclude the possibility of the species occurring down streams. In Nikhe and Pramkashi we often observed flocks of 6 to 20 specimens in the tops of dead trees.

Anthreptes singalensis interposita (Robinson & Kloss)

Chalcoparia singalensis interposita Robinson & Kloss, Journ. Fed. Mal. States Mus. vol. 10, 1921, p. 209 (Takuapa, Peninsular Siam).

Pramkashi: 3 ♂ ♂ (nos. 73, 74, 92).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
73	♂	22-5-1946	54	41.5	13	15
74	♂	23-5-1946	53	40	13	15.5
92	♂	2-6-1946	50	37	13	15

Irides carmine red. Bill black. Feet olive green.

These birds fit well into a series of *interposita* from Pegu and Tenasserim, which I saw in the British Museum. Compared with *assamensis* (= *lepida*) they have a slightly paler breast and more yellow under parts. Delacour (1944, p. 23) united the genus *Chalcoparia* with *Anthreptes*.

Field notes. The Ruby-cheek was met only upstreams of Pramkashi, where it was not rare. In Nikhe a nest was found on April 20, 1946. The nest was nearly finished, hanging at the end of a branch about 2.5 m above the ground. The nest was composed of moss and fine fibres. It showed a side entrance with a nice portico as described by Baker (1926, p. 369).

Dicaeum cruentatum ignitum (Begbie)

Nectarinia ignitum Begbie, The Malayan Peninsula, 1834, p. 518 (Malacca).

Pramkashi: 1 ♂ (no. 75).

No.	Sex	Date	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
75	♂	23-5-1946	49	24	10	11

Irides dark brown. Maxilla black. Mandible horny brown with reddish base. Feet black.

The under side of this specimen is whitish, slightly tinged with buff. Though Deignan (1945, p. 546) proved that the characters originally given by Boden Kloss in his description of *siamense* (1918, pp. 216-217) are not reliable, he still upholds *siamense* on account of the fact that in *siamense* the sides of the head and the throat should be slaty black, the sides of the breast slate instead of uniformly deep black as in *ignitum*. In the British Museum I could compare a series of 77 skins of ♂♂ from Burma south to the Malay Peninsula (*ignitum*) with 13 ♂♂ from Indochina (*siamense*), but I cannot see the mentioned differences. A few of the specimens from Burma and the Malay Peninsula are really slightly darker on these parts, but the great majority is undistinguishable, and it seems much better to take the course of Riley and call all these birds *ignitum*.

Field notes. Common everywhere in western Siam.

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