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NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM NEW GUINEA

by

G. C. A. JUNGE

A full report on the birds collected during the expedition of the "Koninklijk Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap" to the Wissel Lake district in 1939 will appear in "Nova Guinea". Publication of this report is delayed, however, and therefore short descriptions of the new subspecies, which were found during the work on this collection, are given here.

Rallus pectoralis connectens nov. subsp.

In the colour of the upper parts *connectens* agrees with *alberti* from SE New Guinea, it differs, however, by the paler breast and less blackish abdomen and in the larger size, especially of the bill. The difference with *mayri* from the Arfak Mountains is, that the upper parts in *connectens* are more overflown with reddish brown and that, on an average, the latter has smaller wing measurements. *Connectens* differs from the recently described *captus*, which I have not seen, by longer bill. Culmen ♂♂ *captus* 32-34.5, *connectens* 34-41 mm; ♀♀ *captus* 29-34, *connectens* 32-37 mm.

Type: ♂, Paniai, 4-11-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19267).

Porzana pusilla mayri nov. subsp.

The occurrence of *Porzana pusilla* in New Guinea is a new record. This new race is nearest to *palustris* from Australia, but differs by smaller size. Wing *palustris* 80-85, *mayri* 76-79 mm.

Type: ♂, Paniai, 4-11-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19267).

Ptilinopus viridis pseudogeelvinkianus nov. subsp.

Birds from Meosnum were till now included into *geelvinkianus*, which race occurs also on Numfor and Biak. They differ, however, by larger wing and

heavier bills. The type locality of *geelvinkianus* is restricted here to Numfor. Wing *geelvinkianus* ♂♂ 106-113, ♀♀ 106-110 mm; *pseudogeelvinkianus* ♂♂ 112-117, ♀♀ 112 mm.

Type: ♂, Meosnum, 11-5-1869, von Rosenberg coll., R.M.N.H. Leiden.

Ducula rufigaster pallida nov. subsp.

Birds from the southern slopes of the Oranje Mountains differ from all other populations by the decidedly paler breast and abdomen.

Type: ♂, Bivak Island, Noord River, South New Guinea (R.M.N.H. Leiden, coll. Lorentz no. 589).

Malurus alboscapulatus randi nov. subsp.

Like *aida* from northern New Guinea, but decidedly larger. Wing *aida* ♂♂ 48-51, ♀♀ 45-49 mm; *randi* ♂♂ 52-56, ♀♀ 52-54 mm.

Type: ♂, Enarotali, 27-9-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 18869).

Megalurus gramineus papuensis nov. subsp.

This is a most interesting discovery, the species was only known from South and Southwest Australia. *Papuensis* is nearest to *milligani* from Lake Yanchap near Perth, it differs, however, in having much more rusty brown tinged upper parts, especially the front and the rump. It lacks the black streaks on the front, which are found in *milligani*.

Type: ♀, Paniai, 2-10-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 18719).

Phylloscopus trivirgatus paniaiae nov. subsp.

Nearest to *quillanettii* but differing in having the upper parts and especially the edges of the primaries and the remiges more golden brown (less greenish), the head slightly darker. Differs from *albigularis* in having the throat and sides of head yellow tinged instead of white.

Type: ♂, Araboe Bivak, 21-10-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 18568).

Pitohui kirrhocephalus carolinae nov. subsp.

Nearest to *decipiens* from the Onin Peninsula, but *carolinae* differs in having a paler grey head, chin and throat, a paler chestnut brown mantle, a more yellowish brown breast and abdomen. The new race differs from *stramineipectus* from the Triton Bay by the much darker under parts and darker bill.

Type: ♂, Etna Bay, 24-11-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19341).

Neositta papuensis intermedia nov. subspec.

This race is intermediate in colour between *papuensis* and *alba*, described from the Idenburg River. Differing from *alba* in having the streaks on the under parts decidedly darker and heavier. The upper parts in *intermedia* are more warm brown with the streaks more pronounced and darker. There is no sexual dimorphism in the colour of the head as is found in the nominal race.

Type: ♂, Bobairo, 24-8-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19291).

Ptiloprora guisei incerta nov. subspec.

Paler on breast and throat than *lorentzi* from the Oranje Mountains and than *praedicta* from Wandammen. Streaks on the breast greyish brown, not black; pale edges along the feathers greyish, not whitish; upper parts slightly more greenish tinged. Smaller than *lorentzi*. Wing *lorentzi* ♂♂ 97-104, ♂ *incerta* 90 mm. *Pt. erythropleura dammermani* also occurs in this region.

Type: ♂, Bobairo, 29-8-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 18951).

Dicaeum geelvinkianum obscurifrons nov. subspec.

Obscurifrons agrees in size with *centrale* from the Balim River, it differs in having more greenish, less violet upper parts; darker under parts and in lacking the bright red on head and upper tail coverts, which are more brownish red. It is nearest *maforense* from Numfor, which is smaller, however, and has the breast patch less vividly coloured.

Type: ♂, Paniai, 27-9-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19274).

Lonchura castaneithorax boschmai nov. subspec.

A very marked new race, which is nearest to *nigriceps* from SE New Guinea, but it differs in the following points. On the head the streaks are darker and broader. The upper tail coverts are yellow straw coloured instead of reddish yellow. The edges along the tail feathers are broader and yellower in *boschmai* than in *nigriceps*. The colour of the breast is darker and the chestnut brown goes further down with the grey edges less conspicuous. The flanks too are chestnut coloured and the white of the abdomen is therefore more restricted. Black bar between breast and abdomen thinner and more irregular in *boschmai*.

Type: ♂, Araboe Bivak (1750 m), 6-10-1939 (R.M.N.H. Leiden, reg. no. 19306).

ERRATUM

page 247, under *Rallus pectoralis connectens*, last line, read:
Type: ♂, Paniai, 6-11-1939 (R. M. N. H. Leiden, reg. no. 18761).