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SYSTEMATIC AND FAUNISTIC REMARKS ON BIRDS FROM BORNEO AND JAVA, WITH NEW RECORDS

by

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With one plate

In this paper I have collected notes on a number of birds from Java and Borneo, which have accumulated over the past seven years as a by-product of other studies rather than as a result of directed research in our collections.

Ardea cinerea altirostris subspecies nova

Diagnosis. — Similar in plumage to the pale race *A. c. jouyi* Clark of north-east Asia and Japan, but bill more massive: the bill is not always longer, but thicker and especially deeper (see table of measurements, and plate). Holotype, ♂, 12.III. 1918, Sedari, east of Tjitaroem delta, Reg. Krawang, West Java, leg. M. E. G. Bartels no. 11360, RMNH, Aves no. 28454.

Distribution. — Java and Sumatra. Birds which have been found breeding on the west coast of Malaya, in Perak and Selangor (cf. Madoc, 1936: 129; Gibson-Hill, 1949: 21-22) are likely to belong to this subspecies, rather than to *A. c. jouyi* in which they were included by Vaurie (1965: 73). The subspecific status of the populations inhabiting south-east Asia from Burma to the Indo-Chinese countries, remains to be established. As in Cochinchina and Cambodja the species is found throughout the year (Delacour & Jabouille, 1931: 56), it probably breeds there, but I am not aware of definite breeding-records. In Thailand it is not known to breed (Kitti Thonglongya, pers. comm.).

Very likely this race occurs on the Lesser Sunda Islands, from where there is a formal record (from Soembawa) by Rensch (1931: 496). Dam-

merman's (1926: 12) observations from Soemba are apparently not supported by material, but I see no reason to doubt them.

Discussion. — Until recently the heron of Java was known as *A. c. rectirostris* Gould, designated type-locality India. Vaurie (1965: 72-73), however, demonstrated that birds from India are similar to the nominate race, and this is further confirmed by four specimens from Darjeeling, Bengal, in our collection, which are perhaps slightly paler in colour than European birds, but do not show other differences, and therefore must be included in the nominate race. This was also the opinion of Hartert (1920: 1231), and Peters (1931: 99, footnote 1).

A. c. altirostris is a fairly common resident of the coastal plain of West Java, occurring throughout the year (in the years 1947-1949 I have observed it on many occasions). The species has been known from Java at least since Horsfield (1821), and it is strange that even in recent literature its occurrence there is either entirely ignored (Peters, 1931), or regarded as accidental or on migration only (Vaurie, 1965: 73). Breeding in Java has been recorded on numerous occasions (cf. Hoogerwerf, 1936a, with photograph of an incubating bird; 1936b, with photograph; 1936c; 1947; 1949: 9; 1950: 164; 1951a; 1951b; 1969: 57; Hoogerwerf & Siccama, 1938: 122, with photograph; Kooiman, 1940; Kretschmer de Wilde, 1939).

The Bartels collection contains a series of eggs (2/1, 2/2, 1/3 and 1/4) all taken on 17 May 1920 at Moeara Bloeboek, West Java (see also Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf, 1967: 7), and on this basis Bartels & Stresemann (1929: 102) could state with authority that the species is a breeding-bird on Java.

As the 23 birds from Java and three from Sumatra in our collection, all have the heavy bills of the resident subspecies, and none have the more slender bills of Japanese birds, it becomes most unlikely that Japanese birds reach Java on migration. It may be mentioned that according to Austin & Kuroda (1953: 321-322) Japanese breeding-birds winter in southern Japan. The species is rare visitor to the Riu Kiu Islands and Formosa. I quote from Hachisuka & Udagawa (1953: 223): "The Grey Heron is a common and familiar bird of Japan and Korea but is chiefly a resident on the islands while a summer visitor to the peninsula. The chief strain of migration presumably goes to China and further to the southwest thus accounting for the scarceness of records in our region". In agreement with this Macfarlane & Macdonald (1966) and Herklots (1967: 23-24) record the pale eastern race as an apparently common winter visitor to Hong Kong, and it is likely that the migratory movement peters out towards Hainan and in the north of Indo-China where the species appears towards the end

TABLE OF BILL-MEASUREMENTS [1])

Ardea cinerea altirostris

Reg. no.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	Culmen	Depth of bill
cat. 1	♂	Java	1821/1823	Kuhl & v. Hasselt	126	27½
1371	♂	Rawa Gempal	7.X.1908	Jacobson	127	26½
1371*	♂	„ „	8.X.1908	„	116½	25½
28443	♂	Kali Tjilesoeng near Sedari	16.VIII.1909	Bartels	120	26½
28445	♂	Moeara Gembong	17.IV.1914	„	129	28
28447	♂	Moeara Sedari	15.VI.1915	„	119	26
28450	♂	Moeara Wettan	3.V.1916	„	126	25½
28454	♂	Sedari	12.III.1918	„	137	27½
28455	♂	Moeara Bloeboek	17.V.1920	„	125	27½
28457	♂	Moeara Boengin	16.V.1922	„	126	28
28458	♂	Moeara Gembong	19.V.1922	„	127	27
28460	♂	Moeara Wettan	19.X.1922	„	124½	28
28461	♂	„ „	19.X.1922	„	124	29
28462	♂	Sedari	27.III.1923	„	128	26½
28444	♀	Moeara Wettan	16.IV.1914	„	117½	26
28446	♀	Moeara Boengin	14.VI.1915	„	115	26
28448	♀ im.	Moeara Wettan	18.VI.1915	„	114	25½
28449	♀	„ „	1.V.1916	„	124	26
28451	♀	„ „	17.IV.1917	„	111	26
28452	♀	Moeara Boengin	20.IV.1917	„	117	26
28453	♀	„ „	11.III.1918	„	118	28
28456	♀	„ „	23.XI.1921	„	116	27
28459	♀	Moeara Gembong	20.V.1922	„	115	26½
28463	♀	Sedari	27.III.1923	„	116	27
cat. 7	?	Mantoep	March 1896	Vorderman	121	25
3868	♂	Pladjoe	24.X.1915	Horst	123	25½
5001	♂	Medan	21.VII.1921	F. C. v. Heurn	122	27
cat. 6	? im.	„	9.IV.1887	Hagen	112	24

Ardea cinerea jouyi

Reg. no.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	Culmen	Depth of bill
cat. 1	♂	Japan		Bürger	111	23½
cat. 2	♂	„		„	105	23
cat. 3	♀	„		v. Siebold	113	22½
BM 93. 1.25. 59	?	Yokohama		Pryer	125	23½
BM 97.10.30. 11	?	„		„	111	24
BM 97.10.30.278	?	„		„	109	24
BM 97.10.30.279	?	„		„	116	23½

1) The length of the bill was measured from the anterior feathers of the forehead to the tip, its depth across the posterior edge of the nostrils. The specimens were measured by me personally, except for the four British Museum specimens, of which the measurements were taken by Mr. D. Freeman.

of September in Annam (Delacour & Jabouille, 1931: 56), and in September and October in Tranninh (David-Beaulieu, 1944: 47). *A. c. jouyi* is also known to reach Thailand from where there are two recoveries of birds ringed in eastern Siberia, and Luzon where a bird ringed as a nestling in Korea has been found (McClure, 1969: 173, 212). Birds from Borneo must be compared with material from Java and Japan, to ascertain their subspecific identity.

This heron, on Java, fishes almost exclusively in brackish and salt water (Hoogerwerf & Siccama, 1938; also my own observations), and one may wonder if there is any connection between this ecological difference from the northern subspecies, and the morphological difference.

Anas acuta acuta Linnaeus

With the Bartels collection we received a male of this duck in almost full breeding plumage. It did not have a label when received here, but it is clearly the individual recorded and figured by Bartels (1941). This bird was purchased in 1933 in the bird-market of Solo, Central Java, by Mr. J. P. Rosier. According to the merchant who sold it, the bird had been captured not far from that town. With Bartels, to whom the bird was presented by Mr. Rosier, I am of the opinion that it was doubtless a wild individual, that constitutes the first record of its species from Java. The journal in which Bartels recorded the specimen is extremely rare and all later authors except Hoogerwerf (1948), who mentioned it in a bare list, appear to have overlooked his paper. The copy consulted by me was made available by Dr. J. H. Becking, after I had vainly circulated an application for a loan amongst the public libraries of the Netherlands.

Buteo buteo vulpinus (Gloger) [1]

The Bartels collection contains an unlabelled specimen of this species. This skin is of the excellent make characteristic of the Bartels collection, and the fact that it has no label does not make it suspect, as M. Bartels Jr. often failed to label his specimens (see also under *Anas acuta*). There can be no reasonable doubt therefore, that the bird was obtained somewhere in West Java, between 1933 and 1941.

Buzzards are rare in Malaysia, and hitherto the only records concerned

1) In the controversy between Reichenow (1921a, 1921b) and Stresemann (1921) on the validity of "*Falco vulpinus* Gloger, 1833" the right is entirely on the side of Reichenow. It is most unfortunate that this and other names published by Gloger have become accepted in spite of Reichenow's fully justified protests, as they should never have been introduced in zoological nomenclature. Being reluctant to stir up the particularly muddled nomenclature of this buzzard, I have used the name *vulpinus* here in the sense in which it has been used by other authors.

Malaya. In recent literature (Chasen, 1935, 1939; Delacour, 1947; Gibson-Hill, 1949; Glenister, 1951; Vaurie, 1965: 179), the birds visiting Malaya have been called either *Buteo buteo japonicus*, or *Buteo burmanicus*, a name generally considered to be a synonym of *B. b. japonicus*, but possibly applicable to a population breeding in the Himalayas (cf. Vaurie, 1961b, and for a different opinion Voous & Bijleveld, 1964). However, our collection contains a female specimen of *B. b. vulpinus* collected on 28 October 1910, at Batang Padang, Perak, by E. Stresemann. This must be the specimen mentioned by Hartert (1914: 1127) under the name *B. b. anceps* A. E. Brehm. This bird is very similar to the one from Java.

Under the name *B. burmanicus burmanicus*, Chasen (1939) described specimens as having their plumage, including the tail very rufous. This, however, is a character of *B. b. vulpinus*, and not of *B. b. japonicus*, and it is therefore apparent that Chasen's specimens belonged to the former subspecies. It now becomes likely that *B. b. vulpinus* is the only race that reaches Malaysia on migration, for the sole basis for the inclusion of *B. b. japonicus* in the avifauna of Malaya, appears to be Chasen's misidentification. Note that three of the birds listed by Chasen under the name *B. b. burmanicus* had previously been recorded by Robinson (1907) as *B. desertorum*, which equals *B. b. vulpinus*.

Falco subbuteo subbuteo Linnaeus

Java was included in the winter range of this species on the basis of a single specimen recorded by Bartels & Stresemann (1929), but no further particulars have ever been published. The bird is a female, labelled Pangerango, 12 February 1927, coll. Bartels no. 14561. Its wing-length of 267 mm places this bird in the nominate race (cf. Vaurie, 1961a).

In the diary of Bartels Sr. I found the following entries:

11-II-1927. *Falco subbuteo*: am Spätmittage sass einer dieser Falken auf einem Kronenaste eines hohen blätterlosen Albizziabaumes in der Nähe des über den Bergrücken zwischen den Pflanzungen "Pasir Gedong" und "Tjimoengkat" durchlaufenden Weges.

12-II-1927. *Falco subbuteo:* morgens früh setzte sich ein Baumfalke, zweifellos derselbe, dem ich gestern am Spätnachmittage begegnet bin, auf denselben Baum, auf dem er gestern sass. Er war nicht besonders vorsichtig. Er ist der erste Baumfalke, dem ich auf Java begegnet bin.

Rallina eurizonoides nigrolineata (G. R. Gray)

The basis for the inclusion of this rail in the avifauna of Java by Vorderman (1901), under the name *Rallina superciliaris*, was an immature

specimen in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, received from P. Diard in 1862. Schlegel (1865) had misidentified this specimen as *Rallina fasciata*, of which it is his cat. no. 4, but this was corrected by Finsch, who is responsible for the addition of *R. superciliaris* (= *R. eurizonoides nigrolineata*) to the Java list. Later Bartels & Stresemann (1929: 90) queried (but did not dismiss) the record with the remark: "Ein angeblich von Diard auf Java gesammeltes Stück im Mus. zu Leiden". The mounted specimen is still in our collection, and although it does no longer have the original label (in those days it was accepted practice in our museum to destroy all labels when specimens were mounted), there does not appear to be any reason to doubt its provenance. Diard forwarded large numbers of birds from Java to Leiden just prior to his death in 1863, and as *P. eurizonoides nigrolineata* is strongly migratory and is a regular migrant to Malaya and Sumatra, its occasional occurrence in West Java (Diard lived in Buitenzorg) is not unexpected.

I have not investigated the nomenclatural merits of the name *nigrolineata*, which was rejected by Ripley (1961: 99) as a nomen nudum.

Ptilinopus jambu (Gmelin)

Although in the original description Java was given, later authors have substituted Sumatra as type-locality of this species, and its occurrence in Java was no longer generally accepted. In recent years Java was included in the range by Bartels & Stresemann (1929) and Hoogerwerf (1948), but excluded by Chasen (1935), Peters (1937), Delacour (1947) and Goodwin (1967).

The Bartels collection contains a female obtained on 4 March 1925 at Pasir Datar, Pangerango, West Java (RMNH no. 30642), under which date Bartels has the following entry in his diary:

Ptilinopus jambu: morgens früh wurde ein Weibchen dieser Taube auf der mein Haus umgebenden Gallerie gefangen, worin es sich zweifellos nachts verflogen haben muss.

Dammerman (1929), Bartels & Stresemann (1929), Lonsain (1941), Hoogerwerf (1949) and Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf (1967) listed *Ptilinopus jambu* as a presumed breeding-bird in Java, but the presence in our collection of a male, taken on board of a ship in the Strait of Malacca, on 26 September 1924 (leg. P. Buitendijk, RMNH no. 5408), suggests migration, and similar evidence was given by Medway & Nisbet (1967). In view of this and of the extreme rareness of the species in Java, combined with the absence of any evidence of breeding, I consider that it should be regarded as a straggler.

Now that the occurrence of the species in Java has been established, one might wonder if the type-locality Java as given by Gmelin (1789: 784), could be restored, but such is not the case. The basis of *Ptilinopus jambu* is Marsden (1783: 98, not page 84 as quoted by Latham and Gmelin), who states most definitely that he is describing a bird from Sumatra. Latham's (1783: 627-628) description is clearly based exclusively on Marsden, but instead of stating that the bird is from Sumatra, the pronouncement: "Inhabits the island of *Java*" appears out of the blue. It is evidently an error. Gmelin referred to both Marsden and Latham, but it is likely that he has personally consulted Latham's work only, and has taken the locality Java from it (as well as the wrong page-citation of Marsden's work).

Glaucidium castanopterum (Horsfield)

In all recent publications I have consulted and even in a revision (Ripley, 1948), this little owl from Java is listed under the name *Glaucidium cuculoides castanopterum*. Nobody appears to have realised that, whatever the affinities of this bird, the trinomen currently used is nomenclaturally impossible as the name *castanopterum* Horsfield, 1821, has ample priority over *cuculoides* Vigors, 1831, even though Stresemann (1930: 425, footnote) drew attention to it over forty years ago. If, therefore, the Javanese form is treated as conspecific with *cuculoides*, the specific name of both will be *castanopterum*. In my opinion, however, *G. castanopterum* differs sufficiently from the races of the *cuculoides*-group to justify its retention as a separate monotypic species.

Ninox scutulata japonica (Temminck & Schlegel)

Smythies (1957: 647) referred to an opinion expressed by Deignan in a personal communication, that the large birds visiting Borneo in winter belong to the race *N. s. burmanica* Hume, and further that *N. s. japonica* is not migratory at all. This opinion is amazing, and has not been shared by any other ornithologist working on the species. The fact that Deignan never published it, is indicative that following further study he has abandoned it.

Anyway, whatever the identity of the birds identified as *N. s. burmanica* by Deignan (in Smythies & Harrisson, 1956), *N. s. japonica* does visit Borneo. Whether these migrants originate from Japan or from the mainland of N. E. Asia can, of course, not be said with certainty, but even in respect to Japanese birds Deignan erred, for the species is generally known to be a summer visitor only in Japan (Jahn, 1942: 228; Austin & Kuroda,

1953: 475), whereas an individual ringed in Nigata Prefecture, Honshu, has been recovered two months later in Nueva Ecija, Luzon (McClure, 1969: 188, 257).

Of our nine specimens from Borneo, eight belong to the resident subspecies *N. s. borneensis,* one to *N. s. japonica* (♂, Upper Mahakam, Nov. 1898, leg. Nieuwenhuis, wing 223 mm). This specimen has previously been recorded by Finsch (1901: 244; 1905: 25). On the basis of this specimen the subspecies *N. s. japonica* can be placed back on the Borneo list, from which it should never have been removed.

Chaetura caudacuta caudacuta (Latham)

One specimen, ♂, 14 November 1929, Cheribon, leg. J. J. Menden, RMNH no. 6963. This subspecies had not previously been recorded from Java, but its occurrence is not unexpected, although the main stream of migration certainly passes east of Java.

The following species and subspecies of *Chaetura* are now known from Java:

Chaetura gigantea gigantea (Temminck): 21 specimens from Java in our collection, including the type, collected by J. C. van Hasselt in Bantam.

Chaetura caudacuta caudacuta (Latham): one specimen.

Chaetura caudacuta nudipes (Hodgson): known in Java from two specimens, ♂ and ♀, obtained on 26 December 1922 at the beach near Tjibioek, W. Java, coll. Bartels nos. 13180, 13181, now in Leiden (cf. Bartels & Stresemann, 1929: 115).

Chaetura cochinchinensis Oustalet: twelve specimens in coll. Bartels. The enigmatic *Chaetura ernsti* Bartels Jr. (1931) is not, as its description made from memory suggests, a close relative of *C. gigantea,* but a synonym of *C. cochinchinensis.* The type, coll. Bartels no. 14341, is in our collection.

Chaetura leucopygialis (Blyth): eight specimens from Java in our collection (coll. Bartels).

Alcedo euryzona peninsulae Laubmann

Smythies (1957, 1960, 1968), Voous (1961) and Thompson (1966) have referred birds from Borneo to the nominate race but they appear to have overlooked the paper by Bartels (1938), in which the considerable differences between female birds from Java (with a broad blue breast-band) and females from Sumatra and Borneo (without a breast-band) are clearly described. Material examined: Java 18 ♂, 14 ♀ (including one mounted male, one mounted female, syntypes of the species); Sumatra 5 ♂, 1 ♀; Borneo 2 ♂, 1 ♀. The single female from Sumatra does not support Bartels' sug-

gestion that birds from that island are intermediate between the nominate race and *peninsulae*: it does not show any trace of a blue breast-band, and the only character in which it differs from the female from Borneo is that it is much deeper rufous on the breast. I have not examined topotypical *peninsulae* from the Malay Peninsula.

Pelargopsis capensis (Linnaeus)

In recent years two names have been used for birds from Borneo: *Pelargopsis capensis javana* (Boddaert, 1783), of which *Alcedo leucocephala* Gmelin, 1788, of older literature is an objective synonym, and *Pelargopsis capensis fraseri* Sharpe, 1870. The first name was based on d'Aubenton, pl. 757: Martin-pêcheur, de Java. The somewhat unfortunate history of this name needs to be discussed here.

The first to query the provenance Java as originally given, was apparently Blyth (1865: 553) who would regard the name *leucocephala* as applicable to Philippine birds only.

Soon afterwards Walden (1867: 553) mentioned that a specimen from Sarawak in his collection fully answered to Buffon's account and plate. He did not actually propose a shift of type-locality from Java to Borneo and from his account it is reasonably certain that he had not seen specimens from Java, and therefore was not in a position to suggest such a transfer.

Sharpe (1870), with apparently a single specimen from Java at his disposal, felt that he could be more positive: "As Lord Walden has suggested ... the bird figured by Buffon as the *Martin-pêcheur de Java* agrees very well with the Bornean *Pelargopsis*; and as the description also accords with the same bird, I see no reason to refuse the conclusion forced upon us in this manner. On this plate is founded the *Alcedo javana* of Boddaert; but this name must be dropped as inapplicable, and the term *leucocephala*, the next in order of priority, be substituted". The main difference between birds from Borneo and Java was according to Sharpe that the former has the: "Head and back of the neck pale ochre; back of the neck richer ochre" (there is an obvious contradiction in this sentence), the latter: "Head indistinctly capped, ashy brown, strongly washed with pale ochre". Sharpe overlooked the fact that the bird figured by d'Aubenton actually shows at least traces of a darker cap.

Twenty years later Sharpe (1892) had more material; this included besides specimens from Malacca, Borneo and Sumatra, six from Java. Of his Bornean specimens he listed six as *P. leucocephala*, whereas he referred three, with material from Sumatra, etc., to *P. fraseri* (originally based on specimens from Java, Malacca and Penang).

The next author to consider these birds was Hartert (1902: 202-203) who came with the following illuminating statement: "zwei Formen ... nämlich *leucocephala* (= *javana*) and *fraseri* sind so nahestehend, dass man sie nicht immer leicht unterscheiden kann, sodass Sharpe selbst sie vermengte, indem er beide nebeneinander auf Borneo vorkommen lässt". Nevertheless, in a footnote Hartert supported Sharpe's opinion that d'Aubenton's plate depicts a bird from Borneo, and being an adherent of strict priority, he used the name *javana* for the bird from Borneo.

Oberholser (1909) was chronologically the next reviser of the species; he introduced the name *Ramphalcyon capensis capensis* (L.) for the Javanese bird, supplanting *P. fraseri* with it. For Borneo he followed Hartert in using the name *javana*.

NOMENCLATURE OF PELARGOPSIS CAPENSIS

	Java	Borneo
Boddaert (1783)	*javana*	—
Gmelin (1789)	*leucocephala*	—
Sharpe (1870)	*fraseri*	*leucocephala*
Sharpe (1892)	*fraseri*	*leucocephala* *fraseri*
Hartert (1902)	*fraseri*	*javana*
Oberholser (1909)	*capensis*	*javana*
van Oort (1910)	*capensis*	*innominata* [1]
Delacour (1947)	*capensis*	*capensis*
Stresemann (1952)	*fraseri*	— [2]
Smythies (1957)	*fraseri*	*fraseri*
Mees (hoc loco)	*javana*	*innominata*

1) *javana* transferred to the Philippines
2) *capensis* transferred to Chandernagore, Bengal.

Van Oort (1910) came with a different identification of d'Aubenton's plate: "...the description by Buffon as well as the coloured plate by Daubenton clearly show, that the Bornean form can not be meaned here, the only form to which the description and also the plate are applicable is the pale form of the south eastern and central Philippine Islands, which is described in 1874 by Walden as *Pelargopsis gigantea*. The form from these parts of the Philippine Islands must bear the name *javana* Boddaert; it is a miserable fact that a Philippine bird has the epithet *javana* and a bird from Java that of *capensis*, but the law of priority requires this". As this left the Bornean race without a name, van Oort described *Ramphalcyon capensis innominata*, based on a series of eleven specimens from southern and north-eastern Borneo.

Hartert's authority was such that, perhaps fortunately, van Oort's work was ignored, and subsequent authors (Chasen, 1935; Peters, 1945) have

continued to use the name *javana* for Bornean birds, referring Javanese specimens to the nominate race.

Delacour (1947) was apparently unable to distinguish specimens from Java and Borneo and therefore called them all *capensis*; in this he may only have followed a suggestion made by Ripley (1944: 356). Subsequently Stresemann (1952) demonstrated that the name *P. capensis capensis* (L.), previously applied to the Javanese form, was actually based on a specimen from Chandernagore. For the Javanese subspecies he revived *P. c. fraseri* Sharpe.

The type-locality Borneo had become so firmly entrenched in literature for *P. c. javana*, that Stresemann did not consider that race when looking for a replacement name for the birds from Java. Subsequently Smythies (1957, 1960, 1968), basing himself on Delacour (1947) in regarding birds from Java and Borneo as referable to the same subspecies, and on Stresemann (1952) for considering *fraseri* as the valid name for the birds from Java, extended the range of *fraseri* to include Borneo. Other authors (Voous, 1961; Thompson, 1966) have followed him uncritically. Thus *P. c. javana* (Boddaert, 1783) was, against all rules of priority, eliminated by *P. c. fraseri* Sharpe, 1870.

This, however, is not the end of the story: Sharpe (1892) and Hartert (1902) were unable to separate some of their Bornean specimens from Javanese birds, and, as mentioned above, Delacour and Smythies considered them identical. If this be true, the whole basis for the shift of the type-locality of *javana* from Java to Borneo falls away, and there will be nothing against accepting the type-locality originally given for *javana*, Java, as correct. When Hartert (1902) supported the shift of *javana* from Java to Borneo, he did so because, notwithstanding the fact that he could not distinguish some specimens from Java and Borneo, it was the dark-headed Bornean birds which agreed with his Javan specimen. In default of adequate material from Java, Hartert and Sharpe were not aware that pale-headed birds, such as the one figured on d'Aubenton's plate, are common in Java. The variation in colour of the pileum may be partly due to wear (cf. Junge, 1936: 32-33). The existence of these birds removes any need for a transfer of *javana* from Java to Borneo. On comparing our adequate series (64 specimens from Java, 13 from Borneo), I found that a large proportion of birds from Java have the head as pale as birds from Borneo, and indeed show a great resemblance to the bird figured by d'Aubenton. Birds from the two islands are not identical, however, for the mantle of Bornean birds is brighter, more clearly blue, less greenish blue, than that of the Javanese birds. This character, indicated by van Oort, is amply confirmed by the

larger material now available. Incidentally, our material does not support Hoogerwerf's (1963: 151) suggestion that in Borneo there is geographic variation.

Birds from Borneo appear to be separable from *P. c. cyanopteryx* (Oberholser, 1909) of Sumatra on average characters only: Sumatran birds often have a brownish cap and ear-coverts, such as are not found in any of my specimens from Borneo, and males average deeper blue above, darker cinnamon below. None of these characters is very satisfactory, and the status of the various populations requires additional study (cf. Chasen, 1935: 98, footnote 2). Nevertheless, on the basis of the material at present available, I find birds from Sumatra and Borneo sufficiently different to be kept in separate subspecies.

In my opinion, therefore, the nomenclature of the two races should be as follows:

Pelargopsis capensis javana (Boddaert, 1783) — Java.

Pelargopsis capensis innominata (van Oort, 1910) — Borneo: the eleven syntypes of this race are from Bandjermassin (Schwaner), Pontianak (Diard), Pleyhari (Semmelink), upper Kapoeas (Nieuwenhuis), and Sandakan (Prakke).

Halcyon coromanda major (Temminck & Schlegel)

As I have mentioned elsewhere, Delacour (1947) and Smythies (1957, 1960, 1968) have confused the subspecies of this kingfisher (cf. Mees, 1970). Smythies (1957: 660) stated under *H. c. coromanda:* "I have examined a specimen from Lamag dated January 1902 (Graydon coll.) in the British Museum, which is unquestionably of this race". I have borrowed this specimen and found my expectation that it belongs to *H. c. major* confirmed. Measurements of the unsexed bird (BM no. 1908.12.16.40) are: wing 124, tail 66½, culmen from skull 63½, width of culmen across anterior border of nostrils 14 mm. Except for a casual remark by Stresemann (1941: 81) this subspecies has not previously been recorded from Borneo, and appears even to be new to Malaysia (it was not listed by Chasen, 1935).

The main winter range of this subspecies appears to be the Philippines, where it has been recorded from many localities (cf. Rand & Rabor, 1960: 423), and the northern peninsula of Celebes. Middle China and Formosa have been included in its winter quarters (Stresemann, 1941: 81), but in eastern China it is only a rare passage migrant, recorded but a few times from the extreme east (La Touche, 1931: 81-82; Cheng, 1964: 233), and the same is true for Formosa (Hachisuka & Udagawa, 1951: 80; Mees,

1970). On the basis of present knowledge it appears that the main winter range is to the north-east of Malaysia; in north-eastern Borneo the subspecies may occur more frequently than is hitherto apparent, but it is unlikely that it penetrates much farther into Malaysia.

Pitta moluccensis (Statius Müller)

This species is a fairly common winter visitor to Borneo, and it migrates in some numbers through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and the West Sumatran Islands. Recognition of the strong migratory behaviour led Serventy (1968) to a reassessment of two records from coastal north-western Australia in 1927 and 1930, which had previously been dismissed as due to introduction. Benson (1970) recorded a doubtlessly authentic specimen from Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Although Serventy mentioned that *P. moluccensis* "is not ordinarily found in Java", both he and Benson refer to its occasional occurrence in that island, and indeed, its occurrence in Java is an almost necessary prerequisite for the acceptance of the Australian records.

It is therefore necessary to point out that the evidence for the occurrence of *P. moluccensis* in Java is most unsatisfactory; as far as I can find it is based on two records: the type of *Pitta cyanoptera* Temminck, 1823, a synonym of *P. moluccensis,* described from a mounted specimen in the Paris museum, supposedly from Java, and an equally old mounted bird in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt, the provenance of which was questioned by Hartert (1891: 107).

The species has not been mentioned in any list of birds from Java, of which there has been no dearth (cf. Vorderman, 1885, 1901; Dammerman, 1929; Bartels & Stresemann, 1929; Kuroda, 1933, 1936), until Chasen (1935) included Java in its range but without supporting evidence or any other justification. Because of the authoritative character of Chasen's work, this has been accepted unqueried by later workers (Delacour, 1947; Hoogerwerf, 1948, etc.).

Although the occurrence of an occasional straggler of *P. moluccensis* in Java is entirely within the line of expectation, a search of literature did not yield any evidence that the species has ever been found in Java (apart from the two doubtful records mentioned above). Therefore Java has to be eliminated from the known winter-range of *P. moluccensis.*

Considering that the species is known neither from Java, nor from any of the Lesser Sunda Islands, the Australian records become very isolated, and it is my opinion that Serventy has been too positive in accepting them

"without reserve" as genuine, although it is indeed extremely likely that they are.

A possible, alternate explanation is that these birds had flown on board of an east-bound ship somewhere near Sumatra, and thus been carried towards Australia.

Smythies (1957, 1960, 1968) has stated that *P. moluccensis* breeds in western Borneo, quoting Coomans de Ruiter (1938) as his authority, but he has misunderstood Coomans de Ruiter's paper as in it no mention of breeding is made; on the contrary, that author clearly states that he regards the species as a migrant from the Asiatic mainland, not a breeding-bird in Borneo.

Benson (1970) wrote that *P. moluccensis* "occasionally reaches Sumatra and off-shore islands", but that is understating its status in that island, where it was discovered by S. Müller in 1834 and has been collected many times since. We have eleven specimens from Sumatra, obtained by seven different collectors, besides two specimens which had flown on board ships in the Strait of Malacca. It is evident therefore that Sumatra lies within the normal winter range of the species, which makes it even more remarkable that it has never been reliably recorded from Java.

It is questionable that the mangrove-inhabiting *Pitta megarhyncha* Schlegel, with its enormous bill, is conspecific with *P. moluccensis,* although they are undoubtedly closely related, and I prefer to treat each as a monotypic species.

Cecropis striolata striolata (Schlegel)

The original description of this species has been generally quoted as *Hirundo striolata* Temminck & Schlegel (1847: 33), but the correct reference is *Hirundo striolata* Schlegel (1844: 42), where a sufficient description already appears: "In Java lebt eine, der *Hir. capensis* und *rufula* verwandte Art, *Hirundo striolata,* Temm. Mus. Leid., deren Füsse und Schnabel noch kräftiger, die Schaftflecke der Untertheile noch grösser sind, als bei *Hir. capensis,* deren Schwanz aber einfärbig schwärzlich ist, wie bei *Hir. rufula*".

Trichastoma abbotti concretum (Büttikofer)

When Delacour (1946) united the genera *Aethostoma* and *Malacocincla* (subsequently replaced by *Trichastoma*), the name of the bird up to then known as *Malacocincla abbotti büttikoferi* Finsch, 1901, became invalid, being preoccupied in the genus *Trichastoma* by *Trichastoma pyrrhogenys büttikoferi* Vorderman, 1892. Consequently Wynne (1954) renamed the former as

Malacocincla abbotti voousi [1]). The name *voousi* was not accepted by Deignan (1964) who decided that the name *T. abbotti sirense* (Oberholser, 1917) originally given to a bird from Mata Siri, a small island in the Java Sea, was applicable.

I believe, however, that two earlier names should be considered; they are *Myiothera concreta* Büttikofer (ex Müller, MS) and *Myiothera Schwaneri* Büttikofer (ex Temminck, MS), cf. Büttikofer (1895: 79-81). Büttikofer not only described carefully the differences between his specimens and typical *T. abbotti,* he also distinguished between *concreta* and *schwaneri,* the former being larger than the latter, and in my opinion there is, notwithstanding the conditional use of these names, no question as to their availability. All five specimens to which these names were attached are still present in our collection and as first reviser to consider these names, I select *M. concreta* as having priority over *M. schwaneri* and further select the ♂ from Sibau River, 17 June 1894, leg. J. Büttikofer, as lectotype, rather than the two old undated specimens.

Acrocephalus stentoreus lentecaptus Hartert

Two specimens, ♂, ♀, 11 February 1916, Rantau, S. E. Borneo (leg. F. C. E. van der Putten, collector's nos. 22 and 23). Measurements: ♂ wing 79, tail 73, tarsus 27, entire culmen 23, exposed culmen 17 mm. ♀ wing 75, tail 63, tarsus 27½, entire culmen 24½, exposed culmen 19 mm. Wing formula both specimens 2 = 7.

The species is new to the avifauna of Borneo. For comparison I have 15 ♂, 1 ♀ from Java. Wing-length 15 ♂ 73-77 mm, ♀ 72 mm. From this it looks as if Bornean birds are slightly larger. There do not appear to be other significant differences: the Bornean birds show the vent rather yellow, but this is probably due to their not having been cleaned too well, and the effect of fat on the feathers.

The material from Java includes the type of *A. s. siebersi* Salomonsen (RMNH, Aves no. 14051, ex Buitenzorg Mus. no. 3789), and a specimen from Meleman, Res. Malang, East Java, 19 February 1939, previously recorded by Kooiman (1940).

Professor Stresemann has been so kind as to examine one of the speci-

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1) Deignan (1964: 256) quotes Wynne as follows: "*Malacocincla abotti* [sic] *voousi* Wynne, 1955, North Western Naturalist [Arbroath, Scotland], new ser., 3, p. 120". The reprint available to me is dated March 1954, the name appears on pages 123 and 131, and on both places is correctly spelled. Deignan has apparently rejected this earlier name (see also Wynne, 1955: 120), but under the International Code, Art. 13 (iii), it is valid.

mens (♂). He not only confirmed its specific identity, but made also a comparison with the type of *A. s. celebensis* Heinroth, and found that it is extremely similar in plumage characters. It appears, however, that birds from Celebes are decidedly smaller (wing of 2 ♂ 68, 69 mm according to Meyer, 1903; wing 68-71 mm according to Salomonsen, 1929).

Judging from literature, it looks as if the races of *Acrocephalus stentoreus* in the Indo-Australian islands can be divided into two groups: larger birds inhabiting the Philippines, Borneo, Java and Lombok, and smaller birds inhabiting the Celebes, Boeroe, Soemba and from there east to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. In a partial revision of the species, Mayr (1948) has placed all birds inhabiting the region from Soemba to the Solomon Islands and North Queensland under one name. It is not unlikely that birds from Celebes and from Boeroe belong also to this subspecies, in which case the whole agglomerate should bear the name *A. s. celebensis* Heinroth. Note that Salomonsen (1929: 277) did not give a single character that would differentiate *A. s. toxopei* Hartert (Boeroe) from *A. s. meyeri* Stresemann (Bismarck Archipelago).

Within the larger western group of populations there is evidently more geographical variation in size. On the basis of the measurements of our material I would be prepared to separate the Bornean specimens from Javanese *siebersi,* but for *lentecaptus* from Lombok, Salomonsen (1929) gives wing-measurements of 77-81 mm, which agrees well enough with birds from Borneo. As Salomonsen (1929) could not find any difference in plumage characters between *siebersi* and *lentecaptus* and as I could not detect any significant difference between *siebersi* and birds from Borneo, it follows that there is no difference in plumage between *lentecaptus* and birds from Borneo either. As these populations agree also in measurements, I regard it as justified to place the Bornean birds in *lentecaptus.*

It should be realized that the populations from the Philippines, Borneo and Lombok are known from very few individuals only. It is likely that as larger series become available, it will be impossible to maintain all the described subspecies. A specimen from Soembawa recorded by Rensch (1931: 573) under the name *A. s. lentecaptus* had a wing-length of only 76 mm and therefore falls within the range of variation of *A. s. siebersi.*

Only a few years ago I recorded *Crypsirina temia* and *Lanius schach bentet* from the south-eastern corner of Borneo (Mees, 1966), and *Acrocephalus stentoreus* forms another addition to the list of species known in Borneo from this restricted area only.

All species at present known in Borneo from the south-east only are inhabitants of open country, secondary growths, or, as is the case with

Acrocephalus stentoreus, large reeds-beds. The vegetation of this part of Borneo has been described in some detail (Anon., 1939, with maps and photographs). The vegetation-map shows that along the western side of the Meratoes mountains there is an extensive area of swamps, bordered by open cultivated grounds and secondary growths. It shows also that this whole area is (or was very recently) surrounded by heavy forest, which has probably prevented its inhabitants from spreading farther into Borneo.

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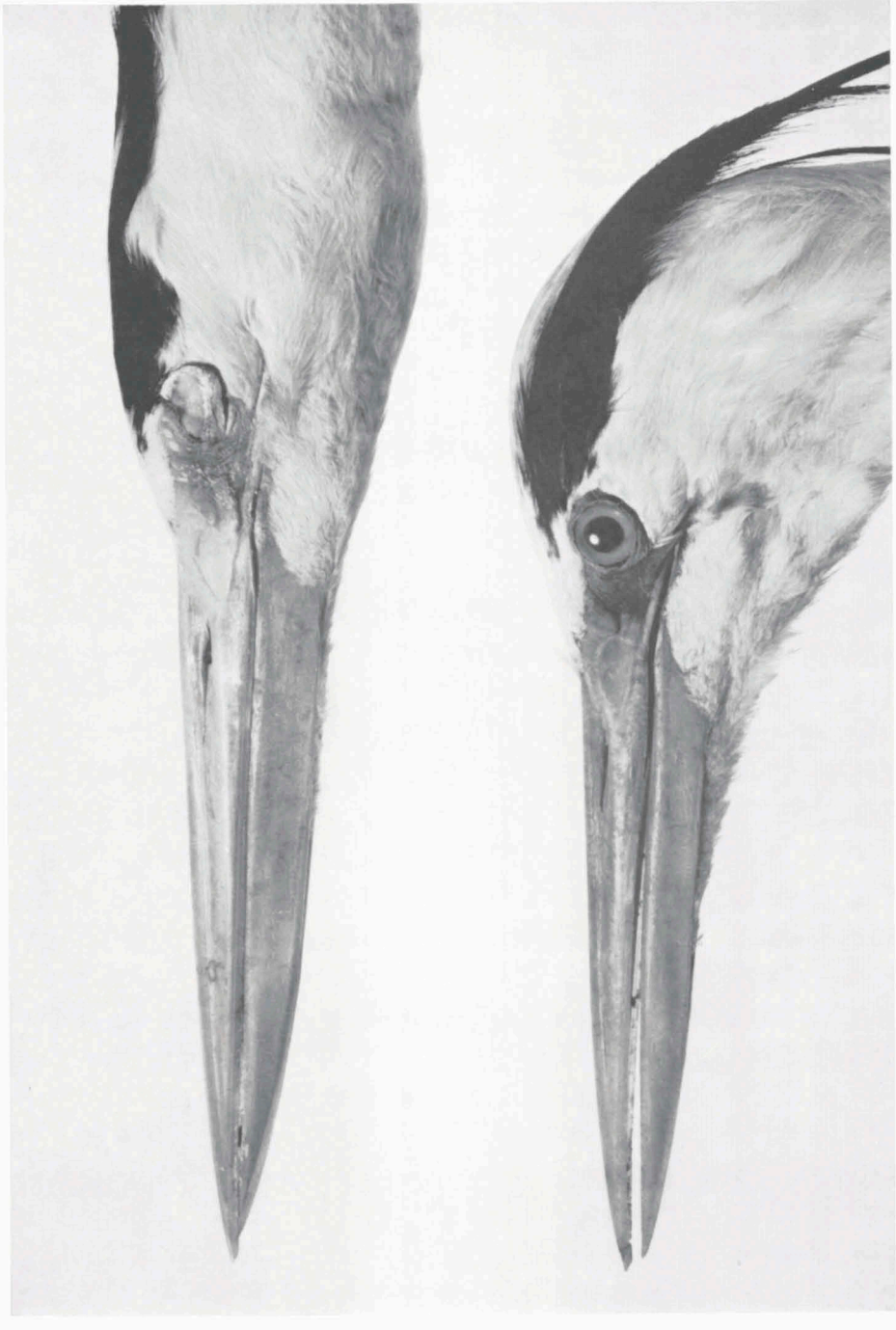

Bills of *Ardea cinerea altirostris*, ♂, holotype, RMNH, no. 28454, from Java (upper figure), and *Ardea cinerea jouyi* ♂, cat. no. 1, from Japan (lower figure), ca. 2/3 × natural size.