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BIRD RECORDS FROM THE MOLUCCAS

by

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Vom 2.-15. August 1876 sammelte Teysmann
Vögel bei Kajeli, wovon niemals eine Liste
publiciert wurde, da sie nach Leiden
gelangten.

E. Stresemann (1914b: 360).

INTRODUCTION

For the past thirty years I have, from time to time, come across bird material and literature records which have added localities and in a few instances have added new species, to Van Bemmél's (1948) list of birds of the Moluccan Islands and its supplement, published five years later (Van Bemmél & Voous, 1953). I have kept notes of these additions with the vague idea of perhaps, some time in the future, publishing a revised edition of the list of the avifauna of the Moluccas, zoogeographically one of the most interesting regions of the world. The sum total of my notes to date would hardly have justified publication, were it not for the fact that a new list of Moluccan birds was in the course of preparation by the late C. M. N. White, and is to be posthumously completed and published (cf. Benson, 1979; Cranbrook, 1980). This made it desirable to have my notes published, so that they will be available for inclusion in the new list.

Ornithological activity in the Moluccas since the publication of Van Bemmél's list has been limited. Many of De Haan's results were already incorporated in the paper by Van Bemmél & Voous (1953); subsequently two new subspecies from his collections were described by Jany (1955). In 1953, an expedition of the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense under the leadership of Mr. A. M. R. Wegner, worked for six weeks on Batjan (9.VI-21.VII), a much longer period on Obi (22.VII-3.XI) and one day on Majau (7.XI). Results were published by Jany (1954, 1955). In 1954, Dr. S. D. Ripley spent several months on the Island of Batjan and a few days on Halmahera (Ripley, 1959a, 1959b, 1960). Towards the end of 1961, Mr. P. Pfeffer made a small collection of birds on Ambon, an island that had been neglected ornithologically (Berlioz & Pfeffer, 1966). In 1971

(19.IV-22.V) a party of students from the Australian National University, Canberra, visited the island of Taam, one of the smaller islands of the Kai (= Key, Kei, Ewab) Group (Schodde & Mathews, 1977). McKean & Estbergs (1980) published a list of birds observed during a stay of three days (14-17.III.1980) on Ambon.

In addition, during this period, papers appeared on collections and observations made earlier. The titles will be found in the bibliography (Eck, Heinrich, Kuroda, White, etc.).

In the list of additions I have not rehashed the new records contained in publications by others; the additions are mainly based on material in the RMNH that had not been previously published (see the quotation from Stresemann above the head of this section), or that had been forgotten. In the past years I have from time to time published such records, usually incidentally in papers dealing with other geographical regions and therefore not easily found. All these, my own records, are included here, with references to where they have been published previously. Also included are several records from older literature that had been overlooked by Van Bemmelen. The titles of the sections "Rejected records" and "New subspecies" speak for themselves. In the bibliography are combined all the references given in the text, and a list of ornithological literature on the Moluccas, published since 1948.

ANNOTATED LIST OF ADDITIONS

***Diomedea chrysostoma* Forster**

Under the name *Diomedea culminata*, a synonym of *D. chrysostoma*, Finsch (1872) and again Finsch & Conrad (1973) recorded two albatrosses captured at sea in the position 1°45'S, 126°35'E, between Lisamantula (= Lifamatola), easternmost of the Sula Islands, and Obi. This interesting record appears to have been overlooked by later authors.

In the above connexion I recall that Van Musschenbroek (1876: 379 and 1883: 136 footnote) recorded observations of albatrosses from the sea to the north and north-east of Celebes. Meyer & Wigglesworth (1898: 914) commented that: "Such birds are of course very likely to appear occasionally off the coast of Celebes".

In view of the importance of the above-mentioned records, I have tried to trace Conrad's specimens, but in this I have been unsuccessful. In spite of Sharpe's (1906: 331) definite statement that he bought: "Capt. Conrad's collection from Siam and other parts of the Malay Archipelago and the Chinese Seas", which gives the impression that he purchased the whole collection, these albatrosses were evidently not included in the transaction for there is no mention of them in the Catalogue of Birds (Salvin, 1896: 451). I thought that the specimens might have remained in Bremen, where Finsch worked at the time,

but information received from Dr. Focke is that the species *Diomedea chrysostoma* is unrepresented in the collection of the Übersee-Museum¹).

The occurrence of *Diomedea chrysostoma* in aequatorial seas is unexpected (cf. Tickell, 1976), but it is one of the most widely distributed members of its genus.

***Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis* (Ridgway)**

♂, 17.IV.1862, Ternate, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 1). This is the bird recorded by Schlegel (1863: 13) under the name *Procellaria leucoptera*, by Salvadori (1882: 466) as *Oestrelata leucoptera* and by Van Bemmél (1948: 401) as *Pterodroma h. heraldica*. In 1956, Dr. W. P. R. Bourne examined the specimen and identified it by the above name; added on the label is the note: "compared in the B. M.", cf. Bourne (1967: 155). There is no comparative material in Leiden, but the specimen agrees very well with the bird figured by Wilson & Evans (1894) under the name of *Oestrelata phaeopygia*. The validity of the subspecies *sandwichensis* has been questioned.

***Phaethon rubricauda* subsp.**

♀, 30.IX.1865, Bay of Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 3). Van Bemmél & Voous (1953) included Ambon in the range of this species on the authority of Valentijn (1726: 322). The mounted specimen is an immature, with black cross-bars all over the upper parts; it had been misidentified as *P. aethereus*.

The nearest known breeding station of this species is Goenoeng Api in the south-western Banda Sea (Van Bemmél & Hoogerwerf, 1940). Van Bemmél assigned birds from that locality to *P. r. westralis* Mathews.

***Sula sula rubripes* Gould**

Additional locality record: ♀, 11.XI.1864, Buru, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 10).

***Sula leucogaster plotus* (Forster)**

Additional locality records: ♂, 26.XI.1864, Soela Besi, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 16); ♂, 16.II.1866, off Batjan, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 19).

¹) Evidence that Conrad's collection was not disposed of as a whole, but was at least partly dispersed comes from our own collection, in which I found the male specimen of *Caprimulgus indicus jotaka* Temminck & Schlegel obtained on 16.XI.1871, 35 miles east of the Natuna Islands, that was described by Finsch & Conrad (1873: 346). According to a note on its label, this bird had been purchased from Finsch in 1874. In the BM Catalogue (Hartert, 1892: 554) only two specimens of *C. i. jotaka* from Conrad are listed. Finsch & Conrad mentioned that they had six specimens, although they described only four. Apparently three specimens remain unaccounted for.

***Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos* (Vieillot)**

Additional locality records: ♂, 14.X.1863, Moti, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 15); ♀, 25.IX.1865, Goram, leg. v. Rosenberg (RMNH cat. no. 19); ♂, IX.1865, Goram, leg. v. Rosenberg (RMNH cat. no. 18).

***Ardea novaehollandiae* Latham**

Additional locality records: ♂, 17.V.1865, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 8); ♂, 9.IX.1873, Ceram, leg. v. Musschenbroek (RMNH cat. no. 9).

These specimens were already recorded by me (Mees, 1975a). The status of the species in the Moluccas remains uncertain; as mentioned by White (1974a), there is no proof of breeding and it may be no more than a straggler from Australia.

***Ardea sumatrana* Raffles**

Additional locality records: ♂, 5.VIII.1862, Obi Major, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 10); ♂, undated, Kelang, leg. Hoedt, received in 1863 (RMNH cat. no. 11). See also Mees (1965b: 148).

***Egretta garzetta nigripes* (Temminck)**

Additional locality records: ♀, 22.XI.1864, Soela Besi, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 17); 2 ♂, VII.1876, Soela Besi, leg. Teysmann (RMNH cat. nos. 18, 19); ♂, 13.IX.1862, Batjan, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 25); ♂, 17.IX.1862, Batjan, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 26); ♀, 11.VII.1863, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 27); ♀, 4.II.1864, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 28); ♂, 22.V.1864, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 29); ♂, IX-XI.1876, Ambon, leg. Teysmann (RMNH cat. no. 30).

***Egretta intermedia* (Wagler)**

Additional locality record: ♀, 19.VII.1864, Hila, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 2). Another specimen from Ambon, ♂, 29.IV.1870, leg. Hoedt, recorded by Pelzeln (1872), was apparently overlooked by Salvadori and Van Bemmelen. None of the described subspecies appears valid (cf. Mees, in prep.).

***Egretta sacra sacra* (Gmelin)**

Additional locality records: ♀, 19.VII.1862, Obi, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 31); ♂, 31.I.1863, Ambelau, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 34).

Bubulcus ibis coromandus (Boddaert)

Additional locality records: ♀ juv., undated, Ambon, leg. Hoedt, received in 1863 (RMNH cat. no. 50); ♂, 1876, Ambon, leg. Teysmann (RMNH cat. no. 51). Also recorded from Taliaboe, Sula Islands (Eck, 1977: 133).

Nycticorax caledonicus hilli Mathews

Additional locality record: ♀ juv., 1863, Boano, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 21).

Dupetor flavicollis gouldi (Bonaparte)

Additional locality record: ♀, 1897, Saparoea, leg. Vorderman (RMNH cat. no. 16). Apparently Vorderman failed to have this specimen identified in time for inclusion in his paper (1898b), for in March 1898 it was received in Leiden under the name of "*Ardea spec?*".

Threskiornis moluccus (Cuvier)

Additional locality record: ♂ juv., first half of 1897, islet off Gisser (= Geser) Island, S.E. of Ceram, leg. Vorderman (RMNH cat. no. 14). This bird was recorded by Vorderman (1898b) under the name *Ibis melanocephala*.

In the Moluccas this species appears to be singularly restricted in its distribution. The existence of a breeding colony in the neighbourhood of Wahai on the north coast of Ceram is beyond question (cf. Stresemann, 1914a: 64), but apart from the specimen listed above and one ♂ juv. from Great Kai (cf. Hartert, 1901: 99) I know of no records from elsewhere in the Moluccas. In spite of its scientific name, the type locality of *T. moluccus* is probably Waigeo, one of the western Papuan islands (cf. Stresemann, 1953: 94).

Quite apart from the question as to whether *T. moluccus* is conspecific with *T. aethiopicus* and *T. melanocephalus*, about which extant controversies have not yet been solved, there is no agreement on how the subspecies of *T. moluccus* (s. s.) differ. Mayr (1931) as well as Amadon & Woolfenden (1952) considered the difference between *T. m. moluccus* and *T. m. strictipennis* to be exclusively a matter of size, the Australian subspecies *strictipennis* being larger. Mayr mentioned that birds from south-eastern New Guinea were intermediate in size between the two subspecies, whereas Amadon & Woolfenden included the whole of southern New Guinea in the range of *strictipennis*. Gyldenstolpe (1955: 210) had not much confidence in the size-characters and doubted the validity of *strictipennis*, as did Frith & Hitchcock (1974: 120), who provided measurements of Australian birds to show that these did not differ greatly from published measurements of alleged *moluccus*; having no Moluccan specimens, these authors left the question at that. Holyoak (1970a) gave no measurements at all but claimed that: "*T. molucca strictipennis* differs from adults of the nominate race mainly in having the shafts of the secondary wing feathers black, not white".

TABLE I
Measurements of *Threskiornis moluccus*

Sex	Date	Locality	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill	Cat. no
Moluccas and Papuan Islands							
♂	13.iii.1865	Kalwal, Salawati	355	108	98	174	7
♀ juv.	13.iii.1865	Kalwal, Salawati	340	103	81	135	8
♂ (= ♀)	21.iii.1865	Kalwal, Salawati	355	113	91	146	9
-juv.	received 1862	Wahai, Ceram	350	120	95	155	5
♀ juv.	5.iv.1863	Waigeo	340	108	80	136	6
♂ juv.	1897	off Gisser	—	123	85	165	14
South New Guinea							
♂	6.ix.1909	Noord (= Lorenz) R.	370	123	95	181	15
♂	13.ix.1909	Noord (= Lorenz) R.	375	120	99	174	16
Australia							
♂	—	Australia	385	140	97	189	1
♀	—	Australia	350	114	91	152	2
-juv. (♀)	—	Australia	390	134	107	147	3
-juv. (♂)	—	Australia	370	122	100	190	4
-ad. (♂)	—	Lake Elphinstone, Q.	370	129	111	198	10
-juv. (♀)	—	Bowen, Q.	360	119	100	152	11
-juv. (♀)	—	Bowen, Q.	350	103	93	150	12
♀	—	"Australia" (from captivity)	370	127	99	152	13

An important development is that there is now proof that Australian breeding birds visit New Guinea (Carrick, 1962; Purchase, 1976). Indeed, it becomes doubtful whether *T. moluccus* breeds in southern New Guinea or is only a visitor from Australia.

The material available to me is very limited, but so was that on which the authors mentioned above based their contradictory conclusions. Measurements of material in our collection are given in the table. The measurements do indeed suggest that birds from Australia and southern New Guinea are slightly larger than specimens from the Moluccas and Papuan Islands. However, several specimens are juvenile, and in the case of some birds (cat. no. 9) there is a strong suspicion of missexing, as a culmen of 146 mm is certainly much too short for an adult male. Gyldenstolpe (1955: 209, 359) recorded an adult female from Terminaboean, Vogelkop, with a wing-length of 351 mm and an adult female from Waifo, Waigeo, with a wing-length of only 340 mm. On the other hand a male from Waigeo, measured by Stresemann & Paludan (in Rothschild et al., 1932: 180) had a wing-length of 377 mm. These further data lead me to agree with Gyldenstolpe and Frith & Hitchcock, that such differences in size as may exist between *moluccus* and *strictipennis*, are too slight to justify the retention of the latter.

There remains the character put forward by Holyoak: in my material, which is sufficient to enable me to be positive about the point, there is a lot of individual variation in colour of the shafts of the secondaries, but no appreciable geographical variation.

The ranges of *T. melanocephalus* and *T. moluccus* approach each other much closer than indicated by Holyoak, who both in the text and on the distributional map ignored the occurrence of *T. melanocephalus* in Java, where it is a resident that has been recorded nesting on numerous occasions.

Note. In much of the literature the gender of *Threskiornis* is treated as feminine (*T. molucca*, etc.), see for example the Australian Checklist (Condon, 1975: 62) and its supplement (RAOU Checklist Amendment Committee, 1978), but the International Code expressly rules that generic names ending in -ornis take the masculine gender (cf. Stoll et al., 1961: 31).

Anas gibberifrons gracilis Buller

Additional locality record: ♂, 6.VII.1865, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 15).

Apart from Ambon, this species is known in the Moluccas from the Kai Islands: ♀, 1.V.1898, Oen close to Toel (cf. Hartert, 1903: 254). I cannot find that an island of the name Oen exists; there are, however, an island Oet and an island Oer near Klein Kai, and I suppose that Oer was meant (cf. Planten, 1892).

Ripley (1942), followed by Van Bemmelen (1948: 395) and Delacour (1956: 76) recorded *A. g. gibberifrons* from the Sula Islands, but I have been unable to find on what this is based, although I have a strong suspicion. Ripley (l. c.) examined a specimen from Peleng, Banggai Islands, a group of islands more or less contiguous with the Sula Islands; I note that under the heading Range, Ripley lists the Sula Islands, but makes no mention of the Banggai Islands. Probably he has included the latter in the former and that is how the erroneous record from the Sula Islands (where the species might very well occur) came into existence. In Eck's (1976) otherwise excellent enumeration of the birds known from the Banggai Islands, *A. gibberifrons* is not mentioned.

I have identified the specimen from Ambon as *A. g. gracilis*, as it does not show a swollen forehead, so characteristic of especially males of the nominate race. Admittedly preparators frequently manage to conceal this character in skins and mounts, but in the present specimen some of the bone structure of the forehead is present. Furthermore it is of a large size; the wing measures 211 mm. Phillips (1924: 262, 266) gave for males of *A. g. gibberifrons* from Celebes wing-lengths of 175-190 mm, for *A. g. gracilis* (s. n. *A. g. mathewsi*) "up to 209 mm". Ripley for males of the nominate race (s. n. *A. castanea gibberifrons*) 181-200.5 (190.8) mm, for *A. g. gracilis* (s. n. *A. castanea mathewsi*) 194-209.5 mm. Delacour (1956: 75-76) for the nominate race 181-200 mm, for *A. g. gracilis* 194-210 mm (copied from Ripley?). Eleven adult males from Java in our collection are rather larger: 193,

195, 199, 199, 200, 200, 204, 204, 205, 206, 208 (201.2) mm. Thus, the average found by me is larger than the maximum recorded by previous authors. Even so the specimen from Ambon exceeds them in size, confirming its identity as *A. g. gracilis*.

***Aviceda subcristata reinwardtii* (Müller & Schlegel)**

Since Berlepsch (1911: 81), Ceram is regarded as the type-locality of this subspecies. The types, however, were collected by Reinwardt, who never visited Ceram (cf. Reinwardt, 1858: 451). The islands within the range of this subspecies visited by Reinwardt are Ambon and the Oeliassers, where he stayed from 27 June to 12 August 1821. Most of this time was spent on Ambon, where many natural history specimens, including birds, were obtained (cf. Bik, 1864: 148). Therefore, Ambon may safely be accepted as the type-locality of *A. s. reinwardtii*; see also Rothschild & Hartert (1915: 48). Besides the types, our collection contains 20 specimens from Ambon (leg. Forsten, Bernstein, Hoedt, v. Rosenberg, Teysmann, v. Dedem and Kopstein), evidence that *A. s. reinwardtii* is common on the island.

***Hieraaetus kienerii formosus* Stresemann**

Ad., ♂, IV.1875, Ternate, leg. v. Musschenbroek (RMNH cat. no. 2). The bird has a wing-length of 347 mm.

The nearest records of this scarce species are from northern Celebes. Stresemann (1940: 472) knew of only three specimens from the Celebes, but he overlooked Vorderman's (1898a: 32-33) paper, in which a male with a wing-length of 330 mm, and therefore definitely referable to the present subspecies, is described, s. n. *Lophotriorchis kieneri*. This bird was collected near Roeroekan, Minahasa, in 1897.

***Falco peregrinus calidus* Latham**

♂, 4.IV.1862, Ternate, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 38); "♀ ad." = ♂, not dated, Ceram, presented by v. Rosenberg in 1868 (RMNH cat. no. 39).

Van Bemmelen (1948: 391) listed the islands Ternate and Ceram under *Falco peregrinus* subsp., adding in a footnote: "Migrant. Subspecies unidentified". This was reason enough to re-examine the two specimens listed above, which constitute the only records of the Peregrine Falcon from the Moluccas. These same specimens had previously been studied by Schlegel (1873: 33) and Salvadori (1880: 32). Their greyish upperparts and mainly white, sparsely spotted underparts show that both birds may safely be referred to *F. p. calidus*.

Whereas the authenticity of the Ternate specimen is above suspicion (Schlegel, 1866: 44-45, provided the additional information that it had been: "pris au filet, lors de la pêche, à la plage de Ternate"), that of the bird from

Ceram may well be doubted. It bears no date of collecting; underneath the sole it is merely marked as having been received from Rosenberg in 1868. The wings, tail and feet (nails) are all in a poor, frayed, condition, showing that the bird has been held in captivity for some time. The wings measure only about 275 mm and although in an undamaged condition they would certainly have been considerably longer, its general size shows conclusively that the bird is a male and not an adult female as its label says. The specimen from Ternate has a wing-length of 310 mm.

***Coturnix chinensis lineata* (Scopoli)**

Additional locality record: ♀, 22.I.1868, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 4).

***Pluvialis squatarola* (Linnaeus)**

Additional locality record: ♀, 28.XII.1922, Poeloe Pombo, an islet off the north-eastern tip of Ambon, leg. Kopstein (RMNH cat. no. 88). For some reason this specimen is not mentioned in Stresemann's (1934) article on the collections made by Kopstein.

***Tringa glareola* Linnaeus**

Additional locality record: ♀, 17.XI.1864, Soela Besi, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 52); ♂, 18.XI.1864, Soela Besi, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 53). Reported from Taliaboe by Eck (1977).

***Gallinago stenura* Swinhoe**

♂, 18.XI.1864, Buru, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 28). This species was not recorded from the Moluccas by Van Bemmelen, but the specimen has been mentioned by Mees (1970: 294)¹.

***Calidris canutus canutus* (Linnaeus)**

♂, 13.XI.1865, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 2). I cannot find any other records of this species from the Moluccas, which is surprising as it is a fairly common winter visitor to Australia and New Zealand.

¹) It might cause surprise that Hoedt obtained specimens of *Tringa glareola* on the Sula Islands on the same dates that he collected *Gallinago stenura* and *Glareola maldivarum* on Buru. An original list in our archives shows, however, that this is correct, and an accompanying letter (dated Ambon, 1.IX.1865) provides the explanation: in the second half of 1864, Hoedt had chartered a small schooner, in which he and his four hunters visited Buru and Soela Besi. The high cost of the schooner forced him to return fairly soon, but he left two of his hunters on the Sula Islands, to continue collecting on Soela Besi and also on Soela Mangoli. The expedition brought home 143 birds from the Sula Islands, 229 from Buru, and 15 from Ambelau.

***Limicola falcinellus sibirica* Dresser**

Additional locality record: ♂ ad., Ambon, leg. Wallace (cf. Sharpe, 1896: 615).

***Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus* Gould**

Additional locality record: ♀, 2.XI.1864, Buru, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 27).

***Glareola maldivarum* Forster**

♀, 17.XI.1864, Buru, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 20). This is the first reliable record from the Moluccas. The species was not mentioned by Van Bemmelen, and White (1975a) knew of no record either.

***Chlidonias hybridus javanicus* (Horsfield)**

The locality Waihai, Ceram, given by Van Bemmelen for this species is erroneous, having been based on a misidentified specimen of the following species. The alleged breeding on reefs off Buru is attributable to confusion with *Sterna sumatrana* (cf. Mees, 1977b: 10-12).

What remains of this species in the Moluccas is single records, over a century old, from Buru and Ambon, and an undated but certainly more recent record from Halmahera (cf. Kuroda Jr., 1953: 101).

***Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temminck)**

Three specimens are known to me from the Moluccas: ♂ im., XI.1909, Waihai, Ceram, leg. Stalker (BM no. 1910.12.12.38), erroneously recorded under the name *Hydrochelidon leucopareia fluviatilis* (which equals *Chlidonias hybridus javanicus*) by Stresemann (1914a: 56); ♂, late 1911, Tobelo, Halmahera, leg. A. Hueting (RMNH reg. no. 2479), cf. Mees (1977b: 12); ♂, 5.IV.1937, Halmahera (cf. Kuroda Jr., 1953).

McKean & Estbergs (1980) mentioned a flock of over 500 birds of this species, observed over the sea near Liang, Ambon, around the middle of March 1980.

***Sterna sumatrana sumatrana* Raffles**

Additional locality record: ♀, 19.VII.1862, Obi Major, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 15); ♀, 21.VII.1862, Obi Major, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 16); ♂, ♀, ♂ juv., 29.VII. 1862, Obi Major, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. nos. 17, 18, 19). The juvenile would certainly not have been able to fly and proves breeding on (or more likely on islets off) Obi, as do eggs in our collection, also obtained by Bernstein.

Proof of breeding exists also for reefs off N. W. Buru, where an egg was collected by Martin on 10.VI.1892 (cf. Mees, 1977b: 10-11).

***Sterna bernsteini* Schlegel**

♂, 22.XI.1861, Kaoe, Halmahera, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 1), type of the species. A valid species, mistakenly placed as a synonym of *S. bergii cristata* by Van Bemmelen (1948: 381), cf. Mees (1975b).

I take this opportunity to mention that the American Museum of Natural History possesses four specimens of this rare and possibly extinct species: three unsexed and undated birds from Kiautschou, collected by Sergeant W. Engler in 1903-1905 (previously recorded by Kleinschmidt, 1913: 35), and one undated bird, without collector's name, from Chefoo. When I prepared my paper on this species I overlooked the bird from Chefoo, which extends the range (and the possible breeding range) into the Yellow Sea, although several years earlier Dr. Vaurie (in litt., 7.XII.1966) had informed me of its existence. The long delay in completion of my paper caused me to forget Dr. Vaurie's letter.

***Macropygia amboinensis albiceps* Bonaparte**

Macropygia albiceps Bonaparte, 1856, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, 43: 19, 26 (in reprint) — Ternate.

Macropygia albiceps Bonaparte, 1855, Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris, 39: 27 (in reprint) — nomen nudum.

Birds from Ternate, usually included in *M. a. batchianensis* Wallace, will have to be known by this name.

***Ducula rosacea* (Temminck)**

Additional locality record: ♂, 3.VIII.1865, Groot Kai, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 20).

***Ducula melanura melanura* (G. R. Gray)**

Additional locality record: ♂, 9.XI.1863, Weda, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 19).

***Ducula melanura siebersi* van Bemmelen**

Additional locality record: ♂, 12/20.X.1876, Hila, Ambon, leg. Teysmann (RMNH cat. no. 37). The locality Ambon was given with a question mark by Van Bemmelen (1948: 376).

***Tanygnathus megalorynchos megalorynchos* (Boddaert)**

Add to the synonymy:

Tanygnathus megalorhynchos insularum Jany, 1955, J. f. Orn., 96: 103 — Majau.

The sole character on which this subspecies was based, was its longer tail, compared with the nominate race which is known to occur on the islands to the North, West and East of Majau. According to Jany (1955), the measurements are for *T. m. insularum*, wing 248-255, tail 162-166 mm, and for *T. m. megalorynchos*, wing 243-253, tail 147-158 mm. The material available to Jany consisted of 3♂ of *insularum*; he did not mention how many specimens of the nominate race he had for comparison. In my experience tail-length is a very variable and therefore always somewhat tricky character, that can only be used when either large series of measurements are available, or the difference is very convincing. I have measured a number of specimens in our collection, and found for 18♂ from the North Moluccas tail-lengths of 143-157, one specimen 163 mm, 8♂ from the Sanghir Islands tails 144-159 mm. This would appear to support Jany's findings. However, Dr. Somadikarta has been so kind to re-measure the three specimens on which the subspecies was based and concluded that the measurements published by Jany are inaccurate. Measurements provided by Dr. Somadikarta are:

Reg. no.	21503	21504	21505
Wing (mm)	245	250	243
Tail (mm)	159	158	159
Bill (mm)	50	51	52
Weight (g)	440	500	490

Thus, both wing and tail are shorter than the measurements recorded by Jany for these same specimens, and are within the range of variation of the nominate race. Incidentally, the reg. no. of the type is 21503, not 21520 as published by Jany.

***Cuculus micropterus micropterus* Gould**

♀, 6.XI.1861, Ternate, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 7). The bird is still partially in the barred juvenile plumage; its identification is undoubtedly correct. It was first recorded by Schlegel (1864: 12), and subsequently by Salvadori (1880: 331) and Finsch (1901: 108). Its omission by Van Bemmelen must be due to an oversight.

***Cuculus saturatus saturatus* Blyth**

Additional locality records: 4♀, 1.V, 12.X, 7.XI and 7.XI.1861, Ternate, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. nos. 24, 25, 26, 42); ♀, 6.VI.1874, Ternate, leg. v. Musschenbroek (RMNH cat. no. 27); ♂, 29.X.1863, Ambon, leg. Hoedt

(RMNH cat. no. 21); 4 ♀, 27.IX, 3.XI, 5.XI and 19.XI.1866, Ambon, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. nos. 19, 20, 22, 23); ♀, 12.X.1922, Ambon, leg. Kopstein (RMNH cat. no. 49).

The wings of the above specimens measure 180-190 mm, and therefore are definitely within the range of variation of the nominate race. Stresemann (1934) listed two cuckoos of this species from Ambon, collected by Kopstein, s. n. *Cuculus optatus* Gould; the one listed above belongs to *C. s. saturatus* (wing 185 mm), but the other specimen is *C. s. horsfieldi* Moore (wing 203 mm). Excluding a ♂ from Ceram with a wing-length of ca. 195 mm which might belong to either subspecies, our collection contains 15 specimens of the nominate race from the Moluccas, and 18 of *C. s. horsfieldi*, so that there is little evidence that the former would be less common than the latter. It is perhaps significant that of the 15 specimens of the nominate race, 3 are sexed as males, 12 as females; in *horsfieldi*: 10♂, 7♀ (one of unknown sex). Only in the nominate race, there is a suggestion that females outnumber males in this part of the winter quarters.

***Apus pacificus pacificus* (Latham)**

Nine specimens were collected by Heinrich on Halmahera, on 8 and 9.IV.1931, as first reported by Stresemann (1931) and later by Heinrich (1956) himself. Overlooked by Van Bemmelen, but listed by White (1976a).

***Hemiprocne mystacea mystacea* (Lesson)**

Synonym: *H. m. confirmata* Stresemann, the name used by Van Bemmelen (cf. Mees, 1964a: 11).

Additional locality record: ♀, 1863, Boano, leg. Hoedt (RMNH cat. no. 4).

***Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii* Meyer**

This name replaces the names *C. m. kuehni*, *C. m. mesophanis* and *C. m. schillmöllerii* listed by Van Bemmelen (1948: 362) as well as *C. m. obiensis* Jany (1955: 106), see Mees (1977a: 26-36).

***Alcedo meninting meninting* Horsfield**

The first reference to the occurrence of this species in the Moluccas is by Peters (1945: 174), who without explanation included the Sula Islands in its range. Three years later, Van Bemmelen (1948: 358) gave the more precise locality Taliabu (= Taliaboe), one of the islands of the Sula Group, but again without explanation of what this was based on. As the Museum of Comparative Zoology, where Peters worked, possesses material from the Sula Islands collected by Mendenhall, it was an obvious guess that the record was based on an otherwise unpublished specimen in that institute, and this was confirmed by Dr. Paynter (in

litt., 9.I.1979): "The specimen of *Alcedo m. meninting* is MCZ No. 269,533, ♂, 2 Oct. 1938, Taliabu, J. J. Menden".

***Halcyon diops diops* (Temminck)**

Additional locality record: ♂, 9.VI.1863, Weda, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 25).

***Merops ornatus* Latham**

Additional locality records: ♂, 1863, Weda, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 35); ♂, 16.VIII.1864, Kajoa, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 50).

***Coracina papuensis melanolora* (G. R. Gray)**

Additional locality record: ♂, 6.X.1863, Moti, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 33). The specimen was mentioned by Mees (1972: 82 footnote).

***Piezorhynchus alecto alecto* (Temminck)**

Additional locality records: ♂, 26.I.1863, Moor, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 21a); ♀, 11.III.1863, Mare, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 15a); ♂, 17.III.1863, Mare, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 14a); 2 ♂, 2 and 3.VII.1863, Damar, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. nos. 22a, 23a); ♀, 5.X.1863, Moti, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 17a); ♂, 9.X.1863, Moti, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 16a). The occurrence on these islands around Halmahera, underlines the preference this species has for the habitat provided by small islands, and for coastal vegetations in general.

***Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis* (Temminck & Schlegel)**

Additional locality record: ♂, 17.XI.1900, Ambon (cf. Heinroth, 1903: 114); ♂ and ♀, 9 and 21.XI.1961, Ambon (cf. Berlioz & Pfeffer, 1966: 918). All Van Bemmels' records are from the North Moluccas.

***Pachycephala pectoralis mentalis* Wallace**

Add to the synonymy:

Pachycephala pectoralis gilolonis Kuroda, 1938, Tori, 10: 114 — Halmahera or Gilolo.

***Nectarinia jugularis frenata* S. Müller**

Add to the synonymy:

Cyrtostomus frenatus hachisuka Mathews, 1926, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 47: 67 — Obi Island.

The above synonym was omitted by Van Bemmels, for which reason I list it here. To the uninitiated, not familiar with the way Mathews used to work, it

may not be at once obvious why in his description Mathews compared this bird with *N. j. flavigaster* from New Ireland, but made no mention at all of *N. j. frenata*, to which Moluccan birds, including those from Obi, had always and correctly been considered to belong.

***Erythrura trichroa modesta* Wallace**

Add to the synonymy:

Erythrura phoenicura Bernstein, 1864, Tijdschr. Ind. Taal-, Land- en Volkenk., 14: 403 — Ternate (nomen nudum).

Additional locality record: ♂, 10.XI.1863, Tidore, leg. Bernstein (RMNH cat. no. 17).

REJECTED RECORDS

Pterodroma heraldica heraldica (Salvin)

As explained on a previous page, the specimen on which this record was based has been re-identified as *Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*.

Dendrocygna arcuata (Horsfield)

Reasons for the removal of this species from the Moluccan list have been given by White (1977b: 99).

Anas gibberifrons gibberifrons S. Müller

See the discussion of the record from the Sula Islands in the preceding text, under *A. gibberifrons gracilis*.

Scolopax rochussenii Schlegel

Voous (1950) referred to the occurrence of this species on Halmahera: "Mr. de Haan, who will continue collecting in Halmahera, has informed us that he has obtained the rare endemic species of Woodcock, *Neoscolopax rochussenii* also". As de Haan's collecting activities were financed by Mr. J. G. van Marle, I asked Mr. van Marle, since deceased, whether he had any material of *S. rochussenii* in his collection. Mr. van Marle was so kind as to give me a list of all the Moluccan material in his collection, received from de Haan, and *S. rochussenii* is not amongst it. There is, however, a specimen of *Gallinago megala* from Halmahera and it appears likely that de Haan, without literature and knowing that an endemic snipe occurs in the Moluccas, in the first flush of excitement, in a private letter not intended for publication, took it for *S. rochussenii*. On present evidence, *S. rochussenii* is confined to Obi and Batjan.

Eos goodfellowi Ogilvie-Grant

This name has kept pens busy in recent years. According to Holyoak (1970b) it would have been based on juveniles of *E. bornea*; he also mentioned that this identification had been previously suggested by Siebers (1930). This, however, is incorrect for Siebers's (1930: 257) conclusion was: "*Eos goodfellowi* wird wahrscheinlich ein junger *obiensis* mit stark blaugetönten Ohrdecken sein". With *obiensis* he meant the bird now known as *Eos squamata obiensis*. Auber (1938: 709) strongly supported Siebers's identification, but as he regarded *E. bornea* and *E. squamata* as conspecific, he listed *E. goodfellowi* as a synonym of *E. bornea obiensis*.

Walters (1975) disagreed with Holyoak; he advanced the hypothesis that *E. goodfellowi* would be a valid species, although he wisely added: "until further specimens can be obtained, the true status of *E. goodfellowi* can never be proved". He repeated the incorrect remarks about Siebers, which he probably copied from Holyoak without having personally consulted Siebers's paper.

This elicited a reply from Holyoak (1976) who once more advanced evidence that *E. goodfellowi* is a synonym of *E. bornea*. Once more he gave the incorrect reference to Siebers and inter alia accused Peters (1937: 147) of having overlooked the identification that Siebers never made!

To me it appears most unlikely that *E. goodfellowi* is a valid species; once this is accepted, the question of its exact identity becomes unimportant. My personal inclination would be to back Siebers and Auber.

Cuculus canorus Linnaeus

The one specimen recorded by Van Bemmél (1948: 366) under this name proved to be *C. s. saturatus* (cf. Mees, 1979).

Muscicapa latirostris latirostris Raffles

This species was listed for Halmahera by Van Bemmél (1948: 346), with in a footnote a reference to Stresemann (1941: 77) and the remark: "Rare visitor in the Moluccas". White (1977a) commented that he had been unable to trace the basis for Van Bemmél's record, but as was made clear by Van Bemmél in the place indicated, it was based on Stresemann (l. c.) who recorded *M. latirostris*: "Als seltener Irrgast auf den Philippinen, Celebes, Molukken". Dr. Van Bemmél presented the card index from which he prepared the Moluccan list to our museum years ago, but under *M. latirostris* the only reference given is the one to Stresemann, so that it remains unclear why he has restricted Stresemann's general remark to Halmahera. All this is not of much help. In our collection there are no specimens of *M. latirostris* from east of Borneo. Having failed to trace any authentic record of this species from the Moluccas, I assume that Stresemann's casual inclusion of these islands in its winter range is a slip.

NEW SUBSPECIES DESCRIBED FROM THE MOLUCCAS SINCE 1948

Zosterops chloris majauensis Jany, 1955: 102 — Gunung Pasir (200 m), Majau = *Zosterops chloris chloris* Bonaparte, cf. Mees, 1961: 16-17.

Oriolus chinensis saani Jany, 1955: 103 — Gunung Pasir (200 m), Majau.

Pachycephala phaeonota stresemanni Jany, 1955: 103 — Majau = *Pachycephala phaionota* (Bonaparte), cf. Mees, 1965b: 188.

Monarcha cinerascens pulaudua Jany, 1955: 103 — Majau = probably *Monarcha cinerascens commutatus* Brüggemann, which itself may be a synonym of the nominate race, cf. Mees, 1965b: 185.

Tanygnathus megalorhynchus insularum Jany, 1955: 103 — Majau = *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus megalorhynchus* (Boddaert), cf. this article, and Forshaw, 1973: 187.

Eos squamata atrocaerulea Jany, 1955: 103 — Majau = *Eos squamata riciniata* (Bechstein), cf. Mees, 1965b: 161.

Tanysiptera galatea brunhildae Jany, 1955: 104 — Doi.

Ptilinopus melanocephalus loloda Jany, 1955: 104 — Doi = *Ptilinopus melanospilos loloda* Jany.

Edolisoma morio hoogerwerfi Jany, 1955: 104 — Obi.

Chamosyna placensis brevipennis Jany, 1955: 105 — Laiwui auf Obi = *Chamosyna placensis intensior* (Kinnear), cf. Forshaw, 1973: 92.

Cacomantis variolosus obiensis Jany, 1955: 105 — Laiwui auf Obi = *Cacomantis variolosus major* Salvadori, cf. Mees, 1965b: 169; birds from Obi in our collection do not differ from other North Moluccan specimens. There is much individual variation in colour.

Caprimulgus macrurus obiensis Jany, 1955: 106 — Obi = *Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii* Meyer, cf. Mees, 1977a: 33.

Otus magicus obira Jany, 1955: 106 — Madopolo auf Obi-Bisa.

Megaloprepia formosa micra Jany, 1955: 106 — Obi = *Ptilinopus bernsteinii micra* (Jany), cf. White, 1977b.

Turnix maculosa obiensis Sutter, 1955a: 220 — Laiwui, Obi.

Corvus enca mangoli Vaurie, 1958: 3 — Sula Mangoli, cf. Eck, 1975.

Collocalia esculenta nubila Ripley, 1959a: 4 — Achango, Halmahera = *Collocalia esculenta esculenta* (Linnaeus), cf. Mees, 1965b: 172.

Nectarinia jugularis robustirostris Mees, 1964a: 23 — Soela Besi.

Tanysiptera galatea boanensis Mees, 1964b: 125 — Boano.

Nectarinia sericea auricapilla Mees, 1965a: 50 — Kajoa = *Nectarinia aspasia auricapilla* Mees, cf. Mees, 1966.

Anthreptes malacensis extremus Mees, 1966: 255 — Soela Besi.

Halcyon coromanda sulana Mees, 1970: 300 — Soela Besi.

Prioniturus platurus sinerubris Forshaw, 1971: 163 — Wai Koka, Taliabu, Sula Islands.

Hemiprocne longipennis dehaani Somadikarta, 1975: 123 — Sanana, Sulabesi, Sula Islands = *Hemiprocne longipennis wallacei* (Gould), cf. Eck, 1977.

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