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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE AVIFAUNA OF MISOOL

by

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With 1 text-figure

INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of my paper on the avifauna of Misool (Mees, 1965), no ornithological work has been done on the island, but a record of one additional species has come to my notice. This raises the number of species now known from the island to 166 (168 forms). The previous paper contained an enumeration of material in our collection; in subsequent years I have found a few more specimens and although these do not add anything of significance to the knowledge of the avifauna of Misool, they will be listed here for the sake of completeness. The Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam, possesses a few bird skins from Misool and these have also been included. Some of the skins of the Zoölogisch Museum bear no data other than the name of the island; these specimens have been mounted and, evidently for that reason, have had their original labels removed. As all except one belong to species well known to occur on Misool, I have listed them without comment. The one exception, a bird not otherwise known from Misool, will be listed at the end of this article as a doubtful record.

For information and for access to material under their care I am indebted to Mr. I. C. J. Galbraith (British Museum (Natural History), Sub-department of Ornithology, Tring), Dr. S. D. Ripley (Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.), Dr. C. Sibley (Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, Connecticut), Dr. J. Wattel and Mr. C. S. Roselaar (Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam).

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

***Gallinago megala* Swinhoe**

Gallinago megala Swinhoe, 1861, Ibis, 3: 343 — by inference several localities in eastern China.

An unsexed adult bird was recorded by Sharpe (1896: 626). Mr. Galbraith (in litt., 9.VI.1977) informed me that the specimen is still present in the British Museum collection: "we have the *Gallinago megala* from Mysol. It is our no. 73.5.12.2284, labelled as having been collected there in 1860 by A. R. Wallace". The actual collector must, of course, have been C. Allen.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS IN LEIDEN (RMNH) AND AMSTERDAM (ZMA)

Ptilinopus superbis superbis (Temminck): ♂, Misool, 22.I.1900 (Kühn, ZMA reg. no. 4192).

Ptilinopus viridis pectoralis (Wagler): ♂, Misool, 10.I.1900 (Kühn, ZMA reg. no. 4189).

Ducula myristicivora myristicivora (Scopoli): ♀, Misool, 5.VI.1868 (Hoedt, ZMA). The specimen has an original label which, although not giving the name of the collector, is in Hoedt's very clear handwriting. It constitutes the only ornithological evidence I have traced that Hoedt revisited Misool in 1868, but actually there is supporting evidence that he did (cf. van Steenis-Kruseman, 1950: 235-236). Probably this was only a passing visit and the number of birds collected must have been small and perhaps confined to one or more shot for food.

Ducula pinon pinon (Quoy & Gaimard): sex?, without further particulars (purchased from Schlüter, RMNH cat. no. 47).

Chalcopsitta atra bernsteini Rosenberg: ♂, Adoa, 1.V.1867 (Hoedt, ZMA); sex?, Misool, without further data (ZMA reg. no. 282).

Trichoglossus haematodus haematodus (Linnaeus): ♂, Adoa, 30.V.1867; ♀, Adoa, 6.V.1867 (Hoedt, RMNH cat. nos. 30, 31); sex?, Waigama, VIII.1876 (Teysmann, RMNH cat. no. 78).

Greenway (1978: 70) has resuscitated *T. h. berauensis* Cain (1955: 433) for birds from the western half of New Guinea and the Papuan Islands, with the following explanation: "*Trichoglossus haematodus berauensis* differs in having the green of back, tail, and belly darker, as is the blue of the head, as Cain noted, and the differences are quite apparent". Previously, I had "been unable to find any difference that would justify recognition of *berauensis*" (Mees, 1965: 164). In view of these conflicting opinions I have once more studied our adequate material from the range of *haematodus/berauensis*. The material available to me was geographically divided as follows: Buru (16), Ambon (type locality of the nominate race, 18), Ceram (8), Pulu Pandjang (1), Matabello = Watoebela (2), Tijoor = Tioör (2), Waigeo (13), Batanta (1), Misool (10), Salawati (5), New Guinea mainland (48, including four from Doreh = Manokwari, type locality of *berauensis*), Miosnoem (1), Japen (3). In spite of Greenway, I must affirm my previous

opinion, which is shared by Forshaw (1973: 58). In particular I want to stress that in my material there is not even a suggestion of birds from within the range ascribed to *berauensis* having the green of the mantle and the blue of the head darker than birds from the South Moluccas, and neither is there any difference in colour of the underparts. As Greenway must also have had adequate (though different) material at his disposal, I find our conflicting conclusions puzzling, but in the circumstances I see no reason to modify my own opinion, which I consider to be well-founded, that *berauensis* is a synonym.

Lorius lory lory (Linnaeus): sex?, Waigama, VIII.1876 (Teysmann, RMNH cat. no. 35).

Micrositta keiensis chloroxantha Oberholser: ♂, ♀, Misool, without further data (ZMA reg. nos. 972, 973). In a previous publication (Mees, 1972) I expressed, purely on geographical grounds, doubt about the validity of *M. k. sociabilis* Greenway (1966), based on specimens from Batanta. Forshaw (1973: 144) has examined the type of *sociabilis* and agrees that it should be synonymized with *chloroxantha*. This means that all the western Papuan islands and the Vogelkop are inhabited by one subspecies.

Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii Meyer: ♀, Misool, without further data (ZMA reg. no. 738).

Merops ornatus Latham: sex?, Waigama, VIII.1876 (Teysmann, RMNH cat. no. 87).

Rhyticeros plicatus ruficollis (Vieillot): ♂ and ♀, Misool, mounted specimens without further data (ZMA reg. nos. 2751, 3679).

Pomatostomus isidorei (Lesson): 2 ♂, Kasim, 22.V and 3.VI.1867; ♀, Kasim, 21.V.1867 (Hoedt, RMNH cat. nos. 5, 6, 3). I retain a binomial name for these birds as in my opinion the validity of *P. i. calidus* (Rothschild) is questionable. Our five specimens from within the range ascribed to *calidus* do not show the characters ascribed to that race, see also Junge (1939: 10).

Peltops blainvillii (Garnot): ♂, Misool, without further data (ZMA reg. no. 605).

Machaerirhynchus flaviventer albigula Mayr & de Schauensee: ♂, 22.VI.1867 (Hoedt, ZMA).

Pachycephala griseiceps griseiceps G. R. Gray: ♀, Misool, VIII.1911 (Tauern, ZMA reg. no. 25399 ex Zool. Staatssamml. München reg. no. 14680). This must be one of the specimens recorded by Stresemann (1913), later received in exchange.

Whether or not *P. griseiceps* is conspecific with *P. simplex* is still a controversial question. In recent years Schodde & Hitchcock (1968: 53), Frith &

Hitchcock (1974: 164) and Parker (1974) considered them different species, whereas Galbraith (1974) strongly and convincingly argued in favour of the opposite point of view.

Colluricincla megarhyncha megarhyncha (Quoy & Gaimard): ♀, Misool, 29.I.1900 (Kühn, ZMA reg. no. 25396). In my previous paper this bird was listed, following then current usage, under the generic name *Myiolestes*. However, twenty years earlier Mayr (1944) had already presented good arguments for transferring *Myiolestes* to *Colluricincla*. Subsequently Deignan (1964: 408) went so far as to observe that he could find no criteria whatsoever, whether of morphology or of life habits, by which the genera *Myiolestes* and *Colluricincla* could be separated from *Pachycephala*. He has not been followed in this extreme although defensible view, but Mayr (1967: 36 footnote) kept *Myiolestes* in *Colluricincla* and the matter can be said to have been clinched by Schodde & Mason (1976), who demonstrated that *C. megarhyncha* is conspecific with the bird that since its description in 1845 has been known as *Colluricincla parvula*.

Oriolus szalayi (Madarász): sex?, Misool, without further data (ZMA reg. no. 198).

Artamus leucorhynchus leucopygialis Gould: ♂ Waigama, 10.V.1867 (Hoedt, RMNH).

Manucodia ater ater (Lesson): sex?, Waigama, VIII.1876 (Teymann, RMNH).

Cicinnurus regius regius (Linnaeus): ♂, Waigama, 29.VI.1867 (Hoedt, ZMA reg. no. 23677).

Besides skins and mounts our collection contains some eggs from Misool, collected by Hoedt: nine eggs of *Sterna bergii* (RMNH cat. no. 1) and six eggs of *Sterna sumatrana* (RMNH cat. no. 1). Unfortunately they are labelled merely "Hoedt, Misool", without further data.

CORRECTIONS, ETC.

Page 139. — The locality Adoa, also spelled Adoea and Adwa, on the south coast of Misool, where Hoedt collected many specimens, is situated at the mouth of a creek almost due south from Fakal (cf. Tauern, 1915; Van der Goot, 1941). In view of its historical interest I have considered it useful to supply an emended map showing Adoa, as well as two localities mentioned by Ripley (1957, 1959) but omitted from the map published in 1965 (fig. 1).

Page 143. — Mistakenly I listed a specimen of *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* (Scopoli), received in 1927, as a first record for Misool, for

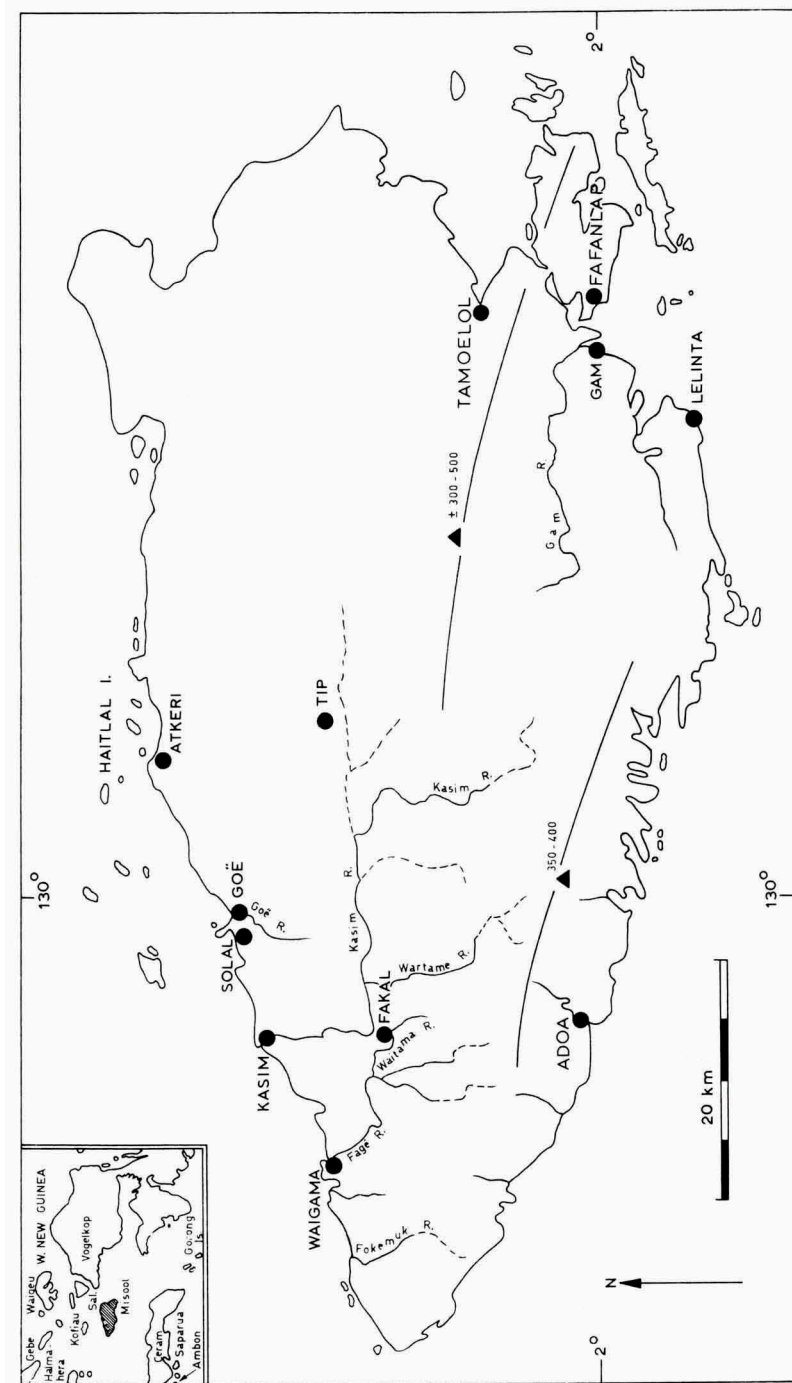


Fig. 1. Map of Misool, showing ornithological collecting localities.

Sharpe (1896: 363) already mentioned two specimens, of which one from the Wallace collection (hence collected by C. Allen in 1860), the other collected by Rosenberg. The date given for the Rosenberg specimen (Feb. 16) is puzzling, as to my knowledge that collector visited Misool only in the months July and August. Hoping to throw light upon this matter, I wrote to Mr. Galbraith to ask whether the specimen in question has an original collector's label, and what exactly it says. From the reply I quote: "Fortunately and quite surprisingly the Rosenberg specimen ... does have what seems to be a collector's label. The specimen came to us with the Seebohm collection (BM reg. no. 1894.2.19.93) with a Seebohm label which says '♀ Mysol, New Guinea, September 16th 1868 (Rosenberg)'. The old label says 'Waygama Misool ♀ 16den September '68'. So it looks as though Rosenberg revisited that island eight years later". Note that the date given by Sharpe is erroneous, it is not 16 February but 16 September, but that does not help much, for I cannot find that Rosenberg visited Misool in 1868, although he may have done so. I also observe that no collector's name is given on the original label, and that the name Rosenberg appears only on the label written by Seebohm. Anyway, whoever may have been the collector, there is no reason to doubt the date and locality given on the original label.

Page 154. — In the discussion of *Gymnocrex p. plumbeiventris* I mentioned that an article by Rosenberg, with descriptions of seven new or supposedly new species, although published in volume 29 of the *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indië* bearing on its title-page the year 1867, possibly appeared in 1866. The point has long been in doubt, note for example that Mayr (1941: 49) on a single page refers to one of Rosenberg's names as having been published in 1866, another one in 1867.

Internal evidence, as published in the reports of the annual meetings of the Koninklijke Natuurkundige Vereeniging in Nederlandsch Indië, provided me with some exact information. The *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift* was published in 6 "afleveringen" (parts) per volume, but frequently several parts were combined. Thus I found: in 1864, vol. 26 afl. 3-6 and the whole of vol. 27 were published (cf. vol. 28: 137). On 25 November 1865, vol. 28 afl. 4-6 and vol. 29 afl. 1 had already been published (cf. vol. 29: 419). On 14 July 1866, vol. 29 afl. 2-4 had already been published (cf. vol. 29: 482). Rosenberg's article occupies the pages 136-145, it is dated Ambon, 16 November 1865. This date as well as the fact that on page 102 there is a reference to afl. 1, so that page 102 is not in afl. 1, proves that his article was not published in afl. 1. Although I have been unable to find exactly the size of each "aflevering", the anterior position of Rosenberg's article in the volume (vol. 29 counts 493 pages), proves that it was published in afl. 2-4 and not in 5-6, which means that it appeared before 14 July 1866.

The seven forms described by Rosenberg are:

Psittacula melanogenia = *Cyclopsitta gulielmitertii melanogenia* (Rosenberg).

Caprimulgus brachyurus = *Aegotheles wallacii wallacii* G. R. Gray.

Picnogramphus cucullatus = *Sphecotheres flaviventris cucullatus* (Rosenberg).

Rynchaenas Schlegeli = *Henicophaps albifrons schlegeli* (Rosenberg).

Ptilopus aurantiventris = *Ptilinopus regina xanthogaster* (Wagler).

Ptilopus helviventris = *Gallicolumba rufigula helviventris* (Rosenberg).

Rallus Hoeveni = *Gymnocrex plumbeiventris hoeveni* (Rosenberg).

As was pointed out by Ford (1975), *Sphecotheres f. cucullatus* is very close to *S. f. flaviventris* from northern Australia, but the geographical distance separating them makes me reluctant to follow Ford in synonymizing one with the other. In the admittedly inadequate material available to me it appears just possible to retain *S. f. cucullatus* on the basis of having a deeper bill. The validity of *Gymnocrex p. hoeveni* is also questionable (cf. Mees, 1965: 154).

Consequences for the nomenclature are fortunately negligible, but authorship of *Psittacula melanogenia* and of *Rallus Hoeveni* definitely belongs to Rosenberg, not Schlegel (1866). Although I have been unable to date Schlegel's paper within its year of appearance, it was almost certainly published in the second half of 1866, and in default of an exact date, its date of publication for purposes of priority stands at 31 December 1866.

Page 182. — *Rhipidura rufidorsa rufidorsa* Meyer. This species was not only collected by Kühn, but also by Ripley (1964: 60) according to whom it is common, a statement supported by the fact that his collection contains five specimens (3 ♂, 2 ♀), obtained in the short period from 13-21 November 1954.

Page 184. — *Monarcha cinerascens cinerascens* (Temminck). Add to the synonymy:

Monarcha cinerascens nova Mathews, 1925, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 45: 86 — "new name for *Monarcha inornatus* Meyer & Wigglesworth, Birds Celebes, vol. i, p. 384, 1898: *Talaut* (not of Garnot, 1828)".

Page 188. — Read *Pachycephala phaionota* (Bonaparte) for *Pachycephala phaionotum*.

Page 191. — *Myzomela eques eques* (Lessen & Garnot). The correct reference to the synonym *minima* is:

Cosmeteira minima Walden, 1870, Ibis, (n.s.) 6: 50 — Mysol.

Page 191. — *Melilestes mearnsi mearnsi* (G. R. Gray). Add to the synonymy:

Melilestes mearhynchus brunneus Salomonsen, 1966, *Breviora*, 254: 1 — Siwi, Arfak Mountains, New Guinea.

The range of this subspecies, described after the publication of my paper, was given as: "Misol and Salawati in the western Papuan Islands, Vogelkop and Onin Peninsula in northwestern New Guinea". I am, however, unable to see any difference between our specimens from Misool and the Vogelkop on the one hand, and the Aru Islands, type locality of the nominate race, on the other hand. See also Diamond (1969: 45-46) and Gilliard & LeCroy (1970: 22-23).

Page 197. — As further evidence (if any more is needed) that Rosenberg's specimens supposed to be from Misool are mislabelled, I can record an immature specimen of *Monarcha trivirgatus bimaculatus* G. R. Gray labelled "Mysol, 1866" (RMNH cat. no. 14). This bird cannot, as most other specimens so labelled, be from the Aru Islands, but must have been collected in the North Moluccas.

Page 197. — *Ixobrychus sinensis* (J. F. Gmelin). This specimen was recorded by Junge (1953: 5), but the provenance Misool is unreliable.

Page 199. — *Myzomela obscura aruensis* Kinnear. In the table of measurements the specimen from "Misool" should of course have been placed under this name and not with *M. o. fumata*.

Page 200. — *Diphyllodes magnificus magnificus* (Pennant). Apart from the references listed, mention should have been made of Rosenberg's (1863: 246-247) paper. It is made clear that the natives of Misool traded in skins of this species, but it is only inferred that therefore it must live in the mountainous regions of the island.

DOUBTFUL AND UNCONFIRMED RECORDS

Porzana cinerea (Vieillot): Ripley (1977: 226) states under the name *P. c. leucophrys* that he has found this species on Misool. There is no mention of a Misool specimen in Ripley's (1964: 22) earlier paper, nor is there one in the Peabody Museum where Ripley's Misool collections are lodged (Sibley, in litt., 20.XII.1978). At my request, Dr. Ripley (in litt., 16.I.1979) informed me as follows: "It is true that I did not collect a specimen of *Porzana cinerea* on Misool Island. I recall distinctly seeing one dancing about on a small swampy pool in the forest however ... The Misool trip took place in November 1954 and I have checked out my diary of those days and collecting catalogue without running across the species. However I attribute its absence from my diary to the fact that it was a fairly common species to be seen in any case ... I was not doing much writing, only reporting on birds which were particularly exciting or rare ...". There is nothing unlikely in the occurrence

of *P. cinerea* on Misool but as the published list of its avifauna is entirely based on material actually collected, I prefer to treat the record as unconfirmed.

Cyclopsitta guliemitertii guliemitertii (Schlegel): sex?, "Misool", without further data (ZMA). The species has not otherwise been recorded from Misool and although its occurrence is not beyond the bounds of possibility, as it is known from nearby Salawati, the present poorly labelled specimen does not provide acceptable evidence.

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