

BULBULS

Family PYCNONOTIDÆ

THERE has been much argument as to the limits and arrangement of this family, and hardly two ornithologists are in full agreement on the subject. In the main, I am in accord with the classification adopted by Stuart Baker in the *Fauna of British India* (2nd ed., vol. i., 1922, p. 359), and, like him, I consider that the green and yellow bulbuls, *Chloropsis*, *Ægithina* and *Æthorynchus* should be excluded from the family and placed as a connecting link between it and the *Timaliidæ*, though I do not agree with him in associating these birds with such forms as *Mesia* and *Liothrix*. With these limitations the bulbuls can be recognized by the following characters.

Moderate-sized birds not exceeding a missel-thrush. Tarsus, rather short; toes, feeble; nape with hairs, sometimes long and conspicuous, sometimes less so, but always present; plumage of rump, thick and ample, but without stiffened shafts; bill, variable, but rarely much curved, the nostrils not concealed by frontal plumes. Wing, rather rounded, with ten primaries, always equal to or longer than the tail, which may be square, slightly rounded or slightly forked. Head, often crested or with pointed or otherwise modified feathers. Sexes alike; young not differing materially from the adults.

Nests built in trees or bushes, usually rather untidy, cup-shaped structures, lined with tendrils, etc., or grass. Eggs, up to five or more in number, but in Malayan species usually two or three, always thickly marked and spotted with reddish brown, fairly smooth and glossy in texture.

The family as restricted is characteristically Oriental, though it is well represented in Africa and extends to Palestine. Its members are, wherever found, strictly non-migratory species. Rather over thirty forms are found in Malaya, of which I have selected seven for description in this volume.

KEY TO THE SPECIES HERE DESCRIBED

- I { Feathers of head short, stiff and glistening; large birds, wing more than 4'7 in. *Trachycomus zeylanicus*, p. 201
Feathers of head normal; smaller birds, wing less than 4'2 in. 2

2	}	Head not crested or with the feathers		
		markedly lengthened		3
	}	Head crested or with the feathers		
		markedly lengthened		5
3	}	Throat more or less uniform with the	} <i>Tricholestes criniger criniger</i> ,	p. 203
		rest of the lower plumage		
	}	Throat distinct from the rest of the		
		lower plumage		4
4	}	Throat white, not streaked	} <i>Pycnonotus goiavier analis</i> , p. 204	
		Throat streaked with bright yellow		} <i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni</i> ,
	}	Throat brownish white, grading into	} <i>Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus</i> ,	
		lower plumage		
5	}	Under tail coverts red, head strongly		
		crested	} <i>Otocompsa jocosa erythrotis</i> , p. 210	
		Under tail coverts not red ; feathers of		
		head merely lengthened and pointed	} <i>Criniger gularis tephrogenys</i> , p. 209	

Trachycomus zeylanicus

The Yellow-crowned Bulbul

PLATE 20 (lower figure)

Sturnus zeylanicus, Gmelin, *Syst. Nat.*, i., 1789, p. 804 (Ceylon—error, substitute Java).

Trachycomus ochrocephalus (auct.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 93; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 281; id. *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), 1890, i., p. 184 (footnote); Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 402.

Trachycomus zeylanicus, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam.*, v., 1924, p. 272.

Malay Name.—Burong barau barau.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head with stiff, bristly, decomposed feathers, with a silky lustre. Gape with strong bristles.

Head and nape and a patch beneath and around the eye golden straw-yellow, sometimes with an ochreous tinge. A narrow streak from the lores to the eye, continued behind the eye, black, with a whitish streak beneath it. A broad, black stripe from the gape bordering the throat; ear coverts, greyish brown with white shaft stripes. Mantle, back, rump and lesser wing coverts, greyish brown, all except the rump with grey shaft streaks; the rump strongly washed with olive-green; greater coverts, primaries and secondaries, brown, broadly edged with olive-green. Inner aspect of wing, brown, the quills margined on their inner webs with pale yellowish buff; axillaries and under wing coverts, pale buffy, the edge of the wing, yellow. Tail feathers, brownish olive-green above, with clear brown shafts, less green on the inner webs; beneath, more greenish, the shafts white and with very narrow whitish tips. Beneath,

throat, white ; breast, ashy grey ; the centres of the feathers and the shafts, broadly white ; sides of the body, brownish, with faintly indicated streaks ; middle of the abdomen, whitish ; under tail coverts and thighs, buffy ochreous, with a golden flush to the under tail coverts.

Immature.—Feathers of the crown ordinary, without lustre, dirty brownish ; pale shaft stripes on the back not very clear ; greater wing coverts brownish, with pale tips—not olive-green.

Soft Parts.—Iris, red or reddish brown ; bill, black ; feet, brownish black or black.

Dimensions.—Total length, 11 to 11.5 in. ; wing, 4.8 to 5 in. ; tail, 3.8 to 4.2 in. ; tarsus, 1.05 to 1.15 in. ; bill from gape, 1.2 to 1.35 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout its length and on Penang Island. Doubtful on Singapore, and not recorded from any of the other islands, though it may be expected to occur on Junk Zeylon and on Koh Samui.

Extralimital Range.—The extreme south of Tenasserim as far north as Mergui ; not in Siam proper, outside the Peninsula ; Sumatra, Borneo and Java. The characters of the species are very stable and no local races exist.

Nidification.—Darling found this bird breeding at Kossoum in the north of the Peninsula early in July, and he is the only naturalist who has done so. The nest was built in a bush about ten feet from the ground and was like that of the ordinary bulbuls but larger—a very shallow saucer, about 4 in. in diameter and 1 in. in depth. Two eggs in the British Museum are rather pointed, broad and compressed at the larger end, smooth in texture and slightly glossy. The ground-colour in one is a pale salmon, and in the other white, with a lilac tinge. The markings are coarse reddish brown fairly distributed over the egg, but denser at the larger end. There is also another series of markings beneath the surface of a veiled greyish brown, rather smaller and finer than the surface ones.

Habits.—This bulbul, almost the largest of its family, is widely distributed throughout the region, but south of Malacca territory is decidedly less common. It frequents open and scrub country, and is not found in damp or dense jungle or at any elevation on the hills. Its favourite habitats are the banks of the larger rivers above tidal water and until the mountains are reached ; it is sometimes found in gardens and orchards, but never, I think, very far from water. It feeds chiefly on fruit and berries, though Davison says it also eats insects.

As I am acquainted with it, the bird is strictly arboreal, keeping to the bushes and smaller trees, and I have never seen it on the ground, though often among tall reeds and grasses at the river-side, sometimes singly or in pairs, occasionally in small parties of five or six, which are very quarrelsome among themselves, uttering a harsh and disagreeable chatter. But at other times the barau barau well deserves its reputation of our most melodious Malayan bird ; its performance is heard at early dawn and late afternoon as a beautiful liquid song of many notes, some of them recalling the whistle of the mynah-bird but much softer.

Malays prize the bird highly, and it is a common cage-bird throughout the Peninsula, taking readily to captivity and living for many years on a diet of

boiled rice, bananas, and an occasional cockroach. Under these conditions it is very imitative and soon picks up the notes of other birds with which it may be associated. When excited it seems to have the power of erecting the short, bristly feathers of the fore part of the crown.

Note.—The bird figured is a male from Pulau Seban in the territory of Malacca, collected by W. Davison, now in the Hume collection in the British Museum.

Tricholestes criniger criniger

The Hairy-backed Bulbul

PLATE 20 (*upper figure*)

Brachypodius criniger, Blyth (*ex* Hay), *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiv., 1845, p. 577 (Malacca):

Tricholestes criniger, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 89.

Tricholestes criniger criniger, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i, 1922, p. 366.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. Rictal bristles numerous, long and stiff; head, dull brown, with the feathers of the crown slightly elongated, and with numerous long, fine hairs springing from the nape; back, mantle, scapulars and rump, greenish olive; wing coverts, more brownish; longest upper tail coverts, russet-brown. Primaries brown, with paler edges to the outer webs; secondaries, richer brown; inner aspect of wing, fuscous, with pale fawn edges and bases to the inner margins of the quills; axillaries, wing coverts and edge of wing, pale primrose-yellow. Tail feathers, russet-fawn above, beneath, more olive, with pale yellow tips to the inner webs of the outer three pairs; lores and sides of the face, pale yellow; ear coverts, dusky; throat, whitish; breast with the feathers broadly edged with dull olive; middle of the abdomen and under tail coverts, bright, clear primrose-yellow; flanks, olive-green; thighs, buffy brown.

Immature.—Duller and paler below, but not materially different in coloration.

Soft Parts.—Iris, grey to reddish hazel; bill, plumbeous; culmen, blackish; feet, olive to brown, or pale wax-yellow.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6·5 to 6·9 in.; wing, 2·8 to 3·1 in.; tail, 2·7 to 2·9 in.; tarsus, 0·6 to 0·7 in.; bill from gape, 0·7 to 0·8 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout the length of the Peninsula. No definite records from any of the islands except Tioman.

Extralimital Range.—The extreme south of Tenasserim. Closely allied races are found in Sumatra, Borneo and Java, differing only in the intensity of the yellow of the under surface.

Nidification.—Nothing whatever is known of the nest and eggs in the Malay Peninsula. Baker describes two eggs from Java, with a ground-colour of a pronounced pink, thickly mottled all over with a darker brownish pink, the mottling only a little darker than the ground-colour, so that at a short distance

they look uniform. In shape they are long ovals, and they measure about 0·92 by 0·52 in.

Habits.—This bulbul is an inhabitant of secondary and scrub jungle, and ascends the hills to a limit of about 3500 ft. It travels, as Davison observes, in small parties, keeping to the lower branches of the trees and to the brushwood. In many ways it has the actions of a flycatcher rather than of a bulbul, while in some respects it resembles the timaline birds, and its systematic position among the bulbuls is therefore a little doubtful. Very young and nestling birds are not known, but the evidence, such as it is, tends to show that young birds closely resemble the adults, which would exclude affinity to the flycatchers. The food is mainly insectivorous, but soft berries and fruits are also eaten. On Kedah Peak the bird was feeding on the fruit of a mistletoe in company with flower-peckers.

Note.—The specimen figured is a male collected at Klang, Selangor, on February 1879, by W. Davison.

Pycnonotus goiavier analis

The Yellow-vented Bulbul

PLATE 21 (*upper figure*)

Turdus analis, Horsf., *Trans. Linn. Soc.*, xiii., 1921, p. 147 (Java).

Otocompsa analis, Kelham, *Ibis*, 1881, p. 511.

Pycnonotus analis, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 140; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 287; *id.* in Hume's *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1890, p. 186 (note); Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 316.

Pycnonotus goiavier analis, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 410.

Malay Name.—Merbah.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. Above, earthy brown, including the wing coverts; centres of the feathers, much darker; rump and upper tail coverts, more uniform, richer coloured; top of the head, much darker, almost black. Primaries and secondaries, brown with paler edges, those of the primaries often with a strong tinge of olive-green. Inner aspect of wing, greyish brown, with pale margins to the inner webs of the primaries; axillaries, pale smoky brown; under wing coverts whitish with brown centres; edge of wing, whitish, with a tinge of pale yellow. Tail feathers, dark brown, paler at base, with reddish brown shafts; beneath, greyish, with white shafts, the feathers with extremely narrow pale edgings to their inner webs. A broad, clear white stripe from the lores to behind the eye, bordered beneath by a clear black patch to the eye; sides of the face and region behind the eye, white; ear coverts, very pale whitish brown, darkening posteriorly.

Beneath, chin and throat white; a brown patch on each side of the breast, which is obscurely streaked with brown and whitish, the centres of the feathers being dark and the edges pale. Middle of the abdomen, white

flushed with very pale yellow; sides and flanks, uniform earthy brown. Vent and under tail coverts, primrose-yellow; thighs, pale earthy brown tinged with yellow.

Immature.—Top of the head very little darker than the rest of the upper surface, which is paler brown with a rufescent tinge, the wing coverts strongly edged with this colour. Primaries and tail also more rufescent. Under surface more uniform, less squamulated, the flanks rather lighter than in the adults. Belly more washed with pale yellow. Superciliary stripes greyish, not so white and less marked than in the adult.

Fledgelings.—Still paler and more uniform above; the primaries russet-brown and the under surface almost uniform dirty-white. Under tail coverts much paler yellow.

Note.—In Malayan birds there is much variation in the amount of streaking on the under surface, and in the depth of colour of the under tail coverts.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark or hazel; bill, black; feet, black or greenish black. Young birds have the bill brownish black, the lower mandible, pale greyish brown (Jacobson).

Dimensions.—Total length, 7 to 8 in.; wing, 3.3 to 3.6 in.; tail, 3.5 in.; tarsus, 0.8 to 0.85 in.; bill, 0.85 to 0.9 in. Females are slightly smaller than males.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout its whole length. Junk Zeylon, Koh Samui, Penang and Singapore. Not on the islands of the Tioman group, and not recorded from the Langkawis, where it is possibly replaced by *P. finlaysoni*.

Extralimital Range.—As far north as Mergui in Tenasserim; Siam, Cochinchina and Cambodia; Sumatra, Borneo, and Java, as far east as Lombok. This is the distribution of the species as a whole, but it is probable that the Javan and Bornean races will be shown to be slightly different from the continental and Sumatran forms. Those from the Philippine Islands are smaller and have darker ear coverts. They are the original race, *P. g. goiavier* (Scop.).

Nidification.—The yellow-vented bulbul breeds in the Malay Peninsula from February to July, earlier in the more northern parts, later farther south, though it is probable that there are two broods. The nests are rather shallow cups made of grass, leaves, twigs, etc., untidy on the exterior, but neatly lined with fine grass and creepers. They are often placed in hedges three or four feet from the ground, and in shrubs and small trees in gardens, orchards and secondary jungle, rarely, if ever, in old forest.

The clutch may be up to four in number but is usually two. The eggs are very thin shelled, somewhat pointed ovals, smooth, but not particularly glossy. The ground-colour is white or very pale salmon-pink, with markings of reddish or pinkish brown congregated more thickly towards the blunt end, and with others of a pale lilac-grey under the shell, almost absent in some specimens. Baker (*loc. cit.*) gives the average dimensions of twenty eggs as 0.8 by 0.63 in.

Habits.—This bulbul and the Straits robin are the two commonest garden birds in the Malay Peninsula. It is found everywhere in gardens, orchards and grazing-grounds, and along the banks of the larger rivers and in secondary

jungle. It is not, however, found in old or damp jungle, or at any elevation in the hills.

Every garden contains two or three pairs, and their chuckling chatter is a familiar sound, though occasionally a more melodious whistle is uttered. In diet it is omnivorous; it certainly eats caterpillars and winged white ants when it gets the chance, but it will also attack ripe fruit such as mangoes and rambutans, and also the inflorescence of the coconut-palm. It is less arboreal than most bulbuls, and is often seen on the ground and in quite low bushes.

Though the sexes are apparently quite alike, the male, like certain species of *Criniger* when in pursuit of the female, frequently spreads out the white feathers of the throat and chest and lowers the wings; the tail, however, is never expanded as in *Criniger*, nor do the feathers of the crown, though rather lengthened, appear to be erectile.

Note.—The specimen figured is a male from Singapore Island, collected by W. Davison.

Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni

The Southern Stripe-throated Bulbul

PLATE 21 (*lower figure*)

Pycnonotus finlaysoni, Strickl., *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (I) xiii., 1844, p. 411 (Malacca, Hartert); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 144; Oates, *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), 1889, i., p. 187; id., *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 287; Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 317.

Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind.* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 412.

Malay Name.—Merbah kunyet.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. General colour above, yellowish olive-brown, brighter on the rump and upper tail coverts, greyer on the mantle. Forehead to the eyes, bright yellow, the shafts brighter, the feathers edged with dull brown, giving a streaked appearance; back of the crown, greyish brown; lores, black, surmounted by a narrow streak of orange. Sides of the face and fore part of the ear coverts, bright yellow, the feathers with dark edges; posterior ear coverts, dark brown with pale shaft stripes. Wing coverts, greenish olive. Primaries, brown, externally edged with olive-green; secondaries, entirely golden olive. Internal aspect of wing, brown; the flight feathers edged on their inner webs with primrose-yellow, increasing in extent towards the base; axillaries and under wing covert, rather brighter, edge of wing, bright chrome-yellow. Tail, olive-green, brighter beneath, with very narrow whitish yellow tips to all but the centre feathers. Beneath, throat and breast streaked with bright yellow; chest, ashy brown, with narrow pale streaks; abdomen, whitish, suffused with pale yellow; flanks, olive-brown; vent and thighs and under tail coverts, bright yellow, brightest on the latter.

Immature.—Much browner above, less greenish olive; head, pale brown, with no bright yellow; wings, paler brown, with lighter edges to the primaries;

the edge of the wing ochreous yellow, not chrome. Beneath, with the yellow of the throat paler, as also that of the belly and under tail coverts.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark or dark-hazel brown; bill, black; feet, slaty black or black; young birds have the bill brownish horn.

Dimensions.—Total length, 7·3 to 8 in.; wing, 3 to 3·4 in.; tail, 3·2 to 3·6 in.; tarsus, 0·70 to 0·75 in.; bill from gape, 0·75 to 0·80 in. The difference in size between the sexes is less than in many bulbuls.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern limits down to Malacca; Junk Zeylon, Koh Samui and Koh Pennan; Langkawi group. Not recorded from Penang or Singapore Island.

Extralimital Range.—Throughout Tenasserim as far north as Moulmein and in the Karin Hills. The greater part of Siam, Cochin-China, Annam and the southern portion of Yunnan.

Nidification.—A common breeding bird in the north of the Peninsula from February to the end of June. Darling found the nests in bushes and saplings only a few feet from the ground, and describes them as of the ordinary bulbul type with a "foundation" of dead leaves, built of fine twigs and fibrous bark; lined with fine grass, bents and moss roots. Egg cavity, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter; $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. in depth; walls, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, bottom $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Eggs vary a good deal, usually a rather broad oval, but some are very pointed. The shell is very smooth and slightly glossy. The ground-colour varies from almost white to pale salmon-pink, usually heavily blotched with larger marking of reddish brown to deep purple-maroon, and with a series of smaller, much paler markings and spots under the shell. The clutch is usually two, sometimes three, very rarely four. Baker gives the average size of fifteen eggs as 0·88 by 0·58 in.

Habits.—In the north of the Peninsula this bulbul is very common, and in many localities seems to displace *Pycnonotus analis*, though, on the whole, it is less of a garden bird, frequenting dry scrub, secondary jungle and the seashore where this is sandy or heathy. It does not usually occur in damp evergreen jungle, nor does it range to any height on the hills. In habits and in note it differs hardly at all from the yellow-vented bulbul, and is equally at home in bushes and in low trees and occasionally on the ground.

Its distribution in British Malaya is curious, as the bird seems to be extremely rare in Perak, not common in Selangor, fairly numerous in Negri Sembilan, along the roads in submontane districts and in Malacca, and entirely absent from Johore and Singapore. In Perak it has been recorded from ravines on the Taiping Hills at about 2000 ft. elevation.

Note.—The bird figured is a male from the district of Kuroo—twenty-six miles from Malacca town—collected by W. Davison.

Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus

The Large Olive Bulbul

Pycnonotus plumosus, Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiv., 1845, p. 567 (Singapore); Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 292; *id.* in Hume's

Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds (2nd ed.), i., 1890, p. 190 (footnote); Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 319.

Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 419.

Malay Name.—Murai rimba.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. Above, dull brown, feathers of the head slightly lengthened and with darker edges; rest of upper surface a richer brown, with a faint oily green wash. Wings and tail brown, with dull olive-green edges to the feathers, brightest and broadest on the secondaries, hardly present on the middle tail feathers. Inner aspect of wing, brown, quills with pale fawn inner margins; axillaries, under wing coverts and edge of wing, pale golden buff; lores, sides of face and ear coverts, dull brown, the latter with silvery shaft stripes. Under surface, dull greyish brown, paler on the throat; middle of the abdomen, dark and more buffy, and with a tendency to obscure streaks on the flanks and under tail coverts.

Immature.—The feathers of the crown not lengthened; colour above, paler, especially the rump; the olive-green tinge all over, especially on the edges of the tail feathers, much less pronounced.

Soft Parts.—Iris, red to chocolate; bill, black; feet, brownish. Bill corneous yellowish at gape in younger birds.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 8 in.; wing, 3·2 to 3·5 in.; tail, 3·2 to 3·4 in.; tarsus, 0·75 in.; bill from gape, 0·8 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout the Peninsula and on the larger islands.

Extralimital Range.—Ranging north for some distance into Tenasserim, and in Sumatra, Borneo and Java. Further critical examination will probably establish subspecific differences in the insular birds.

Nidification.—Breeds in the earlier part of the year to May, and makes a cup-shaped nest of the ordinary bulbul type in secondary jungle, usually in low bushes. The clutch is two or three in number, very occasionally five. The eggs are white or pinkish white in ground-colour, with small blotches of red or reddish brown, generally fairly evenly distributed, and with greyish under-markings. Baker gives the average dimensions as about 0·88 by 0·71 in. One egg, obtained by Darling at Kossoum, in June, has a very dense zone of markings at the larger end, almost obscuring the ground-colour.

Habits.—This is, in the main, a bird of thick secondary jungle or belukar, not common in old and heavy primeval jungle. It does not ascend the hills above about 2500 ft., and is not met with in the mangrove forests, though abundant in fresh-water swamp; occasionally, but rarely, it occurs in gardens and orchards. Like others of the group it is a skulking little bird, frequenting low trees and bushes, and never coming into the open if it can avoid it. It is not gregarious as are many of its family, though in the localities it affects it is very numerous, travelling singly or in pairs. The food is almost exclusively fruit, largely the blue berries of a species of *Sterculia*.

*Criniger gularis tephrogenys***The Malay Crested Scrub Bulbul**

Trichophorus tephrogenys, Jard. and Selby, *Ill. Orn.*, iii., 1833, pl. 127 (Malacca).

Criniger gutturalis (part), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 80; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 256.

Criniger tephrogenys, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 71 (foot-note); id., *Handlist Birds*, iii., 1901, p. 316; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 558.

Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys (part), Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 362.

Malay Names.—Murai rimba; rabah.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. With a crest of elongate, somewhat pointed feathers. Head, brown; mantle, back and upper tail coverts, olive-brown with a greenish tinge; wing coverts and primaries brown, with the edges of the primaries paler, richer brown, the outer webs of the secondaries entirely so. Inner aspect of the wing, greyish brown, the quills narrowly edged on the inner webs with pinkish buff, broader on the inner secondaries; axillaries, greenish grey with paler tips. Under wing coverts and edge of wing, golden yellow. Tail, darker chestnut-brown, the feathers with paler edges and with rufous shafts above, whitish beneath; lores, sides of the face, a stripe over the eye and the ear coverts, clear grey, the latter with pale shaft stripes. Beneath, chin and throat, white; an ill-defined band of olive-brown on the upper breast, the feathers with narrow, yellow edges; flanks olive-brown; middle of the abdomen clear, pale yellow; thighs, pale buff; vent and under tail coverts, buffy ochreous.

Immature.—Young birds have the primaries on the outer webs much more rufous and the wing coverts tipped and edged with rufous; sides of the face somewhat browner grey.

Soft Parts.—Iris, orange, hazel or rich brown; bill, bluish lead-colour or black, whitish at the base of the lower mandible; feet, pinkish or yellowish horn.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 8.5 to 9 in.; wing, 3.6 to 4 in.; tail, 3.8 in. to 4.1 in.; tarsus, 0.8 to 0.85 in.; bill from gape, 1 to 1.1 in. Females are perhaps rather smaller than males.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout the whole length of the Peninsula, but doubtfully on any of the islands.

Extralimital Range.—Tenasserim, but probably only the extreme south; Sumatra.

Nidification.—Mr W. A. T. Kellow appears to be the only naturalist who has discovered the nests and eggs of this species, which was found breeding near Taiping, Perak, in March, April and May. I am indebted to Mr Stuart Baker for permission to quote his description of them.

“The nests were taken in dense forest amongst the heaviest undergrowth, and were placed in low bushes on the banks of, or close to, forest streams. They

were bulky cups of leaves, roots, twigs, moss, etc., with a thick lining of bamboos, inside which again there was a true lining of roots both fine and coarse. The eggs were two in number, except once when there were three. The ground-colour varies from a pale, wine-coloured pink to the deepest salmon, and the whole surface is more or less covered with blotches, smudges and a few spots and scrawls of deep bright red. The surface is intensely glossy; the shell hard and fine, and the shape a rather long oval, generally well pointed at the smaller end. Nine eggs average 1.06 by 0.72 in."

Habits.—This crested bulbul is very common throughout the Malay Peninsula, but is strictly confined to dense forest or the immediate neighbourhood thereof, though it does not ascend the hills to any altitude, its place above about 1500 or 2000 ft. being taken by the closely allied but perfectly distinct species, *C. ochraceus*, with which it has been much confused. The bird is strictly arboreal, but keeps to the shrubs and lower trees, where it is found in parties of seven or eight individuals, rarely alone or in pairs. As Davison says, it is a noisy and quarrelsome bird, perpetually on the move, with a harsh and very grating chattering note. The food is mainly vegetable, soft pulpy fruits, but insects, especially winged termites, are also eaten.

Note.—The closely allied birds, *C. gutturalis ochraceus* and *C. g. sacculatus*, may be recognized by their browner colour above, whiter throats and almost complete absence of yellow on the belly. The former occurs in the north of the Peninsula south to Perlis, and the latter in the south of the Peninsula, usually at higher elevations than *C. tephrogenys*.

Otocompsa jocosa erythrotis

The Southern Red-whiskered Bulbul

Ixos erythrotis, Bp., *Consp. Av.*, i., 1850, p. 265 (Java?).

Otocompsa jocosa (part), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 158.

Otocompsa emeria (part), Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind.*, i., 1889, p. 276; *id.* in Hume's *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1890, p. 178; Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 320; Saunders, *Singapore Naturalist*, No. 2, 1923, p. 113.

Otocompsa emeria peguensis, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 396.

Malay Names.—Merbah jambul; merbah telinga merah: nok parad kua khon (*Siamese*).

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes similar. Head with a long crest, rising from the anterior part of the crown. Head, lores and crest, black; a patch beneath the eye, including part of the ear coverts, crimson; sides of the face and rest of the ear coverts, pure white, bordered by a narrow, interrupted black line from the gape to the sides of the neck. Upper surface, including the wing, greyish brown, darker on the wings, the rump tinged with rufous; quills bordered with greyish on their inner webs. Under wing coverts and axillaries, whitish, the edge of the wing with a suggestion of pink; tail, brown, blackish towards the tips, all except the two centre pairs of feathers with white tips,

decreasing in extent internally. Beneath, throat pure white, a black collar on the upper breast, interrupted in the middle; rest of under surface with the flanks, fuscous; middle of the belly, white; thighs, pale brown; under tail coverts, pinkish crimson.

Immature.—Entirely lacking the crimson patch beneath the eye; under tail coverts, paler and pinkish. Top of head, brownish black; upper tail coverts strongly washed with rufous. Under wing coverts and axillaries, pale smoky, and the pale edgings to the quills more buffy.

Nestling.—Similar to the immature, but with the crest not developed, and with no pink on the under tail coverts.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark brownish, chestnut or hazel; bill and feet, black.

Dimensions.—Total length, 7·8 to 8·1 in.; wing, 2·8 to 3·3 in.; tail, 3·3 to 3·5 in.; tarsus, 0·8 to 0·85 in.; bill from gape, 0·8 to 0·9 in. Females are consistently rather smaller than males.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From its northern extremity down to about the latitude of Penang, rather farther south on the eastern coast. Junk Zeylon and Penang Island. Rare and accidental on the mainland south of Penang, but now becoming common on Singapore Island, where it has probably been introduced.

Extralimital Range.—The greater part of Burma and Tenasserim, Siam and Southern Indo-China, though where it meets the Chinese *O. jocosa jocosa* is uncertain. The Andamans and Nicobars, Sumatra and, rather doubtfully, Java. (In both the latter islands the records are not improbably due to escaped cage-birds.)

Nidification.—In the north of the Peninsula this bulbul breeds from March to May, but the season seems to commence rather earlier in Pegu. Davison found a nest at Bankasun placed in a small bush, growing in an old garden, about four feet from the ground. "The nest was of the usual type—a compactly woven cup, composed externally of dry twigs, leaves, etc., the egg cavity lined with fibre. It contained three nearly fresh eggs."

Eggs in the British Museum from Pegu, Bankasun and Junk Zeylon are very like those of *Pycnonotus analis*, and need not be described at length. The purple-brown blotches are possibly somewhat darker in colour, and the ground-colour rather whiter, nor is there a very heavy zone at the larger end.

Habits.—This sprightly bulbul is very common on the western side of the Peninsula, about as far as Perlis, and on the eastern side to Kelantan. It frequents much the same situations as does the yellow-vented bulbul, but is more rarely seen on or near the ground. It is met with singly or in pairs, and occasionally in small parties of six or seven birds. Its diet is very mixed: it is certainly very fond of ants, especially the *këringa* (*Æcopylla*) and the black tree-ants (*Cremastogaster*), but it also eats fruits and berries, especially those of the introduced *lantana*, a noxious weed for the spread of which the red-whiskered bulbul is largely responsible. On Cape Patani, a sandy, wind-swept locality, I found it one of the commonest of birds, feeding on the pulp of the cashew-nut (*Anacardium occidentale*), which grows along the coast in great profusion.

The note is usually a chatter, but the bird has also a pleasant five-note whistle well described by Mr Saunders (*loc. cit.*).

Among the Chinese of Singapore and Penang this bulbul is a very popular cage-bird, and to this fact is probably due its rather anomalous distribution. It becomes very tame and confiding in captivity, and is in incessant motion, constantly elevating its black coronal crest, which seems somewhat more developed in the male than in the female, though the sexes do not appear to present other differences, except in size.