

CUCKOO OR CATERPILLAR SHRIKES AND MINIVETS

Family CAMPOPHAGIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 193.

THIS group is well represented in the Malayan mountains, though only one section of the family, the brilliantly coloured minivets, which occur in fair-sized flocks, attract much attention, the cuckoo-shrikes being dull-coloured birds, which keep more to the shelter of the trees.

KEY TO THE SPECIES HERE DESCRIBED

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|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | { | Plumage largely red or yellow | 2 | |
| | { | Plumage mainly grey, with no red or yellow | 7 | |
| 2 | { | Head and mantle, glossy black; belly, scarlet or orange | 3 | |
| | { | Head and mantle less glossy, often not at all; belly, yellow | 5 | |
| 3 | { | Under wing coverts, yellow | 4 | <i>Pericrocotus igneus</i> (male), p. 150 |
| | { | Under wing coverts, crimson | 4 | |
| | { | Chin and throat as glossy as the head | | <i>Pericrocotus speciosus flammifer</i> (male), p. 151 |
| 4 | { | Chin and throat, dull black or grey | | <i>Pericrocotus montanus montanus</i> , p. 150 |
| 5 | { | Rump and upper tail coverts, vermilion | | <i>Pericrocotus igneus</i> (female), p. 150 |
| | { | Rump and upper tail coverts, yellowish | 6 | |
| | { | The forehead dark, like the crown, with no detached spots on outer webs of secondaries near the tips | | <i>Pericrocotus montanus montanus</i> (female), p. 150 |
| 6 | { | The forehead bright yellow; with detached elongated spots on outer webs of secondaries, near the tips | | <i>Pericrocotus speciosus flammifer</i> (female), p. 151 |
| 7 | { | Larger, wing more than 6 in. | | <i>Coracina javensis larutensis</i> , p. 153 |
| | { | Smaller, wing less than 4.5 in. | | <i>Lalage fimbriata culminata</i> , p. 154 |

*Pericrocotus igneus***The Fiery Minivet**

Vol. I., p. 198.

This minivet, which is at once recognized by its orange or orange-and-vermilion axillaries and under wing coverts in the male, and the vermilion rump and upper tail coverts in the female, is widely distributed in the Malay Peninsula.

It is, however, of rare and accidental occurrence above about 3000 ft. At lower elevations, especially on the hills of Negri Sembilan and on Gunong Pulai, in Johore, it appears to be not uncommon.

It flies in smaller flocks, and frequents more open forest and lower trees, than the other Malayan species of the genus.

*Pericrocotus montanus montanus***Wray's Minivet**

Pericrocotus montanus, Salvad., *Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen.*, xiv., 1879, p. 205 (Mountains of W. Sumatra); Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 554; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States*, vi., 1915, p. 33.

Pericrocotus wrayi, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 269, pl. 15 (South Perak); Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 17.

Pericrocotus croceus, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 269 (Gunong Batu Puteh, S. Perak); Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 555.

Description.—*Adult male.*—Head, nape, mantle and basal portion of the tail feathers, to a decreasing extent outwardly, glossy black, the middle pair often entirely black; wing coverts, black, the greater series tipped with scarlet; primaries and secondaries, black, the primaries, from the fifth inwards, edged with scarlet towards the middle of the outer webs, the bases of the inner webs largely pinkish orange; great part of the basal half of the secondaries, scarlet; wing lining, brownish; the basal portion of the inner webs of the quills, the axillaries, under wing coverts and the edge of wing coverts, orange-scarlet; tail, where not black, scarlet, deeper on the outer feathers; rump and upper tail coverts, deep crimson. Ear coverts and sides of the face, dark grey; chin and throat, dark grey; rest of the under surface, crimson-scarlet; the bases of the feathers whitish, and then greyish black; thighs, dark grey.

Adult female.—The black parts replaced by dull black, with little or no gloss and with proportionately more black on the tail; ear coverts very grey; crimson of the male replaced by bright chrome-yellow; the chin and upper throat whitish.

Immature male.—At first like the adult female, but gradually acquiring the scarlet plumage of the male, in part by moult, but in part it would appear by a direct change in the pigment of the feather, passing through orange to the pure scarlet.

Immature female.—The upper surface greyish, not black, often with a

faint greenish wash ; the rump, dull greenish yellow ; upper wing coverts, greyish brown, tipped with lemon, and the inner secondaries broadly edged with lemon to the tips. Chin and throat with the white more extensive and the yellow paler ; the flanks tinged with olive-green.

Juvenile.—The feathers of the upper surface brownish, broadly fringed with white, the wing coverts the same and the yellow colour throughout much paler.

Note.—Throughout the Malay Peninsula this species is exceedingly variable. The males differ greatly in the relative glossiness of the upper surface and in the colour of the chin and throat, which may range from a quite pale grey to a deep black. Sometimes, too, especially in South Perak, the crimson is replaced by a brilliant chrome-orange, this being the form described by Sharpe as *P. croceus*. This variety, however, flies with the normal form and cannot be regarded as other than a casual aberration. Females vary mainly in the intensity of the black of the upper surface and the yellow of the rump.

Soft Parts.—Iris, blackish, dark hazel or brown ; bill and feet, black.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6 to 6·5 in. ; wing, 2·95 to 3·2 in. ; tail, 2·9 to 3·2 in. ; tarsus, 0·5 to 0·6 in. ; bill from gape, 0·65 in. ; culmen, 0·5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From North Perak to Southern Selangor and in Pahang. Only at altitudes exceeding 3000 ft.

Extralimital Range.—High mountains of Sumatra and, in a slightly modified form (*P. montanus cinereigula*, Sharpe), mountains of Borneo.

Nidification.—Unknown, but not likely to differ from that of the other species.

Habits.—This is one of the most characteristic birds of the Malay Peninsula mountains. It is common on the Larut Hills, on the main range from the north of Perak to the south of Selangor and on Gunong Benom and Gunong Tahan in Pahang, but is not met with in Negri Sembilan or in Peninsular Siam. Like others of the genus, it flies in flocks, often of considerable size, up to thirty or forty individuals. It keeps usually to the higher branches of the trees and does not much frequent scrub or low jungle and is rarely seen near the ground. It is a quiet bird and seems to have no note beyond a rather low twitter.

Pericrocotus speciosus flammifer

Davison's Minivet

Pericrocotus flammifer, Hume, *Stray. Feath.*, iii., 1875, p. 321 (Pakchan, South Tenasserim) ; Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 74 ; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 482. Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 17.

Pericrocotus speciosus fraterculus, Hartert (*nec* Swinh.), *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 555.

Pericrocotus xanthogaster flammifer, Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, vi., 1915, pp. 31, 35.

Pericrocotus speciosus flammifer, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 246; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 321.

Description.—A larger and more heavily built bird than *P. m. montanus*, with a much shorter tail.

Adult male.—Very like *P. m. montanus*; the black of the upper surface more glossy, and the chin and throat equally glossy. First three primaries only, without red on the outer webs; secondaries, with detached elongated spots of red towards the tips of the outer webs. Tail, very largely scarlet, the inner webs of the central pair of feathers, entirely black, and the bases of some of the others. Feathers of the under surface tinged with orange mesially, their bases white.

Adult female.—Crown and a stripe over the eye, rich yellow; a dark stripe through eye; rest of head, mantle and upper back, clear grey; rump and upper tail coverts, yellow, washed with greenish; wings, as the male, but with the red replaced by yellow, and with no spot on the outer webs of the first four primaries. Tail, with the red replaced by yellow, and the two central pairs of feathers, mainly black. Whole under surface, deep, bright yellow.

Immature males.—Are like the adult females, and attain the adult plumage by a gradual replacement of the feathers by moult and by change of pigment; the greater amount of black in the central pairs of tail feathers is retained in nearly adult birds, the outer tail feathers being orange, and the general effect of the under surface orange also.

Immature females.—Differ in the same way from the adults as do those of *P. m. montanus*.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark brown; bill and feet, black.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 7 in.; wing, 3.3 to 3.5 in.; tail, 2.9 to 3.1 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.7 in.; culmen, 0.55 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern border south, along the main range to Selangor, and in North Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Southern Tenasserim and Eastern Siam, but intergrading with other allied races in Northern Burma and French Indo-China, and in the south of the Peninsula with *P. s. xanthogaster*.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—This species is common throughout the range indicated above, but frequents the lower slopes of the mountains, and is rare above about 3500 ft. It frequents heavy jungle and high trees in large flocks, and its habits are precisely those of *P. m. montanus*.

Note.—The southern race, *P. s. xanthogaster*, Raffles, alluded to above, is found on the hills of Negri Sembilan and Johore, and possibly at low elevations in more northern localities as far north as Perlis. It also occurs on Penang and Singapore islands. The differences between it and *P. s. flammifer* are trivial, and consist mainly in the smaller size of the southern birds. Males are almost indistinguishable, except by dimensions, and even these intergrade. Females of *P. s. xanthogaster* are a duller grey on the back, the rump is some-

what tinged with green, and the under surface is a paler yellow. Mr Seimund has recently obtained a small series on Gunong Kledang, near Ipoh, 2600 ft., which Messrs Kloss and Chasen regard as nearer to *P. s. xanthogaster* than to *P. s. flammifer*. Wing of the male, 3'38 in. ; of four females, 3'23 to 3'47 in.

Coracina javensis larutensis

Sharpe's Cuckoo-Shrike

PLATE 12 (*upper figure*, female ; *lower*, male)

Artamides larutensis, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 435 (Larut Hills, Perak).

Graucalus larutensis, Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 18 ; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix, 1902, p. 554 ; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 35.

Description.—*Adult male*.—Above, dark grey ; the lores and feathers round the nostril, velvety black ; the ear coverts not so black ; wing coverts, a little darker than the back. Primary coverts and primaries, black, with very narrow grey edges ; the secondaries, broadly grey on their outer webs ; inner aspect of wing, grey ; the quills narrowly margined with white on their inner webs ; axillaries, grey, under wing coverts indistinctly barred with grey and white. Tail, with the centre pair of feathers brownish grey, darker towards the tip, the outer pair blackish, with a broad, greyish tip on the inner web, and a narrow edging of white, the outer web greyish ; remaining pairs black, with narrow white tips. Beneath, extreme chin, blackish ; throat, very dark grey ; breast and remainder of under surface becoming progressively paler until the under tail coverts are almost white.

Adult female.—Without the black frontal plumes and lores, which are only slightly darker than the head ; chin and throat, like the breast ; belly and flanks, with indistinct cross-bars ; axillaries and under tail coverts much more distinctly barred with white and dark grey.

Immature.—Like the female, but the barring on the flanks and abdomen more distinct, and the feathers often with subterminal dark spots ; under tail coverts, with subterminal dark spots and dark shaft streaks ; secondaries, broadly fringed with pure white ; the tail feathers more pointed than in the adults.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown, chestnut-brown or crimson ; bill and feet, black.

Dimensions.—Total length, 10'5 to 11 in. ; wing, 6'2 to 6'5 in. ; tail, 4'4 to 4'7 in. ; tarsus, 0'95 to 1'05 in. ; bill from gape, 1'3 in. ; culmen, 0'95 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From North Perak to South Selangor. Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula, and is fairly distinct from related races which occur throughout Indo-China and Java. It does not seem to be represented in either Borneo or Sumatra.

Nidification.—Unknown, but will probably be found to resemble closely those of *C. javensis macci*, and other forms which build cup-shaped nests in

the outer branches of very high trees, and lay two or three greenish eggs, with blotches of dark brown, and secondary markings of inky purple (*Baker*).

Habits.—The habits are practically those of *Cor. s. sumatrensis*, described in Volume I. The species is widely distributed within the range indicated, but is not often found below about 3500 ft. or above 5000 ft., and inhabits areas where the trees are not stunted. It is found singly or in pairs, never in parties of more than four or five, and usually keeps to the branches of tall trees, from which it is with difficulty flushed. The food is caterpillars and insects of various orders, and sometimes even small tree-frogs. The bird is extremely silent, and I have never heard it utter a sound.

The birds figured are a pair from Gunong Mengkuang Lebar, Selangor, shot in March 1907.

Lalage fimbriata culminata

The Malayan Grey Cuckoo-Shrike

Adults are uniform dark grey above, the wings almost black, with a greenish gloss, the tail very narrowly tipped with white, and the under tail coverts grey; immature birds are paler; the wing coverts edged with white, the whole under surface barred with grey and blackish. Total length, about 6 to 6.5 in.

This species is a low-country jungle bird, extending over the whole of the Peninsula, south from Penang, and found in Singapore Island. It is not uncommon on the hills of Johore and Negri Sembilan, but does not normally attain any elevation on the higher mountains, though it has been recorded from 2000 to 5000 ft. on Gunong Tahan, and is therefore mentioned in this volume; it will be more fully described later.

In Peninsular Siam it is replaced by a rather paler bird with whiter under tail coverts and broader white tips to the tail feathers, *L. fimbriata neglecta* (Hume).