

BULBULS

Family PYCNONOTIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 200.

ABOUT thirty species or subspecies of this family are known to occur over the whole extent of the Malay Peninsula, from the Isthmus of Kra to Singapore, and of this number no less than twenty have some claims to be considered in a work dealing with the birds inhabiting the hills.

This number, however, gives a false idea of the importance of the family, at any rate so far as the higher hills are concerned. The inclusion of one or two species—for example, the yellow-crowned bulbul—rests on records that are open to some doubt, while many others just overpass the somewhat arbitrary limit of altitude that has been adopted in this volume. Above about 3500 ft. only four species will be regularly seen, while a fifth, of an inquiring and adventurous disposition, *Microtarsus melanoleucus*, makes occasional visits to the lofty zones, never frequented by other members of the family, which, for practical purposes, may be said to be absent from all areas (which are, it is true, very limited in extent) above 5000 ft.

KEY TO THE SPECIES HERE DESCRIBED

1	{	Feathers of the head short, stiff and glistening; large birds, wing more than 4·8 in.	<i>Trachycomus zeylanicus</i> , p. 164	2
		Feathers of the head normal; smaller birds, wing less than 4·6 in., generally much less		
2	{	General colours in strong contrast, with no neutral browns in plumage		3
		General colours duller, with neutral browns or olivaceous tints in plumage		
3	{	Plumage entirely black and white	<i>Microtarsus melanoleucus</i> , p. 161	4
		With clear yellow or blue-grey in plumage		
4	{	Head strongly crested	<i>Otocompsa flaviventris minor</i> , p. 166	5
		Head not crested		

5	{	Under tail coverts contrasting with under surface	6
		Under tail coverts uniform with under surface	7
6	{	Throat white, breast squamated with black	<i>Rubigula squamata webberi</i> , p. 169
		Throat, breast and belly, blue-grey .	<i>Rubigula c. cyaniventris</i> , p. 168
7	{	Larger, wing 3'4 in. or over; head, darker grey; throat, white	<i>Alophoixus ph. phæocephalus</i> , p. 163
		Smaller, wing 3'1 in. or under; head and throat, glossy black	<i>Brachypodius a. atriceps</i> , p. 160
8	{	Under tail coverts bright, clear yellow	9
		Under tail coverts not bright clear yellow	10
		Under tail coverts and throat greenish yellow	<i>Criniger f. finschii</i> , p. 163
9	{	Throat streaked with bright chrome; an orange loral spot	<i>Pycnonotus f. finlaysoni</i> , p. 164
		Throat not streaked; no loral spot	<i>Tricholestes c. criniger</i> , p. 164
10	{	Under surface very distinctly streaked	11
		Under surface not distinctly streaked	12
11	{	Crown, brown, strongly streaked	<i>Ixos macclellandi peracensis</i> , p. 159
		Crown, dull olive - green, not streaked	<i>Ixos malaccensis malaccensis</i> , p. 158
12	{	Feathers of chin and throat lengthened, pure white in colour, distinct from breast	13
		Feathers of chin and throat not lengthened, not distinct in colour from breast	15
13	{	Upper parts, ashy grey, under tail coverts, white	<i>Ixos cinereus</i> , p. 157
		Upper parts, olivaceous; under tail coverts, ochraceous	14
14	{	Crown markedly contrasting with mantle; abdomen, yellow	<i>Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys</i> , p. 163
		Crown scarcely contrasting with mantle; abdomen, buffy	<i>Criniger gutturalis sacculatus</i> , p. 161
15	{	Ear coverts with silvery shaft stripes; tail and wings strongly washed with olive-green	<i>Pycnonotus p. plumosus</i> , p. 165
		Ear coverts with no silvery shaft stripes; tail and wings hardly, or not at all, washed with olive-green	16

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| 16 | { | Feathers of crown narrowed and pointed; lores paler than forehead | <i>Iole olivacea olivacea</i> , p. 160 | 17 |
| | | Feathers of crown rounded; lores uniform with forehead | | |
| 17 | { | Eyelid brightly coloured; wing not exceeding 3 in.; under tail coverts tinged with yellow | <i>Pycnonotus e. erythrophthalmos</i> , p. 166 | 18 |
| | | Eyelid not brightly coloured; wing generally exceeding 3 in.; under coverts, ochraceous, not tinged with yellow | | |
| 18 | { | Iris, whitish or cream; wing, 2.95 to 3.18 in. | <i>Pycnonotus s. simplex</i> , p. 165 | |
| | | Iris, reddish or orange; wing, 3.15 to 3.55 in. | | |

*Ixos cinereus***The Ashy Bulbul**

Iole cinerea, Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xiv., 1845, p. 573 (Malacca).

Iole terricolor, Hume, *Stray Feath.*, vii., 1878, pp. 141, 451 (Malacca); *id. op. cit.*, viii., 1879, p. 62.

Hemixus cinereus, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 52, pl. 2.

Ixos cinereus cinereus, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 265.

Malay Names.—Merbah kĕlabu; burong tuar (*Winstedt*).

Description.—Feathers of the crown narrowed and pointed, somewhat elongated; feathers of throat also lengthened.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Greyish ashy brown above, much more lavender-grey on the head, the feathers of which have paler margins; wing coverts and primaries, brown with ashy margins, more marked on the latter; inner aspect of wing, grey, with pale inner margins to the quills; axillaries, under wing coverts and edge of wing, white. Tail feathers above, dark brown with ashy margins and dark brown shafts; below, paler, with the shafts mainly white; lores, and a patch in front of and behind the eye, brownish black; ear coverts brown, paler in front. Below, chin and throat, white, clearly defined from the breast and flanks, which are rather dark grey; middle of the belly, white; under tail coverts, greyish white.

Immature.—Very slightly different from the adult, distinguished mainly by the much browner colouring and the feathers of the throat, which are less elongated and not so clearly defined from the breast; under tail coverts sometimes faintly tinged with greenish.

Note.—In life and fresh skin this bird is a very clear grey, with a beautiful almost lavender bloom on the body above and the wings, which is very quickly lost, the tone then becoming, as in many bulbuls, a rather snuffy brown.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut-brown or brownish crimson; bill and feet black, the latter sometimes greyish brown, with the soles yellowish brown.

Dimensions.—Total length, 7·5 to 8 in.; wing, 3·7 to 4 in.; tail, 3·3 to 3·5 in.; tarsus, 0·6 to 0·7 in.; bill from gape, 0·9 in.; culmen, 0·75 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From Nakon Sri Tammarat, but not from the extreme northern border, south to Johore.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra only.

Nidification.—Quite unknown.

Habits.—This quietly coloured but very beautiful bulbul is widely distributed over the whole of the Malay Peninsula, though it is rare in the south of Johore and does not occur in any of the islands. It may be said to be essentially a submontane bird, rarely descending to very low levels, though Kloss has met it near sea-level in Johore, while the highest altitude from which we have seen it has been from about 5000 ft. on Gunong Kerbau. But between 2000 and 4000 ft. it is very numerous, and especially on such mountains as Kedah Peak and Mount Ophir in Johore, which are of "insular" type and harbour none of the typical high-level species. On most of the hills of Negri Sembilan it is also constantly found. The bird is met with in fairly high forest, not in the brushwood and not on the tops of the trees, in pairs or parties of four or five, often in trees at the edges. The food is chiefly fruits and berries, but insects are certainly taken, especially winged termites. The bird has several rather harsh chuckling notes, with an occasional short and mellow whistle. The elongated white feathers on the throat are certainly used for purposes of display, and the bird is often seen perched with its head somewhat lifted and the skin of the throat expanded so that the pendent feathers are raised. These, however, seem to be almost equally developed in both sexes.

Ixos malaccensis malaccensis

The Streaked Bulbul

Upper parts brown, washed with green, outer aspect of wings the same; tail, greyish brown without any greenish tint. Beneath, chin, throat and upper breast, grey, with clear, white shaft streaks, giving a very distinctly striped appearance; rest of under surface and under tail coverts, white, the flanks, greyish. Total length, 8·5 to 9 in. Feathers of the crown, pointed and narrowed, but not so conspicuously so as in *Iole olivacea olivacea*. From *Iole tickelli peracensis* it differs in having the feathers of the crown much shorter and without shaft stripes, and in lacking the brownish tinge on the sides of the breast.

Distributed over the whole of the Malay Peninsula, but scattered and local. Fairly common at moderate elevations in Selangor, and on the lower slopes of Gunong Tahan in Pahang, and abundant on all the hills in Negri Sembilan, and on Mount Ophir and Gunong Pulai in Johore, but descending to sea-level also.

*Ixos maccllellandi peracensis***Butler's Streaked Bulbul**

Iole tickelli peracensis, Hartert and Butler, *Nov. Zool.*, v., 1898, p. 506 (Gunong Ijau, Perak); Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 15; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 558.

Iole tickelli (*nec* Blyth), Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 437.

Iole peracensis, Ogilvie-Grant, *Fascic. Malay., Zool.*, iii., 1906, p. 87.

Ixos maccllellandi peracensis, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 266.

Malay Name.—Barau barau bukit or bëbarau bukit.

Description.—*Adult*—Sexes alike. Head with an elongated crest, the feathers narrow and pointed. Head, dark greyish brown, the feathers with grey edges and pale lavender-grey shaft stripes, clearer on the forehead and over the eye. Back, mantle, rump, upper tail coverts, upper surface of tail, wing coverts and external aspect of quills, greenish olive, tinged with yellowish brown; inner aspect of wing, brown; inner margins of quills, axillaries and under wing coverts, pale yellowish fawn. Lores, grey; ear coverts, brownish, with pale stripes; under, grey with pale shaft stripes, giving a longitudinally striped effect, the stripes on the throat, whiter; sides of the neck and breast with a slight fulvous brown wash; middle of the belly, pale grey; flanks, dull olive; thighs, brownish olive; under tail coverts, dull waxy yellow, the under surface of the tail, bronzy yellow, the edges of the feathers, fawn, the shafts, white.

Soft Parts.—Iris, red or chestnut; bill, horn-colour, the upper mandible darker; feet, dull brown with a tinge of flesh-colour; soles, yellow.

Dimensions.—Total length, 8 to 8.5 in.; wing, 3.5 to 3.7 in.; tail, 3.7 in.; tarsus, 0.55 in.; bill from gape, 0.9 in.; culmen, 0.7 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The high mountains of Nakon Sri Tammarat and Bandon in Peninsular Siam, and from North Perak to Southern Selangor, and also in Pahang, but only at some elevation.

Extralimital Range.—The race described is confined to the Malay Peninsula. Many other forms are found throughout Indo-China from the Himalayas to Hainan, Southern China and Annam and south to Tenasserim, but the species is a continental one not represented in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

Nidification.—That of the Malayan form unknown. The typical Himalayan race builds an untidy, shallow, cup-shaped nest of grass and roots, bound to the horizontal forks of the outer branches of a tree often forty feet from the ground. The eggs are usually two in number, rather long ovals, slightly glossed, the ground-colour almost white, thickly mottled and streaked with purplish and reddish brown. Baker gives the average dimensions as 1.04 by 0.72 in. The nest and eggs of the Malayan bird will almost certainly resemble these very closely, but the latter will probably be somewhat smaller.

Habits.—This bulbul is the commonest of its family in the mountains, and is nearly always to be seen on the edges of gardens in the hill-station bungalows,

but does not occur below about 3000 ft. It is met with singly or in pairs, but sometimes two or more pairs congregate together. The food is mixed, and like species of *Crimiger* this bird is very fond of winged termites, and when these are swarming in the evening after rain will hover with wings extended and fluttering, together with a host of other birds. The crest is often erected, pointing backwards, but is never raised above the level of the head nor expanded laterally. The bird does not seem to be a noisy one and only occasionally utters a rather low whistle, a feeble imitation of the loud liquid note of the golden-headed bulbul, *Trachycomus zeylanicus*, from which its vernacular name, not one of any general currency, is derived.

Iole olivacea olivacea

The Malayan Olive Bulbul

Above, olive-brown, richer on the head, the wings somewhat lighter; below, greyish olive, the throat, paler; the middle of the abdomen yellowish; the under tail coverts tinged with fawn; tail more rufescent; the inner edges of the feathers paler. Total length, about 7 in. Apart from colour, this bird can most readily be recognized by the somewhat lengthened, much narrowed and pointed feathers of the crown, which are semi-erectile.

This species is common throughout the Peninsula from rather north of Penang to the extreme south of the Peninsula, frequenting low and submontane jungle. It occurs, however, on the low slopes of the Larut Hills, at Ginting Bidei in Selangor and on Gunong Kledang. Chasen also met with it near the summit of Penang Hill at 2700 ft.

This bird, and other bulbuls briefly alluded to in the present volume, will be described at length in the section devoted to the birds of the low-country jungle.

Brachypodius atriceps atriceps

The Malaysian Black-headed Bulbul

Head, and neck all round, black, glossed with dark metallic green and purple, rest of plumage, olive-yellow, more greenish on mantle and breast, much brighter in the middle of the belly, rump and under tail coverts, the rump with black bases to the feathers; wing feathers, dark brown; tail, black with a broad bright yellow tip; iris, bright blue. Total length, about 6 in. Sexes almost similar, the male perhaps rather brighter on the wings and upper tail coverts.

Common in jungle and sometimes in secondary scrub over the whole of the Peninsula, but essentially a low-country or, at most, a submontane bird, though it has been obtained at the Tea Gardens on the Larut Hills, and Chasen found it very abundant near the top of Penang Hill, at 2700 ft., in December 1927; Seimund also obtained the species at Pantai Kerchut, in jungle, at the north-west end of the island, in March 1911. The habits are those of the common jungle bulbuls, and the birds congregate in small flocks on trees in fruit, especially figs.

*Microtarsus melanoleucus***The Black-and-White Bulbul**

Microtarsus melanoleucus, Eyton, *P.Z.S.*, 1839, p. 102.

Micropus melanoleucus, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 69 ;
Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 32.

Malay Name.—Merbah tandok.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Whole plumage, sooty blackish brown, darker on the head, with the following exceptions: median and greater coverts, creamy white, tipped and edged with black, more broadly so on the median series; inner aspect of wing, greyish, the quills with their inner edges creamy white; outer under wing coverts, black, the inner ones and the axillaries, white, faintly tinged with yellow.

Immature.—Uniform olive-brown above, including the wings; rather more sandy on the rump, the feathers with dark bases; beneath, dull earthy brown, paler on the throat; axillaries and inner under wing coverts, creamy white.

Note.—All stages between the young and fully adult plumages occur, largely affected by a gradual moult, and piebald birds are very common.

Soft Parts.—Iris, red, chocolate or brown; bill, black; feet, slaty black.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6·5 to 7 in.; wing, 3·3 to 3·5 in.; tail, 2·9 to 3·1 in.; tarsus, 0·65 in.; bill from gape, 0·85 in.; culmen, 0·65 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From about the latitude of Penang south to Johore.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and Borneo.

Nidification.—Quite unknown.

Habits.—This is one of those birds, common enough in collections and well known in skins to most ornithologists, about which little definite is known in life. In the Malay Peninsula it turns up in all sorts of places, from the sea-coast to nearly the tops of the highest mountains—it has been met with near the summit of Gunong Benom in Pahang at over 6000 ft., and at nearly the same altitude on Gunong Tahan. I have found it at Batu, on the Selangor coast, and in much the same sort of country on the coast of West Sumatra; yet all one can say about it is that it is a rather retiring sort of bird, preferring scrubby jungle to old forest, and living in small trees, apparently chiefly on fruit.

The species is one that would repay investigation, in that it is not a normal member of the family *Pycnonotidæ*, as shown by the fact that the juvenile and adult plumages are very distinct, which is unusual in the group.

*Criniger ochraceus sacculatus***The Highland Crested Bulbul**

PLATE 13 (*upper figure*)

Criniger ochraceus sacculatus, Robinson, *Ibis*, 1915, p. 746 (Ginting Bidei, Selangor).

Criniger gutturalis, Sharpe (*nec* Bp.), *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 272; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 24.

Criniger ochraceus, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 559; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 35.

Malay Name.—Merbah bërjanggut.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head crested, the feathers of the head long, narrow and pointed. Head, dull brown; mantle more greyish brown, with an olive wash; rump and upper tail coverts more rufescent; wing coverts as the mantle, the outer ones darker; primaries and secondaries, dark brown, the outer webs lighter and more rufescent; inner aspect of wing, greyish, the quills with light buff edges to the inner webs, becoming deeper on the secondaries. Under wing coverts and axillaries, yellowish buff, the coverts near the edge of the wing greyish. Tail feathers, rufescent brown, greyish brown on inner webs, the shafts below, pale reddish, becoming white towards the base. Lores, clear grey; sides of the face and ear coverts, greyish brown. Beneath, chin and throat, pure white, the feathers elongated into a beard; rest of under surface, dusky grey, darker brownish grey on flanks, creamy buff on the middle of the belly, rufescent buff on under tail coverts; the edges of the feathers paler.

Immature.—The white throat not nearly so distinct, the feathers shorter; the upper tail coverts, tail, wing coverts and secondaries, rusty rufescent; very distinct from the mantle.

Soft Parts.—Iris, reddish brown or hazel; bill, plumbeous; feet, pinkish brown or brownish red; bill in young birds paler.

Dimensions.—Total length, 9 to 9.5 in.; wing, 4.3 to 4.7 in.; tail, 3.9 to 4.1 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.85 in.; culmen, 0.7 in.

Range in the Peninsula.—From Perak southwards to the hills of Negri Sembilan and in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—This southern race is confined to the Malay Peninsula. The typical form ranges from north of Penang into Central Tenasserim, and there are other races in Sumatra and Borneo.

Nidification.—Not known. An egg of the closely allied typical form, *C. ochraceus*, from Junk Zeylon, in the British Museum collection, is a pale pinkish white ground-colour, with a few rounded blotches of reddish brown near the larger end and with faint underlying clouds of grey. It measures 0.84 by 0.66 in.

Habits.—This bird is almost entirely confined to the hills, though its relative in the north of the Peninsula is as common at sea-level as at 3000 ft. and over. On the Semangko Pass, and the hills above it, the bird is very numerous, as well as on the lower slopes of Gunong Tahan and along the main range in Perak, and also on the Larut Hills. In Negri Sembilan, though it does occur, it is by no means common. It is mainly arboreal in its habits, though once or twice I have seen it on the ground, and is usually seen singly or in pairs, though a fruiting tree or a fighting swarm of termites will collect all the birds in the vicinity. It is certainly not so gregarious a bird as its near relative, *C. t. tephrogenys*. The food is chiefly fruits and berries, though flying white ants are eagerly devoured. The note is a disagreeable grating cackle, rather like the notes of the Straits Robin when quarrelling. When perched, or when fighting,

the long white feathers of the throat are puffed out and continually retracted, making the bird very conspicuous. The crest, on the other hand, is rarely fully erected, being merely slightly expanded and projected backwards.

The bird figured, rather under two-thirds natural size, is the type, a female from Ginting Bidei, Selangor, shot on the 14th May 1908.

Criniger tephrogenys tephrogenys

The Malay Crested Scrub Bulbul

PLATE 13 (*upper figure*)

Vol. I., p. 209.

Malay Names.—Murai rimba ; rabah.

Very similar to the last species, but a little smaller—total length, 8.5 to 9 in. ; colour, above, more olive-brown, tinged with green ; the wings and tail more chestnut-brown ; beneath, with the chin and throat not so white ; the feathers less elongated, middle of the belly, clear pale yellow, and the under tail coverts more ochreous buff.

This species, which has been fully described in Volume I., is a lower-ranging bird than *C. ochraceus*, but is met with on the hills of Negri Sembilan, and on Kedah Peak, and also on the hills of Patani up to about 3000 ft. It is therefore mentioned here.

Hartert and Collin have recently shown that "*gularis*," until lately used as the name for the Javan bird, the first-described member of this group, is preoccupied, and therefore unavailable. This name, the next oldest, has therefore to be used for the species.

The bird figured is a male from Changkat Mentri, South Perak.

Criniger finschii finschii

Finsch's Bulbul

Above, a dark olive-brown ; beneath, a pale greenish yellow, more primrose on the belly and under tail coverts ; a dusky olive-green on the breast and flanks. Total length, about 7 in. A rare species about which little is known, recorded only from the south of the Malay Peninsula and Borneo, with a closely related form in Palawan.

Wallace obtained it on Mount Ophir in Johore, and I once got it on the mountains near Bentong at about 1500 ft. Hartert records it from Gunong Tahan between 2000 and 5000 ft. Elsewhere it has been obtained in low-country swamp jungle near Changkat Mentri in South Perak and in Southern Johore. It will be described in detail in Volume IV. of this work.

Alophoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus

The Crestless White-throated Bulbul

Head, greyish ; mantle and back, brownish olive, tinged with green ; tail, cinnamon-bay ; beneath, throat white ; the rest of the under surface pale lemon-yellow ; the sides of the breast dusky. Total length above, 8 to 8.5 in.

The colour of the under surface at once separates this species from all other Malayan bulbuls.

Hartert records this bird from Gunong Tahan, 1500 ft., but it does not, as a rule, ascend the hills to any great height. We have obtained it at Ginting Bidei and on several hills in Negri Sembilan, including Gunong Angsi, and Davison found it near the summit of Gunong Pulai in Johore. The bird occurs in Penang Island, but whether at high levels or not is not known.

The species will be described in full and figured in Volume IV.

Tricholestes criniger criniger

The Hairy-backed Bulbul

Vol. I., p. 203, pl. 20 (*upper figure*).

Olive-brown above, the tail more rufescent; a bunch of long hairs springing from among the feathers of the nape; beneath, with the throat whitish, the flanks dusky olive, and the rest of the under surface pale yellow, brightest on the under tail coverts.

This bulbul, which has already been fully described, is fairly common throughout the country, and ascends the hills to about 3500 ft., but is rare at that altitude. It occurs on Kedah Peak, the Larut Hills, on Bukit Kutu and Ginting Bidei, in Selangor, and on the Negri Sembilan and Johore hills. Little is known of its habits, and young and nestling birds are much required, as the systematic position of the bird is by no means certain.

Trachycomus zeylanicus

The Yellow-crowned Bulbul

Vol. I., p. 201, pl. 20 (*lower figure*).

Malay Name.—Barau barau.

This, the largest of the local bulbuls, with a total length of over 11 in., is characterized by the stiff, decomposed feathers of the head, close-set, with a silky lustre, and of a straw-yellow colour; the upper surface is greyish brown, and the wings tinged with olive-green. Beneath, throat white; breast, ashy grey, with pale shaft streaks and edges to the feathers; flanks, brownish; the middle of the abdomen whitish, and the under tail coverts buff-ochreous.

This large bulbul, almost the sweetest of Malayan songsters and a very favourite cage bird, is practically confined to the banks of the larger rivers and to fairly open country, and is therefore out of place in this volume. Mr L. Wray has, however, recorded the bird from the Batang Padang Mountains, and, though I think there is some mistake, and the Batang Padang *river* is meant, I include the bird in the key and list of montane species.

Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni

The Southern Stripe-throated Bulbul

Vol. I., p. 206, pl. 21 (*lower figure*).

No species of this genus of bulbul can be said to be typical inhabitants of the mountain zone, though all, with the exception of the familiar garden

bird, the yellow-vented bulbul, *P. g. analis*, at times stray within its limits, and therefore demand some brief notice in this volume. The present species is very distinct from other members of the genus, and can be separated at once from all other members of the group by its general olive-brown colour above, with a bright yellow forehead; lores, black, surmounted by a narrow orange streak; sides of the face and fore part of the ear coverts, bright yellow. Below, pale earthy brown, the throat and upper breast narrowly streaked with bright yellow; middle of belly, pale primrose-yellow; under tail coverts, brighter. Total length, 7.5 to 8 in.

As noted in the previous volume, this bird has a very erratic distribution, being mainly a dry-forest bird. It has been found in small numbers on the lower slopes of the Larut Hills, near the Tea Gardens, is known from the Semangko Pass, and is very common in the Negri Sembilan hills and in parts of Malacca territory. The bird has also been obtained within Kuala Lumpur town limits, but this was possibly an escape from captivity.

Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus

The Large Olive Bulbul

Vol. I., p. 207.

Malay Name.—Murai (or merbah) rimba.

The largest of a group of closely allied birds that are difficult to discriminate. General colour, very uniform dull brown above, with an olive-green wash, most marked on the wing feathers; ear coverts, with narrow silvery shaft stripes. Beneath, dull greyish brown, paler on the throat; the middle of the abdomen more buffy. Sexes similar; total length, rather over 8 in.

Common everywhere at low elevations, usually in dry secondary jungle and on many of the islands; rarely found at any height on the hills, but Chasen secured two females near the summit of Penang Hill, 2700 ft., in December 1927.

Pycnonotus simplex simplex

Moore's Olive Bulbul

Olive-brown above, with no tinge of green; the tail and wings a little darker; ear coverts, unstreaked; under wing coverts, buffy, not yellowish. Beneath, brownish; throat, paler; middle of the breast with the feathers edged with creamy white, giving an ill-defined streaked effect; middle of the belly more uniform creamy; under tail coverts with dark centres and pale creamy edges. Size, a little larger than *P. e. erythrophthalmos*; smaller than *P. brunneus* and *P. plumosus*. The bulbuls of this group are really easier to distinguish in life than they are in skin; the best character for this species is the colour of the iris, which in Malayan birds is nearly always white or creamy white.

Of much the same general distribution as the other bulbuls, and never

reaching any great altitude. Records are difficult to disentangle from the allied *P. brunneus*, unless the actual specimens referred to are examined, or the colour of the iris is mentioned, but this form is probably found on the Larut Hills. Mr Seimund met with it on Gunong Kledang, near Ipoh, and it is numerous at Ginting Bidei, Selangor, at 2300 ft.

Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus

The Malayan Brown Bulbul

Except in life, separable from the preceding species with considerable difficulty. It is a larger bird, and considerably darker above and below, the abdomen being a rather deep buff, and the under tail coverts strongly ochraceous buff. Total length, 7 to 7.5 in. In life the iris is always red or orange.

Very widely distributed over the whole Peninsula in secondary and primary jungle, ranging up the hills to a height of about 3000 ft. Found near the summit of Penang Hill by Mr Chasen, and very numerous at moderate elevations in Tioman off the coast of Penang. The habits are exactly those of *P. plumosus* and *P. simplex*.

Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos erythrophthalmos

The Small Olive Bulbul

Above, dull brown, more rufescent on the rump, with no tinge of olive-green; ear-coverts, brown, with no silvery shaft stripes; under wing coverts and axillaries, pale yellow. Below, ashy grey; whitish on the throat; abdomen and under tail coverts with a tinge of pale yellow. Size, small; total length, about 6.2 in.; wing not, or only very slightly, exceeding 3 in. In life the easiest distinguishing mark of this small bulbul is the bright orange-yellow ring or wattle round the eye.

Widely distributed in scrub jungle at low elevations throughout the Peninsula but rarely found above 2000 ft. Mr Seimund secured a single male on Gunong Kledang, near Ipoh, 2600 ft., in December 1927, and Wardlaw Ramsay collected a male on Mount Ophir, Johore, in August 1873.

Otocompsa flaviventris minor

Kloss's Black-crested Yellow Bulbul

Otocompsa flaviventris minor, Kloss, *Ibis*, 1918, p. 200 (Koh Lak, South-West Siam); Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 398; Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 279.

Otocompsa flaviventris, Oates, in Hume's *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1889, p. 183; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*,

No. 32, 1899, p. 14; Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 323; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 196.

Malay Name.—Merbah kunyit jambul hitam.

Description.—Head, with a long crest springing from the middle of the crown.

Adult male.—Above, bronzy olive-yellow, brighter on the rump; wing coverts, primaries and secondaries, brown, with olive edges much broader on the secondaries; inner aspect of wings, brownish, the quills with narrow whitish inner margins, the axillaries and under wing coverts silky white, faintly tinged with yellow; edge of wing, bright yellow. Tail feathers, brown, edged with olive, the outer pairs much paler, narrowly edged with yellow; shafts, brown above, white beneath. Head, chin and neck all round, glossy black, with a greenish cast; rest of under surface, bright yellow, the breast washed with bronzy yellow, the middle of the belly brighter, paler yellow; feathers of the thighs, greyish olive, tipped with yellow.

Adult female.—Rather duller and darker above; below with the flanks more washed with olive-green, the belly not so bright. Crest rather shorter; size certainly smaller.

Immature.—Not very different from the adults, but generally duller, with less lustre on the black parts, especially on the throat.

Soft Parts.—Iris, pale yellow; bill, black; feet, blackish brown.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 7 in.; wing, 3.1 to 3.3 in.; tail, 3 to 3.4 in.; tarsus, 0.6 in.; bill from gape, 0.65 to 0.7 in.; culmen, 0.5 to 0.55 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern extremity, south to Selangor.

Extralimital Range.—The exact limits of this smaller tropical form are not determined, but it extends far into South-West Siam and Tenasserim. The typical race is found over a great part of continental India, and east to Assam, Burma and Yunnan. Another very small form, *O. f. montis*, is met with in the mountains of Borneo.

Nidification.—The late Colonel Bingham describes the nest and eggs of this bulbul found in the Thoungyeen Valley, Tenasserim, on 14th April: "The nest was contained in a bush about three feet high, and was a remarkably neat cup-shaped affair, below and outside of fine twigs, then a layer of roots, above which was a lining of the stems of the flowers of the 'theckay' grass. It contained three eggs, of which I was able to save one. The ground-colour was white, and it was so thickly spotted with claret and pink that it is hard to describe. It measured 0.85 by 0.61 in." Baker gives the mean dimensions of the typical form as 0.9 by 0.64 in.

Habits.—In the Malay Peninsula this bird has been found along the main range and on the Larut Hills, but not in Pahang or south of Selangor. It is usually found at altitudes of above 2000 ft., but occasionally in the Federated Malay States at quite low heights, and farther north at sea-level. It is very local and sporadic, but where and when it does occur is usually abundant. It is found singly or in pairs, and is a very sprightly, active bird, continually

in motion, and always flicking its long crest. It feeds largely on fruit or berries, and, like its near relative *Rubigula s. webberi*, with which it is often associated, its presence is probably connected with the fruiting season of certain trees and shrubs.

Rubigula cyaniventris cyaniventris

The Grey-bellied Bulbul

Pycnonotus cyaniventris, Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xi., 1842, p. 792 (Malay Peninsula); Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 15.

Malacopteron aureum, Eyton, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, xvi., 1845, p. 229 (Malacca).

Rubigula cyaniventris, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 169; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 561; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 31.

Pycnonotus cyaniventris cyaniventris, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 416.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head and under surface, bluish slate, lighter on the middle of the abdomen; lores, blackish, a lighter grey stripe from the nostrils over the eye. Mantle, back, rump, bronzy olive-yellow; external aspect of secondaries and the wing coverts, brighter yellow. Primaries, dark brown, all except the outer two edged towards the base with olive-yellow. Quills on the inner aspect of the wing edged with white towards the base, the axillaries and inner under wing coverts, yellowish white, the outer ones and the edge of the wing, bright yellow. Tail feathers, blackish brown, edged with olive-brown, and with a faint pale tip; inferior aspect, greyish, the shafts white. Under tail coverts, bright yellow; thighs, fuscous.

Immature.—Duller, the under tail coverts paler, and the stripe over the eye not so pronounced.

Soft Parts.—Iris, variable, dark, dark brown, grey or dark blue; bill, black; feet, slate, pale slate or dark plumbeous.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6 to 6.25 in.; wing, 2.8 to 3 in.; tail, 2.3 to 2.4 in.; tarsus, 0.6 in.; bill from gape, 0.7 in.; culmen, 0.5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout its entire length. Penang and Singapore.

Extralimital Range.—Extending for a short distance into South Tenasserim. The Sumatran and Bornean forms have received names but are doubtfully distinct from the typical race or from each other.

Nidification.—Mr W. A. T. Kellow found this bird breeding abundantly near Taiping in April, May and June. The nests were placed in low bushes in jungle, and were the ordinary, rather untidy, cup-shaped nests of the typical bulbuls. Eggs were two or three in number, white or pinkish white in ground-colour, with reddish brown blotches, averaging, according to Baker, 0.8 by 0.61 in.

Habits.—A common bird throughout the Peninsula from sea-level to about 3500 ft., but most abundant at intermediate altitudes. It has been obtained on the Larut Hills, from the base to over 3000 ft., on Kedah Peak, near the summit, and on the lower slopes of the Selangor main range. On Gunong Tahan it was very numerous up to 3300 ft. It occurs on most of the Negri Sembilan hills and also on Mount Ophir, and Davison secured it near the top of Gunong Pulai in Johore. The habits are very similar to those of *Rubigula s. webberi*, and, like that bird, the present species congregates in numbers on trees in fruit, but at other times is found singly or in pairs. The note is recorded by Davison as a "sharp lively chirrup": I have not, myself, heard it.

Rubigula squamata webberi

Webber's Scaly-breasted Bulbul

Ixidia webberi, Hume, *Stray Feath.*, viii., 1879, pp. 40, 63 (Junk Zeylon).

Rubigula webberi, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vi., 1881, p. 171; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 561; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 31.

Rubigula squamata webberi, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 409.

Malay Name.—Merbah bĕrsisek (doubtful), but certainly not *chak rumah*, which is merely house-sparrow, as given by Winstedt (*Malayan-English Dict.*, 1922, p. 43).

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head and sides of the face, black. Mantle, back and rump, golden olive, becoming brighter yellow on the upper tail coverts and outer edges of the wing coverts. Primary coverts and quills, dark brown, all except the outer two primaries edged with golden olive, the outer webs of the secondaries entirely that colour. Inner aspect of wing, greyish brown, the inner webs of the quills edged with buffy white, axillaries, yellowish white, under wing coverts, whitish, mottled with pale brown. Tail feathers, black, the four outer pairs with quadrate white spots at the tips of the outer webs, decreasing in extent inwardly. Beneath, chin and throat and lower cheeks, pure white; breast, sides of the neck and flank, black, the feathers narrowly fringed with white, producing a regular scaled effect; middle of the lower breast and belly, white; tibial feathers, dark grey, tipped with white; under tail coverts, bright golden yellow.

Immature.—Duller, not so regularly scaled below; the tail feathers not so black.

Soft Parts.—Iris, hazel; bill and feet, black. "Iris, pale greenish brown; bill, black; feet, bluish grey" (*Jacobson*). Stuart Baker says that the iris is deep red, which is not improbable on occasion.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5.5 to 6 in.; wing, 2.8 to 3 in.; tail, 2.4 to 2.6 in.; tarsus, 0.55 in.; bill from gape, 0.6 in.; culmen, 0.5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern extremity south to the territory of Malacca and in Pahang. Rare or of non-occurrence in Johore.

Extralimital Range.—Lower Burma and Tenasserim (?); Sumatra and Borneo.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—This species is found in well-forested country throughout the Malay Peninsula, though we have not obtained it south of the Krau river in Pahang. Very little is known of the bird, which is obtained only occasionally, but, as a rule, in numbers. It seems to be a purely fruit-eating species, and congregates in numbers when certain trees, notably figs, are in bearing. It is not uncommon on Bukit Kutu and very abundant at times at Ulu Gombak and Ginting Bidei in Selangor, and I have met with it on the lower slopes of Gunong Tahan, but do not believe that the bird occurs in the sterile regions between 5000 to 7000 ft., as recorded on Waterstradt's labels.

More information is needed as to the general bionomics of this handsome little bulbul, more especially as to the trees on the fruit and berries of which it feeds, which will probably be found to be limited in variety.